

**TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Board President, Roberta Kalafut, D.O. Committee members present were Lawrence Anderson, M.D.; Eddie Miles, Jr.; Keith E. Miller, M.D.; and Larry Price, D.O. Other Board members present were Julie Attebury; Jose M. Benavides, M.D.; Melinda Fredricks; Charles E. Oswalt, M.D.; Paulette Southard; Michael Arambula, M.D.; Irvin Zeitler, D.O.; Patricia Blackwell; Timothy Turner; Margaret McNeese, M.D. Staff present were Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., Executive Director; Michele Shackelford, J.D., General Counsel; and various staff.

Agenda item #2, Report and Discussion regarding agency audit. Ms. McFarland introduced Leslie Ashton Project Manager and Kelly Furgerson Linder, Federal Funds Audit Manager both of the State Auditor's Office who presented their report to the Board which began last fall due to legislative interest. The State Auditor's Office reported that the agency had made progress in terms of improving methodology to anticipate costs and expenditures. According to the audit, the current shortfall is due to a past lack of financial monitoring. Segregation of payroll duties was another recommended change. Dr. Kalafut requested that the audit recommendations be included in future finance reports provided to the Board members. This report should include a separate section regarding contract work. Members of the Board also requested that a report be provided each board meeting showing the agency's current financial status along with a snapshot of the financial status for the same period for the preceding few years.

Agenda item #3, Report and recommendations from the Executive Management Team. A handout was provided concerning the Texas Health Institute's (THI) offer to help with funding for the Licensure Division. During the discussion, it was reiterated that no formal documents or proposal has yet been made by the Texas Health Institute. **Dr. Price moved, Mr. Miles seconded, and the motion passed for the Board to proceed with developing a contractual agreement with Texas Health Institute.** Dr. Patrick thanked Mr. Turner for his hard work on this project to secure additional funding for the Licensure Division.

Dr. Patrick discussed a new proposal in the Governor's proposed budget which would create an umbrella agency for many of the state's health regulatory agencies. Under this proposal, as Executive Commissioner would oversee all of the agencies and report directly to the Office of the Governor and a Deputy Commissioner would then be appointed to run each individual board.

Robert Simpson provided an update concerning the recent criminal case that was dismissed against Eric Scheffey, M.D. Mr. Simpson indicated that the dismissal of the criminal case did not affect the revocation of Dr. Scheffey's licensure status with the Board.

Dr. Price moved, Mr. Miles seconded and the motion passed to go in to executive session at 9:15 a.m. for private consultation and advice of counsel with respect to legal matters under the authority under the Open Meetings Act, Government Code §555.071. Open session resumed at 9:40 a.m. and it was announced that no action was taken during Executive Session. A certified agenda was made.

Agenda item #4, Report and discussion regarding personnel matters. Kim Boston, Human Resources Manager, provided a report concerning the agency job postings made since the last meeting in December 2006. Ms. Boston reported that five positions have been filled since the December meeting. According to Ms. Boston, the comments made on the employee exit surveys indicate the number one reason for employees leaving the agency had to do with salary. Other reasons mentioned were lack of training opportunities and lack of communication with management. The Board directed staff to look into possible training opportunities in the area of effective communication. Ms. Boston concluded her report by introducing several newly hired staff members from various departments.

There being no further items the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.