



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Development Committee
Monday March 14, 2022**

MINUTES

The Development Committee meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Melanie Blake, Board Chair.

Committee members present Melanie Blake, MD
 Deborah Christiansen, MD
 Mr. Robert Ellis, Consumer Member

Staff present: Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant, BME
 Angela Lawrence, BME Executive Director
 Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Blake. Having determined a quorum present Dr. Blake opened the meeting with the first agenda item with a follow up presentation from Yarnell Beatty with the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA) concerning the TFQPH Opioid Education course. The request was made that the Board consider seeking a new Request for Proposal (RFP) to fund the course. This would allow for the Board to establish specific criteria for the educational course previously presented, to include the organizations qualifications. The organizations would have to apply, be scored and the winning organization awarded the grant to provide the service to licensees. Mr. Beatty provided a printed copy of suggested criteria for the Board to consider. Mr. Ellis asked if there has been any consideration to exploring funding through a Foundation verses Corporations. Mr. Beatty indicated that Dr. Loyd and Dr. McGraw are still looking at pursuing such avenues to assist in funding an educational opioid course. After some discussion, the Committee decided to have further discussion at the next Development Committee meeting to outline the specific criteria for the proposed RFP. Dr. Blake realizing a roll call was not conducted at the beginning of the meeting, called for the roll call of the Committee members and administrative staff and recognized Dr. McLerran in attendance as well as Dr. Lloyd's excused absence. Dr. Blake then called for the second agenda item regarding an Advisory Opinion Request from Dr. David Woznica, MD concerning his request for an exemption to the current rules requiring a supervising physician to visit a remote site every thirty days. Dr. Woznica works for a telemedicine based musculoskeletal healthcare company and delivers care virtually. Ms. Baca-Chavez opened the discussion informing the Committee that similar request to Dr. Woznica's was included in their materials for review. Dr. Saunders reiterated that the Rule is what the Rule is, and the issue is not going to go away due to more providers using telemedicine. Ms. Baca-Chavez also presented a proposed response based on

similar request received from other licensee where the remote site visit may not occur by video conferencing. Dr. Christiansen made a motion to accepted Ms. Baca-Chavez proposed response to the Advisory Opinion Request. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed and will be presented to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Blake asked if the Committee should consider reaching out to the collaborating professions to address this ongoing issue. After some discussion the Committee decided to revisit the information previously developed by the taskforce to work toward a solution these type request. Having no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.