



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners’
Committee on Physician Assistants
Regular Board Meeting**

Friday, April 12, 2019

MINUTES

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

Members Present: Bret Reeves, PA-C, Chairman
Donna Lynch, PA-C
Marie Patterson, PA-C
Benjamin Hux, PA-C
Barbara Thornton, Consumer Member

Staff Present: Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant
Angela Lawrence, Director
Stacy Tarr, Administrative Director
Brandi Allocco, Board Administrator
Andrea Huddleston, Office of General Counsel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the January 11, 2019 regular meeting. Ms. Barbara Thornton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Marie Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Reagin Farley appeared without counsel. Ms. Farley appeared on a tabled application to discuss results of a Tennessee Professional Assistance Program, now Tennessee Medical Foundation (hereinafter known as “TMF”) evaluation requested by the Committee. Dr. Michael Baron, Chairman for TMF, spoke on

behalf of Ms. Farley and shared Ms. Farley has signed a five (5) year monitoring agreement and to date Ms. Farley has been fully compliant. Dr. Baron reported TMF supports and advocates for Ms. Farley to receive a license. Ms. Thornton made a motion to approve the license conditional on maintaining compliance and TMF advocacy of the monitoring agreement. Ms. Donna Lynch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Susan Van Hook appeared without counsel. Ms. Van Hook appeared for being out of clinical practice since 2001. Ms. Van hook is currently National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistant (hereinafter, "NCCPA") certified. Ms. Van Hook addressed the Committee and shared she has achieved 185 Category 1 hour of continuing medical education (hereinafter, CME) since September and recently passed the Physician Assistant National Recertification Exam (hereinafter, "PANRE"). Mr. Bret Reeves made a motion that Ms. Van Hook complete a formal assessment by a Post-Licensure Assessment System (hereinafter, "PLAS") program, return to the Committee with the results and table the application for six (6) months. Ms. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Frances Wilson appeared without counsel. Ms. Wilson appeared for being out of practice since April of 1994. Ms. Wilson is NCCPA certified. Ms. Wilson addressed the Committee and stated she had been following Dr. Rogers since February for approximately seven (7) hours a day, four (4) days a week. Mr. Reeves made a motion to table the application for six (6) months so Ms. Wilson may obtain a PLAS assessment and come back to the Committee with the recommendations. Ms. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

It was asked that we share the policy with applicants falling into remediation criteria prior to the meeting and that the policy be uploaded to the website.

Tara Tilton appeared without counsel. Ms. Tilton appeared for being out of practice since April 2011. Ms. Tilton is currently NCCPA certified. The options of the policy were discussed with Ms. Tilton and Ms. Tilton chose preceptorship. Mr. Reeves made a motion to grant Ms. Tilton a temporary license contingent upon a Committee approved preceptorship for a period of nine (9) months. Ms. Patterson seconded. The motion passed.

Suzanne Shimaitis appeared without counsel. Ms. Shimaitis appeared for prior Board action for Illinois for improper documentation related to controlled substance prescribing. Ms. Shimaitis addressed the Committee and explained she was brought into an investigation of another Physician Assistant when Ms. Shimaitis completed an exam and prescribed medication for the Physician Assistant that was under medical management for chronic back pain. The Physician Assistant went under a psychological, pain management and neurological evaluation and was found to not have a drug addiction and was receiving appropriate care. In the investigation, Ms. Shamatis was found to not have adequately charted, there were no entries for the time in questions. Ms. Shimaitis had to complete a medical record keeping course. Ms. Lynch made a motion to grant a license. Ms. Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dawn Lewis was not present. Ms. Huddleston reminded the Committee Ms. Lewis appeared at the January meeting and after finalizing the policy at that meeting Ms. Lewis did not require remediation; however she was not NCCPA certified. It was erroneously stated that Ms. Lewis must be NCCPA certified which the rules do not require. Ms. Lewis's application was tabled to allow her to submit some requested documents and regain NCCPA certification. Ms. Patterson made a motion that Ms. Lewis the

regain NCCPA certification due to lack of clarity regarding clinical practice and once she has submitted proof of NCCPA certification the Administrative office may issue the license. Mr. Reeves seconded. The motion passed.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Ratifying New Licensees and Reinstatements

The Committee reviewed the list of new licenses and reinstatements issued. Ms. Lynch made a motion to ratify the list as presented. Mr. Benjamin Hux seconded. The motion passed.

