

TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD
TELEMEDICINE COMMITTEE
April 7, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by the Chairman, Timothy J. Turner. Committee members present were Manuel Guajardo, M.D.; Amanullah Khan, M.D.; Elvira Pascua-Lim, M.D.; and Larry Price, D.O. The following staff were also present: Michele Shackelford, J.D.; General Counsel; James Thomassen, J.D.; Hearings Counsel, and Sally Durocher.

Agenda item #2, Discussion of Senate Bill 1340 rules provisions. Mr. Turner made opening comments on Telemedicine and Senate Bill 1340. Mr. Thomassen discussed Senate Bill 1340. After the opening comments, the Board members asked a variety of questions.

Agenda item #3, Discussion, recommendation and possible action regarding proposed changes to Chapter 174, Telemedicine to include amendments to 174.2, Definitions and to 174.6 Delegation to and Supervision of Telepresenters regarding delegation of tasks and activities by a physician to a telepresenter. Mr. Thomassen presented the proposed changes to **174.2, Definitions** and to **174.6 Delegation to and Supervision of Telepresenters** and two additional sections, (d) and (e), suggested by representatives of HHSC. Discussion included concerns about the unknown consequences of adding the two sections requested by HHSC at this time. Concerns were also raised about whether each patient has had any initial examination by a physician. Staff was directed to research requirements in other states and to contact HHSC concerning the means of contact between the patient and physician.

Dr. Price moved, Dr. Khan seconded, and the motion passed to recommend that the proposed changes to Chapter 174.2 and 174.6, as proposed by staff, be published in the Texas Register.

Staff was directed to communicate back to HHSC representatives to determine whether the rule as recommended for publication will allow payment to the mental health providers who are presenting the patients under the Medical Pilot Program.

Agenda item #4, Adjourn. There being no further agenda items, **the meeting was adjourned** at 9:04 a.m.