

**Texas Medical Board
Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 9, 2008**

Media contact: Patrick Shaughnessy patrick.shaughnessy@tmb.state.tx.us or (512) 305-7173.
Non-media contact: (512) 305-7030 or (800) 248-4062.

TMB TO HOST TOWN HALL MEETING IN MIDLAND
Board also will Offer Licensing Seminar to Assist Applicants

The Texas Medical Board will host a Town Hall meeting in Midland next week to meet with medical professionals and the public to gather input and feedback about regulation of the medical profession.

In conjunction with the Town Hall meeting, TMB also will offer an in-depth seminar for entities that recruit or credential physicians to assist those entities in streamlining the process for their applicants and to minimize application errors.

Both sessions will be conducted at the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification, 1400 N. FM 1788. The Town Hall meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on June 17 and the licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on June 18.

"Our purpose for these meetings is twofold," said Dr. Roberta Kalafut, TMB's board president. "First, we want to encourage a more active dialogue with doctors and with the public. The impressions we have as regulators may not mirror the impressions of the licensees. We want to know if there are instances in which our regulations can be modified to make compliance easier for the regulated community.

"And as we work to improve our licensing processes, we want those people who work with applicants every day to have a more thorough understanding of what we need to see on those applications and what the most common errors are," Kalafut continued. "We want to make licensing of physicians as seamless as possible."

TMB already has instituted two changes this spring that benefit licensees. The first, a "fast-track" enforcement system, allows physicians who face relatively minor administrative violations to dispose of those changes without needing to attend a hearing. The second, the License Inquiry System of Texas, is an online communication system that allows applicants to check the status of their applications 24 hours a day and also provides detailed explanations of any items required to process an individual's physician licensure application. LIST also provides a message center where applicants and TMB staff can exchange messages.