



Texas Physician Assistant Board

BOARD MEETING

March 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order on Friday, March 26, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. by Karrie L Crosby, PA-C, Presiding Officer. Other board members present were: Melinda Gottschalk, PA-C, Secretary; Clayton "Clay" P. Bulls, PA-C; Jennifer L. Clarnier, PA-C; Victor Shen-Pou Ho, M.D.; Lawrence G. Hughes, Ed.D; Sandra Longoria, PA-C; Cameron J. McElhany; Janeth K. Mills, PA-C.; Gregory S. Rowin, D.O.; and Andrew W. Sauer, PA-C. Steven S. Ahmed, M.D. was not present. Staff members present were Stephen "Brint" Carlton, Executive Director; Scott Freshour, J.D., General Counsel; Robert Bredt, M.D., Medical Director; and various other staff.

Agenda item #1, Mission Statement. Ms. Crosby read the board's mission statement into the minutes. *Our Mission is to protect and enhance the public's health, safety and welfare by establishing and maintaining standards of excellence used in regulating the practice of medicine and ensuring quality health care for the citizens of Texas through licensure, discipline, and education.*

Agenda item #2, Board Member Report.

Resolution – Jorge Martinez. Ms. Crosby presented Jorge Martinez with a Resolution for his service on the Texas Physician Assistant Board.

Recognition – Dwight Deter, PA-C. Ms. Crosby recognized Dwight Deter, PA, First Physician Assistant licensed in Texas with a certificate and Texas Flag flown in his honor on the day of his retirement.

Ms. Gottschalk provided updates regarding FSMB portability of the PA license for telemedicine.

Agenda item #4, Medical Director Report. Nothing to report.

Agenda item #5, Physician Assistant Liaison Report. Ms. Mills provided information regarding her attendance at the Texas Medical Board meeting on March 5, 2021. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Agenda item #6, Public Information Update. Ms. Randermann provided a legislative update. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Agenda item #3, Executive Director's Report.

Budget Report. Mr. Carlton gave a report on the agency's budget. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Internal Audit Report. Mr. Carlton gave a report on the agency's internal audit. No action was taken on this agenda item.

COVID-19. Mr. Carlton gave a report on the agency's COVID-19 response. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Agenda item #8, Discussion, recommendation and possible action regarding licensee requests. Nothing to report.

Agenda item #9, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding applicants appearing concerning eligibility.

Ms. Crosby moved and Ms. Clarner seconded that the meeting closed to the public and continue in Executive Session for deliberations concerning Applicant #2458. The motion passed. Ms. Crosby announced that the meeting would be closed for deliberations at 10:24 a.m. concerning licensure applications and the character and fitness of applicants under the authority of The Medical Practice Act Sections 152.009 and 155.058, Occupations Code, and that while in executive session, the Board may not take any action, make any decision, or vote with regard to any matter that may be considered or discussed. A certified agenda of any executive session will be made.

The Executive Session ended at 11:28 a.m.

Applicant #2458 appeared before the Committee to appeal the Executive Director's determination that the applicant is ineligible for licensure due to their time out of active practice as required under Chapter 185 of the board rules. Further the recommendation that they shadow a physician for at least 20 hours a week for at least 40 weeks in a 12-month period, collect quarterly evaluations and then reapply. If the quarterly evaluations are favorable, the applicant be granted a 12-month Texas physician assistant supervised temporary license upon reapplication. The applicant presented a summary and the Committee members asked questions. In open session, **Ms. Clarner moved to recommend to the full Board that the applicant's appeal of the Executive's Director recommendation to shadow a physician be granted and the applicant be issued an 18 month Texas physician assistant supervised temporary license with the following conditions:**

