

**Texas Medical Board
Press Release
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TMB to Host Town Hall Meeting in Amarillo
Board also will Offer Licensing Seminar to Assist Applicants

The Texas Medical Board is inviting all medical professionals and the public to a Town Hall meeting in Amarillo to provide 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.

September 9 and 10 – Both sessions will be conducted in the auditorium of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health at Texas Tech University Health Science Center, 1400 Wallace Boulevard. The Town Hall meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, followed by the licensing seminar at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10.

“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.