

TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Board President, Roberta M. Kalafut, D.O. Committee members present were Eddie J. Miles, Jr., and John W. Pate, Jr., M.D. Larry Price, D.O., arrived after roll call. Other Board members present were Julie Attebury; Jose M. Benavides, M.D.; Patricia S. Blackwell; Melinda S. Fredricks; David E. Garza, D.O.; Manuel G. Guajardo, M.D.; Margaret C. McNeese, M.D.; Keith E. Miller, M.D.; Charles E. Oswalt, M.D.; Elvira Pascua-Lim, M.D.; Paulette B. Southard; and Timothy J. Turner. Staff present were Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., Executive Director; Jerry T. Walker, M.P.H., Deputy Executive Director; Michele Shackelford, J.D., General Counsel; Robert D. Simpson, Assistant General Counsel; and various other staff.

Dr. Kalafut introduced and welcomed new Board members Margaret C. McNeese, M.D., and Charles E. Oswalt, M.D., and new District Review Committee members Mark Maberry, M.D., and Noe Fernandez.

Agenda item #2, Report and recommendations from the Executive Management Team. Dr. Patrick gave a report on the current projected expenses for the remainder of fiscal year 2006 that are anticipated to create a budget shortfall. The agency is experiencing an 88% increase in the number of license applicants. Aggressive litigation at the State Office of Administrative Hearings is resulting in expenses for expert witnesses that are higher than before. Options for finishing this year were discussed. Dr. Patrick gave a report on the anticipated additional budget cuts for fiscal year 2007. Board members requested information regarding the processes used by the agency in projecting costs. Jerry Walker reported on the current process and planned improvements.

Mr. Walker reported on the statistics of obtaining an internal audit for fiscal year 2006 and gave a review of the process to release information to other entities.

Dr. Patrick discussed key personnel changes and other staff task changes. Jane McFarland, has accepted additional duties and her job title will change to Director of Policy and

Planning. Mari Robinson has accepted additional responsibilities assuming management of the Compliance Department. Bonnie Kaderka has accepted new responsibilities over Open Records assisted by Sally Durocher. Laura Fleharty has accepted the responsibilities as Hearings Coordinator.

After discussion, Mr. Miles moved, Dr. Pate seconded, and the motion passed to go into Executive Session at 9:06 a.m. for private consultation and advice of counsel with respect to legal matters under the authority of the Open Meetings Act, Government Code, 551.071. Open session resumed at 9:55 a.m. and it was announced that no action was taken during Executive Session. A certified agenda was made.

The Board discussed the current budget issues and strategies for the future. The Board expressed the need for the agency to include: a) continue aggressive litigation; b) maintain a strong compliance department; c) go forward with IT project; d) become effective with administrative orders; e) better anticipate State Office of Administrative Hearing costs; and f) seek more efficient methods for processing additional licensure applicants.

After discussion, Dr. Kalafut appointed Dr. Benavides as Chairman of an Ad Hoc Budget Committee to include members of the Executive Committee. The Committee authorized the President to sign off on the following: 1.) the bids for the internal audit; 2.) the Legislative Appropriations Review; and 3.) the Texas Medical Board Strategic Plan.

Agenda item #3 was deferred.

Agenda item #5, Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.