



**TENNESSEE COMMITTEE OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS'
COMMITTEE ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
Regular Committee Meeting**

January 10, 2020

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Tennessee Committee of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants (hereinafter, the Committee") was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Mr. Bret Reeves.

Members Present:

- Bret Reeves, PA-C
- Gregory Cain, PA-C
- Barbara Thornton, Consumer Member
- Donna Lynch, PA-C
- Gary Tauxe, OPA-C
- Christina Free, PA-C

Staff Present:

- Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant
- Angela Lawrence, Executive Director
- Stacy Tarr, Administrative Director
- Mary K. Bratton, JD, Deputy General Counsel
- Tracy Alcock, Senior Associate General Counsel
- Candyce Wilson, Administrative Director
- Orlanda Folston, Committee Administrator

Mary K. Bratton introduced Tracy Alcock as the new Board Attorney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the October 10, 2019 board meeting. Ms. Barbara Thornton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Gregory Cain seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PRESENTATION BY DR. MICHAEL BARON

Dr. Baron, Director of the Tennessee Medical, presented an update to the Professional Screening Questionnaire or PSQ for all Tennessee Licensees with a launch date of 2/3/2020.

APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Jennifer Heinrich, PA - appeared before the Committee without legal representation. Ms. Heinrich is NCCPA certified and has been out of clinical practice since 2008. Ms. Heinrich is an applicant for reinstatement and has completed the PLAS assessment to which the results have been received by the Physician Assistant Committee. The Medical Consultant requested that she come before the board due to suggestions from the PLAS assessment that she needed to have a preceptorship. After much discussion Mr. Brett Reeves made a motion to grant a 6 month temporary license with the requirements of a one month preceptorship completing 160 hours total. Of the 160 hours, 80% should be in Family Medicine and 20% in Aesthetics and Weight loss. A Certificate of Completion of an education program that is centered on the PANCE reexamination preparation. Upon completion the Medical Consultant can then issue the full license. Barbara Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Frances Wilson, PA – appeared before the Committee without legal representation. Ms. Wilson is NCCPA certified and has been out of clinical practice since 1994. Ms. Wilson appeared before the Committee on April 12, 2019. The Committee tabled the application for a period of six months so that a formal assessment by a PLAS collaborator could be obtained. To which the results have been received by the Physician Assistant Committee. After some discussion Mr. Reeves made a motion to approve a 9 month temporary license for the purposes of successfully completing a Committee approved preceptorship for the duration of 256 hours of clinical rotation in Family Practice and Preventative medicine. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barbara Thornton. The motion passed.

Jamie McNeely, PA – appeared before the Committee without legal representation. Ms. McNeely is NCCPA certified and has been out of clinical practice since 2015. Ms. Heinrich is an applicant for reinstatement. No PLAS was needed. Mr. Gregory Cain made a motion to give a 6 month temporary license for the purposes of completing a Committee Approved 8 week preceptorship for a minimum of 256 hours rotation, 32 hour work week. Upon completion the Medical Consultant can then issue the full license. Barbara Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Andrew Blythe, PA – Mr. Brett Reeves recused himself from the case due to Mr. Andrew Blythe being a former student. Mr. Blythe appeared before the Committee without legal representation. Mr. Blythe is applying for his initial license. He is NCCPA certified. Mr. Blythe is appearing before the Committee due to a public intoxication conviction in 2018. The recommendation is to consider TMF evaluation prior to licensing. Dr. Michael Barron submitted a letter regarding Mr. Blythe with no further recommendations needed. Ms. Barbara Thornton made a motion to grant the full license to Mr. Blythe. Ms. Donna Lynch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was a discussion regarding amending the language to grant Dr. Saunders the ability to decide whether to license an applicant with a conviction, if there is no other issues found with a TMF review of the incident. Ms. Tracy Alcock will draft an amended policy for a future meeting.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of PA Licenses

Mr. Gregory Cain made a motion to ratify the new and reinstated licenses. Ms. Barbara Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Discussion Regarding Rulemaking Language for Reentry Policy

Ms. Tracy Adcock needs time to review the rule making draft and will discuss at a future meeting.

