



**TENNESSEE BOARD OF
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

August 13, 2021

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Tennessee Board of Physician Assistants (hereinafter, "the Board") was called to order on August 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, MetroCenter Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive Nashville, TN 37243 by Bret Reeves.

Board Members Present: Bret Reeves, PA-C
 Barbara Thornton, Consumer Member
 Marie Patterson, PA-C
 Christina Free, PA-C
 Donna Lynch, PA-C
 Gregory Cain, PA-C

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Angela Lawrence, Executive Director
 Stacy Tarr, Executive Administrative Director
 Candyce Wilson, Executive Administrative Director
 Tracy Alcock, Senior Associate General Counsel
 Courtney Lilly, Disciplinary Coordinator
 Jim Montag, Board Consultant (by phone)
 James Marrs, Board Administrator

Ms. Angela Lawrence made opening remarks and provided an overview of the requirements for the PA Board meeting. All the requirements were satisfied to conduct such meeting. Roll call was taken as all members of the Board was present.

Board Elections

Ms. Alcock, Board attorney made a brief overview of how to conduct elections going forward as the three new Board members have not been appointed as of today. Mr. Reeves made the motion nomination Ms. Patterson to become Board chair for Physician Assistant's and Ms. Free seconded. Having no other nominations, the motion passed.

Ms. Thornton motioned to have Ms. Free as Board Secretary; Mr. Reeves seconded. Having no other nominations, the motion passed.

Ms. Alcock presented to the board of the change in the roll of the Board Consultant to see how the board wanted to move forward. Mr. Montag is now the only consultant as Dr. Rene Saunders is no longer serving as a consultant for the Board. The Board was asked if they would like the consultant to continue to provide a summary of the applicant interviews during the meeting. Ms. Patterson motioned to have the consultant, Jim Montag, create and complete the cover page for applicant interviews. Mr. Reeves offered his opinion supporting having the consultant present at the meeting stating they can provide insight and set context for applicant interviews. Mr. Montag requested the PA Board obtain a full-time consultant who can present information to the Board moving forward. Ms. Lawrence outlined what the procedures are across Health-Related Boards regarding how consultants support the Board, and the way application materials are provided either in-person or more secure electronically through a TN Cloud account.

Dr. Michael Baron asked the Board of whomever the new consultant will be to assist with streamlining the process of applicants who are evaluated by TMF before they appear before the Board.

Applicant Interview's

Stephanie Passons, PA- Ms. Passons came before the Board to request her license be approved as a Physician Assistant, she did not have legal counsel present. Ms. Passons advised she had alcohol in a clinic and did not keep up with her continuing education credits. Ms. Passons advised she took the PANRE and got caught up with her CME's. Ms. Passons advised that TnPaP was a financial burden in the past and could not perform the evaluation. Ms. Passons asked to obtain her license to support her family and perform evaluation in the future once she has financial access to do such. After Board discussion, Mr. Cain motioned to accept the reinstatement application changing her license back to suspended from Expired-Suspended, Ms. Thornton seconded the motion, and motion passed.

Gregory Lanier, PA- Mr. Lanier came before the Board to request his license be approved as a Physician Assistant, he did not have legal counsel present. Mr. Lanier informed the board he has been practicing continuously and has not been out of practice at any time. Mr. Lanier advised that he passed the University of California PA Program. Mr. Lanier advised that he was never disciplined in California under his

license. Mr. Lanier advised he had a malpractice suit against him in California and it was resolved. Mr. Cain made a motion to grant a full unrestricted license, Ms. Free seconded the motion, and motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes from the April 9, 2021 meeting. Ms. Thornton made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cain seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Discuss Legislation and Take Action If Needed

Ms. Alcock reviewed the new law (Public Chapter 565) for the new Board of Physician Assistants. The new Board may draft or change rules going forward. At this time all rules have transferred from the previous Committee to the new Board to maintain a smooth operation for the transition. Ms. Alcock advised she does not know when the new appointed members will be appointed by the Governor, although they are in the process of interviewing individuals at this time. Ms. Alcock reiterated that the Committee's prior rules are now the new Board rules. Ms. Alcock explained the pathways of creating new law's going forward. Ms. Alcock explained the three options going forward. The first option to do nothing, the second option is to let the prior Committee rules stand for the new Board rules, the last option is to create a panel to draft new rules going forward. Ms. Patterson made motion to have Ms. Free work with Ms. Alcock on updating the rules going forward, Mr. Cain seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Reeves motioned to maintain verbiage of the older rules and policies to draft or amend, seconded by Ms. Patterson, and motion passed.

Ms. Alcock informed the Board of what new or existing consultant they would like to proceed with going forward and what those options are.

Ms. Tarr informed the Board of what procedures the Board of Osteopathic Examination use to review applications in the final phase of processing where all Board members, except for the consumer member, serve as consultants and review application files by a rotating schedule of each sending materials securely through a TN Cloud account.

Mr. Montag advised he is willing to continue to serve as the Board consultant reviewing applications until October. This would allow time for the new members of the Board to be appointed and the Board to vote on the consultant for the Board at the next meeting.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS and Take Action if Needed

Ratification of New Licenses

Mr. Reeves motioned to ratify the new and reinstated licenses. Mr. Cain seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

The Board asked if Mr. Reeves would continue serve as the representative to the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database for now, until new appointed members are present.

