

TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2008

Julie Attebury, Finance committee chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. Committee members present were Melinda McMichael, M.D., Charles Oswalt, M.D., Larry Price, D.O., Paulette Southard, and Timothy Turner. Also present were Mari Robinson, Interim Executive Director, Christina Cuellar, Finance Manager, and various staff members.

Agenda item #2-Update on department staffing. Ms. Cuellar informed the Finance committee that after 23 years of service with the Texas Medical Board, Barbara Gottschalk would be retiring. The committee was also informed that the purchaser would be leaving to go to a UT program. Both of these departures will be on August 29, 2008. Ms. Cuellar addressed the Budget Analyst vacancy, stating that changes were made to the posting to list as an Accountant V-VI to see if there would be a better response.

Agenda item #3- Update on operating budget. Ms. Cuellar informed the Finance Committee that General Revenue received as of July 31, 2008 is \$24.5 million dollars, the General Revenue Appropriated as of July 31, 2008 is \$6.6 million dollars, and the agency has spent \$5.8 million dollars, which is equivalent to 87.2% of the budget. Ms. Cuellar also stated that the General Revenue-Dedicated Year to Date received as of July 31, 2008 is \$2.3 million dollars, the General Revenue-Dedicated appropriated is \$2.6 million dollars, and the agency has spent \$2.3 million dollars, which is equivalent to 90.04% of the budget.

Discussion item #1- Mrs. McFarland added there will be an unbudgeted item still to be paid for Dr. Patrick's vacation lump sum payment that will effect the year end expenses.

Discussion item #2- Mrs. McFarland stated that due to the vast amount of hours that the finance department has been working to keep up with the workload, an additional FTE was requested in the Legislative Appropriations Request. Ms. Attebury collaborated on the importance of the LAR and suggested board members review to understand the financial operations of the agency.

Discussion item #3- Timothy Turner asked about the federal increase in the mileage reimbursement and if that rate would be adopted. Ms. Cuellar responded that, at this current time, the Texas Medical Board is not going to make the increase due to financial obligations, but it will be re-evaluated in coming months. Mrs. McFarland added that the mileage increase was included in the LAR as an exceptional item to allow for the agency to make that change. Mrs. McFarland also mentioned the agency had already initiated the first increase this fiscal year to 50.5 cents per mile. She continued in explaining the rules of this decision are that the comptroller states the agency is allowed to make the increase, however it is at the agency's discretion if it will be implemented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 a.m.