



MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2013

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD
2005 Evergreen Street – Hearing Room #1150
Sacramento, CA 95815
9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

1. **Call to Order by President**

President Sachs called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Staff called the roll. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Robert Sachs, PA-C
 Cristina Gomez-Vidal Diaz
 Sonya Earley, PA
 Jed Grant, PA -C
 Catherine Hazelton
 Rosalee Shorter, PA

Board Member Absent: Charles Alexander, Ph.D.

Staff Present: Glenn Mitchell, Executive Officer
 Laura Freedman, Senior Staff Counsel, Dept.
 of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
 Lynn Forsyth, Staff Services Analyst

3. **Approval of December 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

The December 10, 2012 minutes were approved as drafted.
(m/Diaz, s/Earley, motion passes)

4. **Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

Bob Miller, PA, California Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) Professional Practice Chair, spoke briefly regarding the long standing relationship between the Board and CAPA. Mr. Miller also stated that he was looking forward to working with the new Board members.

5. **Reports**

a. **President Report**

President Sachs thanked the Governor's Office for their efforts in appointing new members to the Board. President Sachs also thanked the new members for rearranging their schedules to attend the meeting.

President Sachs provided the new members with an overview of the Board. He also emphasized the primary function of the Board is consumer protection.

Ms. Diaz also provided a brief overview of the Board from the perspective of a public board member.

b. **Executive Officer Report**

Mr. Mitchell provided the members with an update on several new licensing requirements. Mr. Mitchell explained that AB 1588 allows the Board, under specific conditions, to waive certain renewal requirements for licensees who have been called to active duty military service.

Mr. Mitchell also discussed the implementation of AB 1904, which requires that Boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs, including the Physician Assistant Board, to expedite physician assistant applications for spouses of active duty military personnel.

Mr. Mitchell also reported that Governor Brown signed SB 1236 (Price) on September 14, 2012. The legislation adds physician assistants to 800-series reporting requirements. (Business and Professions Code sections 800, 801.01, 802.1, 802.5, 803, 803.1, 803.5, 803.6, and 805)

These changes became effective 1 January 2013.

These reporting requirements include mandatory malpractice reporting to the Board and apply to professional liability insurers, self-insured governmental agencies, physician assistants and/or their attorneys and employers. Reporting also includes peer review bodies, such as in hospitals to report specific disciplinary, restrictions, revoked privileges, suspensions. Physician assistant self-reporting of indictments and convictions is also included.

The Board's website will be updated to reflect this new requirement.

Mr. Mitchell reported that effective January 2013, all licensees must now report compliance with the Board's continuing medical education requirements when renewing their licenses. The Board's renewal notices have been updated to reflect this new reporting requirement.

Mr. Mitchell reported that Dianne Tincher is working with the Department of Consumer Affairs Internet Team to update the Board's website to reflect the name change from Physician Assistant Committee to Physician Assistant Board.

Mr. Mitchell also reported that the Office of Administrative Law approved the Board's rulemaking file regarding amendments to California Code of Regulations Title 16, Section 1399.536 – Requirements for Preceptors. Mr. Mitchell explained that this amendment allows a variety of licensed health care providers to provide training and experience to students who are attending physician assistant training programs. The regulatory change will become effective April 1, 2013.

c. Licensing Program Activity Report

Between October 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013, 157 physician assistant licenses were issued. As of January 1, 2013, 8,901 physician assistant licenses are renewed and current.

d. Diversion Program Activity Report

As of January 1, 2013, the Diversion Program has 18 participants, which includes 3 self-referred participants and 15 Board referrals, for a total of 107 participants since program implementation in 1990.

e. Enforcement Program Activity Report

Between July 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012, 146 complaints were received; 91 complaints are pending; 43 investigations are pending; 48 probationers, and 28 cases awaiting administrative adjudication at the Office of the Attorney General.

6. **Department of Consumer Affairs Director's Update**

Reichel Everhart, Deputy Director, Board Relations, Department of Consumer Affairs, reported that on March 3, 2013 the quarterly Bureau Chiefs and Executive Officer meeting will be conducted at the Department of Consumer Affairs headquarters.

Ms. Everhart also reported that the Department is also working on the Governor's state agency re-organization plan scheduled to go into effect July 1, 2013.