Discuss and Consider the language for Controlled Substance Prescribing Course Certificate

A prescribing course that is offered by TAPA states that the course is approved by the State of Tennessee. The State of Tennessee does not endorse nor approve any courses. The CSMB has been informed and will remove the wording from the certificate.

Discuss and consider sending a member to the FSMB annual meeting in April 2020

The FSMB Conference will be April 30 – May 2, 2020 in San Diego, California. Mr. Bret Reeves made a motion to send Ms. Barbara Thornton and Ms. Tracy Alcock to the FSMB annual meeting in April. Gregory Cain seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Angela Lawrence presented an update to the Committee on the PA License Portability Meeting held in Washington, DC. The Purpose of the meeting was to bring all parties together to discuss the possibility of a PA Compact licensure pathway. Discussions were had on the benefits of licensure compact, delivering healthcare and looking at existing compact models. The meeting was the beginning phase of the developing a PA Compact license. The FSMB will gather the information received from this meeting and plan future meetings to continue discussion and development.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Office of Investigations

Ms. Lori Leonard presented the Office of Investigations Report

Currently Monitored PA Practitioners

On Probation – 5

Suspended – 4

Revoked and/or Surrendered – 8

Reprimand - 1

Investigation Report New Complaints

Action in another State – 2

Malpractice - 5

Unprofessional Conduct – 12

Drug Diversion – 1

Fraud and False Billing -1

Sexual Conduct - 3

Closed Complaints

Insufficient Evidence – 3
Sent to Office of General Counsel for Formal Discipline – 11
Closed without Action – 25
Letter of Concern (not reportable to NPDB as discipline) 2
Currently Being Reviewed – 17

Orthopedic PA Practitioners

New Complaints – 2
Malpractice – 1
Unlicensed Practice -1

Financial Report

Ms. Maria McCormick presented the end of year fiscal report. Clarification regarding some of the dollar amounts was requested. Ms. McCormick will research and provide clarification at the next scheduled meeting.

Managers' Report

Ms. Stacy Tarr presented the Managers' Report
The information provided is for the period of October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.
New Applications Received 49
Total New Licenses Issued 80
Total Number of Renewals 273
Total Number of Online Renewals 261
Average Renewals Online 198 (87%)
Total Number of Reinstatements 6
Total number of active licensees as of December 31, 2019 is 2,550.
Total number of active licenses as of December 31, 2019 with a Tennessee mailing address is 2187.
Total number of OPA licenses as of December 31, 2019 is 13.

Receive reports and /or requests from the Office of General Counsel

Ms Tracy Alcock introduced herself to the Committee and discussed the upcoming Allen Tate Case and how to inform Ms. Stacy Tarr on each member's available dates. Mr. Gregory Cain made a motion to email the dates to Ms. Tarr. Mr. Brett Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Committee discussed the Colton Lowe case. Mr. Gregory Cain made a motion to send the Colton Lowe case to the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). Mr. Brett Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Agreed Citation

Dean Beach, PA – Did not appear before the committee. Mr. Dean Beach failed to properly maintain sufficient Continuing Education Hours. Mr. Beach was short 2 hours. Mr. Beach agreed to sign the agreed citation and pay forty (40.00) civil penalty. Ms. Barbara Thornton made a motion to accept the agreed citation as presented. Mr. Gregory Cain seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Contested Case

Heather Smith Porter , PA – Ms Heather Smith Porter reappeared before the board with Counsel. She previously appeared twice without counsel. Attorney Mollie Gass is requesting a Conditional license with TMF monitoring and no prescribing of controlled substances for Ms. Heather Smith Porter. After much discussion Mr. Greg Cain made a motion to accept the states proposed Order. Ms. Barbara Thornton seconded the motion after which Ms. Tracy Alcock requested that the Committee members vote by each section. The votes were as follows:

Mr. Gregory Cain made a motion to accept the Findings of Fact. Ms. Barbara Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Barbara Thornton made a motion to accept the Conclusions of Law. Ms. Donna Lynch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Brett Reeves made a motion to accept the Policy Statement. Ms. Christina Free seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Christina Free made a motion to accept the Proposed Order. Mr. Gregory Cain seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Reeves stated that the Application for license is hereby denied.

Ms. Barbara Thornton made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Christine Free seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.