



Texas Physician Assistant Board
BOARD MEETING
November 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order on Friday, November 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. by Karrie L Crosby, PA-C, Presiding Officer. Other board members present were: Melinda Gottschalk, PA-C, Secretary Treasurer; Rao K. Ali, M.D.; Clayton "Clay" P. Bulls, PA-C; Stephanie Corbett, PA-C; Lawrence G. Hughes, Ed.D.; Sandra Longoria, PA-C.; Cameron J. McElhany; Gregory S. Rowin, D.O.; Andrew W. Sauer, PA-C; and Richard M. Todd, PA-C. Board members not present were: Victor Shen-Pou Ho, M.D. and Laura "Lali" Shipley. Staff members present were Christopher Palazola, J.D., Director of Operations; Robert Bredt, M.D., Medical Director; Scott Freshour, J.D., General Counsel, 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 #2, Board Member Report.

Resolution Jennifer Clarner, PA-C Ms. Crosby announced a Board Resolution and Texas plaque would be sent to Jennifer Clarner, PA-C in appreciation for her service on the board.

New Board Members: Rao Ali, M.D., Stephanie Corbett, PA-C, and Richard Todd, PA-C introduced themselves.

Agenda item #3, Executive Director's Report.

Budget Report. Mr. Joey Estrada, CFO, provided the budget report.

Internal Audit. Mr. Palazola updated the board on the search for a new auditor.

Legislative Update Mr. Palazola updated the board on the implementation of HB 1998.

Agenda item #4, Medical Director Report. Dr. Bredt gave a report on the need for Physician Assistant expert panelists.

Agenda item #16, Consideration and approval of membership of the Expert Physician Panel. There were none.

Agenda item #5, Physician Assistant Liaison Report. Nothing to report. Ms. Crosby updated the new members on the role and purpose of the Physician Assistant Liaison.

Agenda item #6, Public Information Update. Ms. Taurie Sloan gave an update on the TMB Bulletin.

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

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

A. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding referrals

After consideration, **Mr. Bulls moved, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the motion passed to accept the TXPHP recommendation and refer case 14-0281 back to TXPHP.**

B. Report on Emergent Referrals (none)

C. Other discussion items. Rui Bernardo, TXPHP Program Director, presented the Drug Screening Quarterly Report and Program Activity Report.

Agenda item #9, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding licensee requests. There were none.

Agenda item #10, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding applicants appearing concerning eligibility. There were none.

Agenda item #11, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding proposed orders offered by the Executive Director. Ms. Unterborn reported on two Agreed Orders offered by the Executive Director and accepted by the applicants. After discussion, **Ms. Gottschalk moved to recommend to the full Board that the two Agreed Orders be approved. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.**

Agenda item #12, Report on physician assistant licenses issued by Board staff. Ms. Grace Unterborn, Licensure Manager, provided a report on physician assistant licenses issued by Board staff since the last board meeting.

Agenda item #13, Report on physician assistant licensure process statistics. Ms. Unterborn reported that in Quarter 1 of FY23, 320 physician assistant licenses were issued in an average processing time of 6 days. In Quarter 1 of FY24, 248 physician assistant licenses were issued in an average processing time of 5 days.

Agenda item #14, Report on cancelled/not renewed data/retired licenses. Ms. Rhea Hines, Registrations Manager, presented a report with registration statistics for Quarter 4 for FY 2022 and 2023.

Agenda item #15, Reports and discussion regarding the Investigation, Litigation and Compliance Departments.

A. Enforcement Activity Report Mr. Palazola gave the Enforcement Activity Report.

B. Warning Letters Report Nothing to report.

C. Criminal Case Review Report Mr. Palazola gave a report on Criminal Case Reviews.

D. Reports Regarding Cases Over One Year Old Mr. Palazola gave a report on Cases Over One Year Old.

E. Report Temporary Suspensions/Automatic Orders/Automatic Actions. Nothing to report.

F. Report Rehearing Request Nothing to report.

Agenda item #17, Review, discussion and possible action regarding cases recommended for dismissal.

A. Non-Standard of Care Cases

After discussion, **Mr. McElhaney moved, Dr. Rowin seconded, and the motion passed to approve the dismissal of all non-standard of care cases assigned to Mr. McElhaney as recommended.**

B. Standard of Care Cases.

After discussion, **Mr. Bulls moved, Dr. Rowin seconded, and the motion passed to approve the dismissal of all standard of care cases assigned to Mr. Bulls as recommended.**

After discussion, **Ms. Gottschalk moved, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the motion passed to approve the dismissal of standard of care cases assigned to Ms. Gottschalk under “Filed Investigations” as recommended.**

After discussion, **Ms. Gottschalk moved, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the motion passed to approve the dismissal of standard of care cases assigned to Ms. Gottschalk under “ISC Panel” as recommended.**

After discussion, **Dr. Rowin moved, Mr. Todd seconded, and the motion passed to approve the dismissal of standard of care cases assigned to Dr. Rowin under “Filed Investigations” as recommended.**

After discussion, **Dr. Rowin moved, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the motion passed to approve the dismissal of standard of care cases assigned to Dr. Rowin under “ISC dismissals” as recommended.**

Agenda item #18, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding routine follow-up investigative files previously referred from Discipline and Ethics Committee for follow-up action. There are none.

Agenda Item #19, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding appeals of dismissed complaints.

A. Jurisdictional

After discussion, **Mr. Bulls moved, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the motion passed to deny the appeal for 22-7107.**

After discussion, **Ms. Gottschalk moved, Mr. Todd seconded, and the motion passed to deny the appeal for 23-1627**

B. JNF

After discussion, **Dr. Rowin moved, Mr. Todd seconded, and the motion passed to deny the appeal for 23-7029.**

After discussion, **Mr. Bulls moved, Ms. Gottschalk seconded, and the motion passed to deny the appeal for 23-7298.**

After discussion, **Ms. Gottschalk moved, Mr. Todd seconded, and the motion passed to deny the appeal for 23-7785.**

C. NJ (none)

There were no items for Agenda items #20.

Agenda Item #21, Consideration and approval of Modification/Termination Request Orders. After consideration, **Mr. Bulls moved, Mr. Todd seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Modification Request/Termination Request Orders for Kisa Plotkin, PA and Brandy Tapp, PA.**

Agenda item #22, Consideration and Approval of Agreed Board Orders. After consideration, **Dr. Ali moved, Mr. Todd seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Agreed Orders for Alexandera Kelly, PA and Jessica Knussman, PA.**

There were no items for Agenda item #23-33.

Agenda item #34, Open Forum for Public Comments. No one made public comments. Staff members of the board introduced themselves to the new members.

Agenda item #35, Consideration and Approval of July 14, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. After consideration, **Mr. Hughes moved, Dr. Rowin seconded, and the motion passed to approve the July 14, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.**

Agenda item #36, Adjourn. There being no further items, **Ms. Gottschalk moved, Mr. Todd seconded, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 am.**