On behalf of the Director, Ms. Everhart also congratulated the new members on their appointments to the Board.

7. **Report from Educational Subcommittee**

7a. Report on Collection of Workplace Data

7b. Discussion of possible Physician Assistant Survey

Following a brief discussion and due to the lack of new information on this topic, this agenda item will be discussed at a future meeting.

8. **CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Section 11126(c) (3) of the Government Code, the Board moved into closed session to deliberate on disciplinary matters

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

9. **Discussion and Consideration of Changes in Accreditation Requirements Affecting Two Year Programs**

Following a brief discussion and due to a lack of new information on this topic, this agenda item will be discussed at a future meeting.

10. **Discussion of PA/MD Education/Residency: Medical School Graduates Licensed as PAs**

It was discussed that due to the shortage of residency programs for new medical graduates, there was legislative interest in gathering information regarding possible legislation which would allow medical school graduates to obtain licensure as physician assistants based on their medical school education. This would enable them to work in the health care field until they complete their residency program and, ultimately, obtain their physician and surgeons license.

11. **Discussion on Proposed Personal Presence regulations**

Ms. Freedman provided the members with an overview and history of proposed personal presence regulations. Following a discussion it was determined that a meeting may be conducted in the future with representatives of the executive staff and legal counsel of the Medical Board of California to seek further clarification of this issue and arrive at acceptable language.

12. **NCCPA Exam Development and Scoring**

Mr. Mitchell explained that the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) has an established, scientifically based process for examination question development and scoring of the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE). The PANCE examination is currently used as the Board's licensing examination.

A brief overview was also provided on the procedures and costs involved in the creating a Board-developed and administered licensing examination.

13. **Update on Current Budget**

Mr. Mitchell provided the members with an update on the current Board budget. Following a discussion it was requested that representatives from the Department of Consumer Affairs Budget Office provide a presentation on the budget process at the next Board meeting.

14. **Fluoroscopy Permit Requirements for PAs: Proposed Department of Public Health Regulations: Status**

Mr. Mitchell provided a brief history of the fluoroscopy permit legislation and status of the Department of Public Health's proposed regulations.

California Academy of Physician Assistants sponsored AB 356 (Statutes of 2009, Chapter 434) which implemented provisions in the Health and Safety Code to permit physician assistants who meet certain standards of education, training, and experience to operate fluoroscopy equipment. The California Department of Public Health is proposing regulations to implement the provisions of AB 356. The regulatory package is still pending as of today's meeting.

The Board requested that a representative from the Department of Public Health provide a presentation on this issue at the next meeting.

15. **Update on BreEZe Implementation**

Mr. Mitchell provided the new members with a brief overview of the BreEZe project. Mr. Mitchell explained that BreEZe will replace two legacy computer systems that are based on older computer programming language. It is becoming difficult and expensive to find programmers who are proficient in these archaic computer languages to update the current systems. Mr. Mitchell also explained that user acceptance testing is in progress. Due to the amount of testing still required an implementation date has not yet been established.

16. **Discussion and Consideration of New Logos**

Mr. Mitchell briefly informed the members that the Department of Consumer Affairs working on additional sample logos for Board member review.

17. **Consideration of Legislation of Interest to the Physician Assistant Board**

AB 1588 (Chaptered)

AB 1904 (Chaptered)

The Board briefly discussed current legislation of interest. No Board positions were taken on the above-mentioned bills.

18. **Review of and Discussion of Updating the Board's Strategic Plan**

President Sachs provided the new Board members with a brief overview of the Board's current Strategic Plan and the process of possibly updating the plan.

Following a brief discussion, it was determined that this item will be discussed at a future Board meeting pending the revision of the Department of Consumer Affairs Strategic Plan.

19. **Schedule of 2013 Meeting Dates and Locations**

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the meeting dates and locations would remain as previously established. Future 2013 meeting dates include:

May 20, 2013 (Monday in Sacramento)

August 26, 2013 (Monday) in Sacramento

December 9, 2013 (Monday in Sacramento)

20. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- a. Educational Subcommittee
- b. Changes in Accreditation Requirements
- c. Budget Presentation
- d. Legislation

21. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.