



Texas Physician Assistant Board

BOARD MEETING

November 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order on Friday, November 5, 2021 at 9:06 a.m. by Karrie L Crosby, PA-C, Presiding Officer. Other board members present were: Steven S. Ahmed, M.D.; Clayton "Clay" P. Bulls, PA-C; Jennifer L. Clarner, PA-C; Victor Shen-Pou Ho, M.D.; Lawrence G. Hughes, Ed.D; Sandra Longoria, PA-C; Cameron J. McElhany; Janeth K. Mills, PA-C.; Andrew W. Sauer, PA-C; and Laura "Lali" Shipley. Melinda Gottschalk, PA-C joined at 9:21am. Gregory S. Rowin, D.O. was not present Staff members present were Stephen "Brint" Carlton, Executive Director; Scott Freshour, J.D., General Counsel; Robert Bredt, M.D., Medical Director; and various other staff.

Agenda item #1, Mission Statement. Ms. Crosby read the board's mission statement into the minutes. *Our Mission is to protect and enhance the public's health, safety and welfare by establishing and maintaining standards of excellence used in regulating the practice of medicine and ensuring quality health care for the citizens of Texas through licensure, discipline, and education.*

Agenda Item #8, Texas Physician Health Program (TXPHP):

A. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding referrals

B. Report on Emergent Referrals (none)

C. Other discussion items – Reports Dr. McQueen presented the Participation Report for Q4, Physician Assistant Referrals for FY20 and answered questions for the board members.

Agenda item #3, Executive Director's Report.

Budget Report. Mr. Palazola gave a report on the agency's budget. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Internal Audit Report. Mr. Palazola gave a report on the agency's internal audit. No action was taken on this agenda item.

COVID-19. Mr. Palazola gave a report on the agency's COVID-19 response. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Email Migration. Mr. Palazola reported that email will be migrated to Office 365 the weekend of November 13-14. IT will be available to answer any questions. Instructions were provided.

Agenda item #2, Board Member Report.

Federation Update (Ms. Gottschalk) Ms. Gottschalk reported on her involvement with the Federation. Ms. Clarner will be attending the next Federation meeting.

Agenda item #4, Medical Director Report. Dr. Bredt reported that additional experts are always needed, and recommendations are welcome.

Agenda item #5, Physician Assistant Liaison Report. Ms. Longoria reported on her attendance at the Texas Medical Board meeting on October 15, 2021. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Agenda item #6, Public Information Update. Ms. Sloan provided a Public Information Update.

Agenda item #7, Consideration and possible action regarding pending litigation. Mr. Freshour provided an update on pending litigation.

There were no items for Agenda items #9-11.

Agenda item #12, Report on physician assistant licenses issued by Board staff. Ms. Unterborn provided a report on the physician assistant licenses issued by staff. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Agenda item #13, Report on physician assistant licensure process statistics. Ms. Unterborn reported that 266 physician assistant licenses were issued in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 in an average of 11 days. In comparison, in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2022, 242 physician assistant licenses were issued in an average of 5 days

Agenda item #14, Reports and discussion regarding the Investigation, Litigation and Compliance Departments. Mr. Palazola provided reports regarding the Investigation, Litigation, and Compliance Departments.

There were no items for Agenda items# 15.

Agenda item #16, Review, discussion and possible action regarding appeals of dismissed complaints. After discussion, Mr. Sauer moved, Mr. McElhaney seconded, and the motion passed to deny the appeals as presented.

Agenda item #17, Discussion, recommendation and possible action regarding routine follow up on investigative files previously referred from Discipline and Ethics Committee for follow-up action. (assigned to D&E committee members)

21-0743 – After discussion, Dr. Ho moved, Ms. Gottschalk seconded and the motion passed to dismiss with a strongly worded letter to the PA to clarify the importance of third-party chaperones and written policies.

21-0993 – After discussion, Ms. Gottschalk moved, Ms. Mills seconded and the motion passed to accept the dismissal and send a strongly worded custom letter.

Agenda item #18, Review, discussion, and possible action regarding selected files and cases.

A. Litigation Dismissals.

B. Investigations.

After discussion, **Dr. Ho moved, Mr. Saur seconded, and the motion passed to approve the selected files and cases as submitted.**

There were no items for Agenda item# 19.

Agenda item #20, Consideration and approval of Modification/Termination Request Orders. After consideration, **Mr. Bulls moved, Ms. Mills seconded, and the motion passed to enter modification or termination of the Orders for Nicolas Aguilar, PA; Jennie Pham Chen, PA; and Alice Vela-Hill, PA.**

Agenda item #21, Consideration and Approval of Agreed Board Orders. After consideration, **Ms. Mills moved, Dr. Ho seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Agreed Board Order for Tiffany Elizabeth Contet, PA.**

There were no items for Agenda item #22-25.

Agenda item #26, Consideration and Approval of Remedial Plans. After consideration, **Mr. Bulls moved, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Remedial Plans for Virginia Hamblen Busboom, PA (Ms. Gottschalk recused); My Phuong Thi Pham, PA; and Lonny Kirk Ramey, PA.**

There were no items for Agenda items #27-#34.

Agenda item #28, Report on Temporary Suspension/Automatic Orders/Automatic Actions. A report on Temporary Suspension/Automatic Orders/Automatic Actions was provided.

There were no items for Agenda items #29-#34.

Agenda item #35, Open Forum for Public Comments. No one made public comments.

Agenda item #36, Consideration and Approval of July 9, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. After consideration, **Ms. Gottschalk moved, Ms. Mills seconded, and the motion passed to approve the July 9, 2021 with the addition of Ms. Gottschalk's recusal from item #21.**

Agenda item #37, Nomination and election of board officer. Mr. Bulls moved, Ms. Mills seconded and the motion passed for Ms. Gottschalk to remain Secretary of the board.

There were no items for agenda item #38.

Agenda item #38, Adjourn. There being no further items, **Mr. Sauer moved, Ms. Gottschalk seconded, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m.**