- **The supervised temporary license will have an expiration date that will allow the applicant to obtain at least 20 hours a week supervised practice for at least 60 weeks in a 18-month period subject to the following restrictions: that the applicant work full time, only in setting that provides continuous full-time, on-site physician supervision; the applicant be restricted from prescribing controlled substances; the supervising physician shall submit quarterly reports regarding the applicant's work performance; the supervising physician shall submit, one month prior to the temporary license expiring, a log showing time worked regarding the applicant's work performance. If the applicant's evaluations are favorable, the applicant's name may be placed on a list of applicants who have met all requirements for licensure to be considered at the following board meeting; if the evaluations are unsatisfactory, the applicant will be required to appear at the following Board meeting for reconsideration of the application.**

Factors contributing to this recommendation include the applicant's inability to provide evidence of compliance with Chapter 185 of the board related to active practice. **Dr. Ho seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.**

Break at 11:34 am. The board reconvened at 11:42 am and a quorum was confirmed.

Agenda item #10, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding proposed orders offered by the Executive Director. There are none.

Agenda item #11, Report on physician assistant licenses issued by Board staff. Ms. Unterborn provided a report on the physician assistant licenses issued by staff. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Agenda item #12, Report on physician assistant licensure process statistics. Ms. Unterborn reported that 387 physician assistant licenses were issued in the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2020 in an average of 15 days. In comparison, in the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2021, 238 physician assistant licenses were issued in an average of 11 days

Agenda item #13. Texas Physician Health Program (TXPHP).

A. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding referrals.

B. Report on Emergent Referrals.

C. Other discussion items – Participant Report. A report on TXPHP participation was provided.

Agenda item #14, Reports and discussion regarding the Investigation, Litigation and Compliance Departments. Mr. Palazola provided reports regarding the Investigation, Litigation, and Compliance Departments.

There were no items for Agenda items# 15.

Agenda item #16, Review, discussion and possible action regarding appeals of dismissed complaints. After discussion, **Mr. Hughes moved, Mr. McElhaney seconded, and the motion passed to deny the appeal for 21-2312.**

After discussion **Ms. Mills moved, Ms. Gottschalk seconded, and the motion passed to deny appeals as presented.**

There were no items for Agenda items# 17.

Agenda item #18, Review, discussion, and possible action regarding selected files and cases.

A. Litigation Dismissals.

B. Investigations.

After discussion, **Ms. Mills moved, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the motion passed to approve the selected files and cases as submitted.**

There were no items for Agenda item# 19.

Agenda item #20, Consideration and approval of Modification/Termination Request Orders. After consideration, Ms. Gottschalk moved, Ms. Mills seconded, and the motion passed to enter modification or termination of the Orders for Scott Foxworth, PA and Thomas Ralph Cook, PA.

Agenda item #21, Consideration and Approval of Agreed Board Orders. After consideration, Mr. Bulls moved, Ms. Clarner seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Agreed Board Orders for Christopher H. Bodily, PA; Lisa Francis Plotkin, PA; Pramila Jai Bharwani, PA; Deanna Lynn Grandstaff, PA and Richard Marquez Jr, PA.

There were no items for Agenda item #22-25.

Agenda item #26, Consideration and Approval of Remedial Plans. After consideration, Mr. Bulls moved, Ms. Mills seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Remedial Plan for Aliaksandra Regan, PA.

There were no items for Agenda items #27-#34.

Agenda item #7, Consideration and possible action regarding pending litigation. Mr. Freshour gave an update on pending litigation. No action was taken on this agenda item. The Board directed staff to, in cases in which a physician assistant under investigation holds dual licensure, research whether NPDB reports may be run on the secondary license.

Agenda item #35, Open Forum for Public Comments. One individual made public comments.

Agenda item #36, Consideration and Approval of November 6, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes. After consideration, Mr. Hughes moved, Dr. Ho seconded, and the motion passed to approve the November 6, 2020 Board Meeting minutes. Dr. Rowin abstains.

There were no items for Agenda Item #37.

Agenda item #38, Adjourn. There being no further items, Ms. Mills moved, Ms. Gottschalk seconded, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 p.m.