Ms. Patterson gave her insight into the information from the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) for licensure compact. The Board will receive more information later, once regulations are in place.

Ms. Alcock advised the Board about the University of Pittsburgh having students in clinical site's while attending distance learning program. Mr. Reeves recused himself from topic. Mr. Reeves wanted to educate the Board that rules and regulations are the reason why this could be an issue moving forward due to geographical boundaries. Ms. Patterson added that she will be conflicted on this issue as well and will recuse herself. Mr. Cain made the motion of responding to the University of Pittsburgh by stating that the licensure division is not the ruling entity and request they contact the governing board of education.

Mr. Baron advised he is unsure of how the TMF contract would work with the new Board transferring from the Committee. Ms. Lawrence stated she did not think anything would be affected by the change but would ask the person working with department contracts to be sure.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Receive reports and/or requests from the Office of Investigations

Ms. Lilly began with the currently monitored practitioners report, citing that twenty-five (25) physician assistants are currently being monitored.

Ms. Lilly advised the Board of the Investigative Reports as of the of mid FY 2021 in which twenty-three (23) new open complaints have been filed. Of those complaints, 1 (1) from action in another state, one (1) for malpractice/negligence, seventeen (17) for unprofessional conduct, one (1) for over prescribing, one (1) for practice beyond scope, two (2) outside investigative scope.

Receive reports from the Administrative Office

Ms. Stacy Tarr reported that the following activity regarding Physician Assistants transpired in the administrative office between April 1, 2021 and July 31, 2021

New Applications Received:	104
Total New Licenses Issued:	160

Total Number of Renewals:	379
Total Number of Online Renewals:	346
Average Renewals Online:	91%
Total Number of Reinstatements	5

As of July 31, 2021, the total number of active Physician Assistant licenses is 3,001. Of those licensees, 2,516 have a Tennessee mailing address. The total number of Orthopedic Physician Assistant licensees as of July 31, 2021 is 10.

Receive reports from the Office of General Counsel

Six (6) open cases for PA's

One (1) Consent Order

One (1) Compliance Order

Legislation update Public Chapter 565 Creates Board of Physician Assistant from the previous Committee.

Consent Order

Marlaine Martin, PA- Ms. Martin came before the Board for licensure and her legal counsel was not present. Ms. Martin was employed at Covenant Family Medicine who fraudulently wrote herself prescriptions of controlled substances. Ms. Martin entered into a five-year monitoring agreement with the Tennessee Medical Foundation. Ms. Martin was unable to maintain advocacy through TMF due to medical health.

Ms. Thornton made motion to approve consent order, Mr. Cain seconded motion, and motion passed.

Agreed Citations

Charles McCord, PA- Failure to obtain two hours of continuing education for prescribing practices. Mr. Cain made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Ms. Free seconded and the motion passed.

Kevin Clemons, PA- Failure to obtain two hours of continuing education for prescribing practices. Mr. Reeves made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Ms. Thornton seconded, and the motion passed.

Kendall McCarty, PA- Failure to obtain two hours of continuing education for prescribing practices. Mr. Cain made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Mr. Reeves seconded, and the motion passed.

John Carrino, PA- Failure to obtain two hours of continuing education for prescribing practices. Mr. Reeves made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Ms. Thornton seconded, and the motion passed.

Caroline Mack, PA- Practicing on a lapsed license. Ms. Thornton made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Ms. Free seconded and the motion passed.

Taryn Kendrick, PA- Practicing on a lapsed license. Mr. Reeves made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Ms. Thornton seconded, and the motion passed.

John Schuerlein, PA- Failure to obtain two hours of continuing education for prescribing practices. Mr. Cain made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Ms. Thornton seconded, and the motion passed.

Desirae Twilla, PA- Practicing on a lapsed license. Mr. Reeves made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Ms. Thornton seconded, and the motion passed.

James Womack, PA- Practicing on a lapsed license. Ms. Thornton made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Mr. Reeves seconded, and the motion passed.

Gary Tauxe, OPA- Failure to obtain fifty-six hours of continuing education. Mr. Reeves made the motion to accept the agreed citation, Ms. Thornton seconded, and the motion passed.

Order of Compliance

Ms. Vasireddy, PA- Ms. Vasireddy was in attendance by phone, and was not with legal counsel. Mr. Reeves made motion for her to attend the meeting via phone call due to circumstances with a breakdown in communication where she was not informed the previous meeting had been rescheduled until she arrived at that meeting, seconded by Ms. Thornton, motion passed.

Ms. Vasireddy came before the Board to present her Order of Compliance as she has completed such order to have the suspension lifted from her license, and to have her license placed on probation so she will be able to work. Mr. Reeves made motion to accept the order, seconded by Ms. Thornton, motion passed.

Ms. Alcock wanted to inform the Board of new law pertaining to the Physician Assistants. If a physician assistant pleads guilty and sentenced to any sexual crimes or prescription writing/controlled substance offenses, the Department of Health will then suspend the physician assistants license going forward. If a physician assistant fails to maintain controlled substance prescription writing corroboration with their supervisor, they will be suspended.

Public Comment

Ms. Moffat from Tennessee Association of Physician Assistants came before the Board to ask members to re-write applications as there seems to be a difference on the questions between the online and paper application. She stated she would be willing to offer suggestion to help draft new applications for licensure in the State of Tennessee.

Adjournment at 12:26 pm