## Texas Medical Board Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, June 30, 2008

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

## TMB SCHEDULES EIGHT ADDITIONAL TOWN HALL MEETINGS Board also will Offer Licensing Seminar to Assist Applicants

Because of the success of its initial Town Hall meetings, the Texas Medical Board will conduct eight additional Town Hall meetings/licensing seminars this summer in locations across the state.

"Our first meetings have gone very well," said Dr. Roberta Kalafut, TMB's board president. "We have heard several very good suggestions and we have addressed many concerns. The give and take has been dynamic and, I think, very valuable both for the board and for participants."

The two-part meetings include a Town Hall meeting, which is an open forum designed to stimulate discussion, and a licensing seminar for individuals who assist physicians seeking licensure. So far, TMB has provided in-depth training to dozens of credentialing and medical staff services personnel who help physicians acquire their licenses.

TMB has conducted Town Hall meetings/licensing seminars in Brownsville, Midland and Austin and has events scheduled for Fort Worth this week. With the addition of the eight Town Hall meetings to the schedule, TMB will have conducted 13 meetings in all parts of the state by September.

"We want to hear from everyone, medical professional and consumer alike, who has an opinion or suggestions about medical regulation, the board's rules and its policies," Kalafut said. "Our mission is to protect the public, and we will not compromise that mission. But there may be ways to accomplish it in ways that are less burdensome for physicians. We are open to any ideas, suggestions or questions."

The meetings are open to the public. No registration is required.

Town Hall meetings/licensing seminars will be conducted at the following locations:

July 8 and 9 - **Bryan/College Station** - Both sessions will be conducted in Lecture Hall 1 on the first floor of the Joe Reynolds Medical Building at Texas A&M University, at the southwest corner of University Drive and Olsen Boulevard. The Town Hall meeting will be at 7 p.m. on July 8 and the licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on July 9.

July 15 and 16 - **Houston** - Both sessions will be at the University of Texas Medical School at 6431 Fannin St. The Town Hall meeting will be in Room MSB 1.006 (the first floor lecture hall)

at 7 p.m. on July 15 and the licensing seminar will be in Room MSB 2.006 at 8:30 a.m. on July 16.

July 29 and 30 - **Lubbock** - Both sessions will be conducted in the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, 3601 4th Street (4th Street and Indiana Avenue). The Town Hall meeting will be at 7 p.m. on July 29 in Room ACB100, and the licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on July 30 be in Room ACB120.

August 5 and 6 - **Tyler** - Both sessions will be in the Biomedical Research Auditorium at The University of Texas Health Science Center, 11937 U.S. Highway 271. The Town Hall meeting will be at 7 p.m. on August 5 and the licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on August 6.

August 12 and 13 - **Dallas** - Both sessions will be conducted in the T. Boone Pickens Biomedical Building Auditorium, Room NG3.112 on the third floor, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, 6001 Forest Park Road. The Town Hall meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on August 12, and the licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on August 13.

August 19 and 20 - **El Paso** - Both sessions will be conducted in Auditorium B on the second floor of the Administration Building at Texas Tech University Health Science Center, 4800 Alberta Avenue. The Town Hall meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on August 19 and the licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on August 20.

August 25 and 26 - **San Antonio** - Both sessions will be conducted at the School of Medicine at the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Campus of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive. The Town Hall meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on August 25 in Lecture Room MED 309L. The licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Lecture Hall 3.104A.

September 3 and 4 - **Galveston** - The meetings will be held at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. The rooms will be announced.

September 9 and 10 - Amarillo - The meetings will be held at the Texas Tech University Health Science Center. The rooms will be announced.

-30-