Approve Reentry Policy

Changes to the drafted policy are as follows:

- Formal assessment by a PLAS collaborator was joined to one piece
- The term of the temporary license was changed for the group of four (4) to seven (7) years issued for six (6) months and the group of seven (7) to ten (10) years issued for nine (9) months
- Added for each tier the applicant must have current NCCPA certification
- Definition of full time work must be thirty-two (32) hours weekly with the example of thirty-two (32) hours times eight (8) week rotation would be two hundred and fifty-six hours (256)
- The collaborating physician must be on site with one hundred (100) percent chart review
- The preceptorship may be compensated but not required to be compensated
- Those participating in education do not require remediation

Dr. Rene Saunders can do the approval of the preceptorship and successful completion of the requirements and Administrative staff can issue the license.

Ms. Thornton agreed to accept the Policy as written and reviewed. Ms. Patterson seconded. The motion passed.

Rulemaking

Ms. Andrea Huddleston presented the Committee with the proposed changes to Rule. The Committee will review prior to the July 12, 2019 meeting.

New Business

The Committee discussed and considered sponsoring an attorney to the annual conference for Federation of State Medical Boards (hereinafter, "FSMB") and the Federal of Association of Regulatory Boards (hereinafter, "FARB"). The cost is approximately two thousand five hundred dollars.

Ms. Thornton made a motion to sponsor an attorney for the annual conference to both FSMB and FARB. Mr. Reeves seconded. The motion passed.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Managers' Report

Ms. Stacy Tarr presented the Managers' Report

The information provided is for the period of January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019

New applications received – 77

Total new licenses issued – 66

Total number of reinstatements – 6

Total number of active licensees as of March 31, 2019 – 2,454

Total number of active licensees as of March 31, 2019 with a TN mailing address – 2,090

Total number of OPA licenses as of March 31, 2019 – 14

Office of Investigations Report

Ms. Lori Leonard presented the Office of Investigations Report

Currently Monitored Practitioners

On Probation – 4

Suspended – 3

Revoked and/or Surrendered – 8

Reprimand – 1

Investigation Report

New Complaints

Action in Another State – 1

Malpractice - 1

Unprofessional Conduct – 2

Drug Diversion – 1

Closed Complaints

Insufficient Evidence – 2

Sent to Office of General Counsel for Formal Discipline – 3

Closed without Action – 5

Currently Being Reviewed – 19

Financial Report

Mr. Butch Jack presented the Financial Reports

Mr. Jack reported that through December the Committee was on track and everything looked good with

the month to month expenditures and revenue collected. The direct expenditure comparison year over year there are some variances, mainly in salary in wages and this is due to vacancies being filled.

Projections for the year:

Expenditures - \$113,000

Allocated Expenditures - \$137,000

Overall Projected Expenditures - \$250,000

Projected Revenue - \$268,000

Projected Net - \$17,000

Office of General Counsel

Ms. Huddleston presented the Office of General Counsel Report

Pending complaints there are eleven (11) open cases against seven (7) respondents.

Consent Order-Ms. Tracie Tubbs

Ms. Tubbs was erroneously issued a full license rather than a temporary license as she did not qualify for a full license since she had not taken and passed the Physician Assistant National Certification Exam.

Ms. Tubbs reported to a potential employer she was NCCPA certified and licensed in Alabama and falsified documents to convey those falsehoods. As a result of the conduct Ms. Tubbs was reported to the NCCPA who permanently revoked her eligibility for certification. Ms. Tubbs agreed due to this her license in Tennessee should be revoked. Mr. Hux made a motion to accept the Consent Order on Ms. Tracie Tubbs. Mr. Reeves seconded. The motion passed.

Mrs. Thornton made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Patterson seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.