

Minutes
Iowa Board of Physician Assistants
5th Floor Board Room #526
Lucas State Office Building
July 20, 2011

Call to Order:

Theresa Hegmann called the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mara Swanson, Joseph Molnar, DO, Gary Nystrom, John Olson, PA-C, Jon Ahrendsen, MD, Ted Smith, PA-C, Susan Koehler, PA-C and Theresa Hegmann, PA-C.

Staff Present: Pierce Wilson, Board Administrator, Tammy Hidlebaugh, Licensure Specialist, Barb Huey, Bureau Chief and Barb Christiansen, Administrative Assistant.

Members Absent: Patricia Weishaar, PA-C

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made to approve meeting April 20, 2011 minutes with no corrections or additions.
MSC Olsen/Smith.

Public Comment:

Theresa welcomed public to the meeting asking if any of them would like to address the board. Several of the public reserved their comments until the item they were interested in was discussed later in the meeting.

Reports:

Chair: Theresa reported she attended the Rules Review Committee. Committee appointments need to be made to discipline committee. Theresa explained that serving on the discipline committee can be very time consuming, so if members are not able to devote extra time because of scheduling conflicts to please let her know. Theresa has been contacted by University of Iowa, Department of Psychiatry, regarding a pilot project with the potential of making it easier to secure psychiatric care in Iowa. This item would be discussed later in the meeting.

Board Executive: Pierce introduced Barb Christiansen, new bureau employee to board members. She will be taking the minutes at board meetings and providing staff support to the Board Executive.

Barb Huey reported the ability to use Direct Deposit for reimbursement payment for board members. Barb Christiansen has the forms and can e-mail it to you or will have hard copies at

the next board meeting. IDPH is going wireless which will enable board members to bring their own laptops to meetings. Passwords will need to be changed each month or at each meeting. Board room remodel will soon be completed, hopefully with better organization for public seating, and using the projector for presentations. AMANDA software will be used for new applications, verifications, reactivations and renewals. The boards will have a “board meet folder”. This will be a secure location and will enable board members to receive confidential information electronically. IT will continue to monitor the security for this website.

AAG: September Lau introduced herself and explained her role representing the board.

Elections:

Nomination was made for Theresa Hegmann to serve as Chair for the 2011 – 2012.

Nomination was made for Ted Smith to serve as Vice Chair for the 2011-2012.

Nomination was made for John Olson to serve as Secretary for the 2011-2012.

Motion was made to accept the ballot as proposed. MSC Molnar/Koehler.

New Business:

Board Responsibilities Overview:

Bureau of PL Guidelines for Board Members 2011 handout was reviewed with board members by September Lau, AAG representative. September will guide the board members if they feel there may be an issue of conflict of interest at any time. Attendance is very important at each meeting and the work done as a board member is very important to the safety of the public. Confidentiality is critical and it is important to not share anything discussed during closed session with members of the public or colleagues. The Code of Administrative Conduct needs to be reviewed by board members so that the roll of the members as a judge and jury is understood by all members during the discipline and hearing process. The board will be assisted by an Administrative Law Judge during hearings.

Pierce asked the board members not to “reply to all” when responding to an e-mail that has been sent to all board members. If a board member sends emails to all members it could be considered an open meeting with those email discussions available to the public if requested as public information. Generally send e-mails to Pierce who can then disperse it to the rest of the board.

Pierce noted that a hearing may not take the entire day but you should block out the entire day for participation. There has to be a quorum at the beginning and at the end of the day for deliberations. Board members may receive calls from licensees asking questions about board activities, licensee scope of practice, complaints or whatever. Generally it is best that those individuals who call should be directed to call the board office so there is consistency of answers. It is important to note that if asked about a complaint, staff and board members can't confirm or deny a discipline case exists because of Iowa's confidentiality laws.

Pierce reviewed different levels of discipline actions that can be taken by board members. Attending hearings is vital and is a very serious situation. Board members should treat it like a trial. It is acceptable to greet the licensee but do not make small talk with them or their lawyer. You only ask questions of the witness or Administrative Law Judge who facilitates the hearing. Breaks may occur during a hearing. Board members can't discuss the case while on break or at lunch.

Dr. Flaum – U of I – Distributed a handout regarding Psychiatric workforce shortage in Iowa. It is a national problem and Iowa is very short on numbers of psychiatrists. Calls are received daily from small communities to get psychiatric care out to these areas. Mid-level providers including PA-C could participate in filling some of the shortages. There are some federal dollars to participate in this program to focus on Psychiatry. This program requires the candidate to stay in Iowa practicing Psychiatry for a certain amount of time after completion of training. The participant would need a local supervisor or have a supervisor through telemedicine providers at the U of I.

Discussion followed by the board. Many questions were asked regarding length of program, number of candidates to be trained, concerns that the program needs to be tested to know results including questions regarding chart signatures. A Fellowship program has prepared several physician assistants who are working in a traditional setting. Telemedicine will allow the physician assistants to be in another community than the supervisor. Susan Koehler explained to board that physician assistants are trained in all ages and all medical problems with the ability to access supervision back up when needed. Dr. Flaum's informational presentation didn't require any formal action to be taken by the board. Board appreciated the information and would like to have an update in a year to see how the program is working for the psychiatric doctors and the public.

Stipulated Order Discussion: Moved to closed session due to confidential information being discussed.

Old Business:

Admin Rules Changes: Chapter 4.3(5) Rule would remove requirement to conduct meetings in accordance of Roberts Rules of order. There was a Public Hearing held with no public comments received. Motion was made to adopt the noticed rule to remove the requirement to conduct meetings according to Roberts Rules of order. Discussion was called for to determine what board meeting rules would be followed. Pierce explained that a modified use of Robert Rules can be used which is traditionally what the board has been using during meetings. MSC: Smith/Koehler.

Administrative Rule 326.9(1): Rule change would remove the mailing of renewal notices to licensees. There was a public hearing held with no public comments received. This change is in response to a code change in 147 that no longer mandates renewal notices to be sent. Motion was made to adopt the removal of renewal notice mailings. MSC: Koehler/Ahrendsen.

Administrative Rule 329.2(11) This is an change to all 19 boards. A public hearing was held and no public comments were received. Legislative concerns existed at the rules review committee but no suggestions were offered to change the rule. This adoption would include deferred judgments to be considered as part of the licensing discipline. Previous rules have not addressed the issue of considering a deferred judgment. The new language clarifies the issue. A motion was made to adopt the change. MSC: Ahrendsen/Mohler. Motion passed with all in favor of the motion except Nystrom who voted against the motion.

Administrative Rule 327.6(1) This change is regarding e-prescribing changes. A public hearing held on July 19, 2011, with comments received both pro and con. Pierce informed the board that required timeframes regarding administrative rule changes would not allow action on the rule at this time. Board reviewed comments received from the public.

Thesea Hegmann, provided a brief overview of this issue. Traditional prescriptions that have been used in the past were able to have both the physician assistants' signature and the name of the supervising physician on a prescription. Some electronic systems only provide a defined name field for one signature. Since Iowa law requires both the physician assistant's name and the supervision's name on the prescription, it is a violation of the physician assistants rules if only the physician assistant's name is on the e-prescription. A good amount of time and money is required to update an electronic system. "All Scripts", is one system that can have the supervising physician name on it and Pierce asked Terry Witkowski from the Board of Pharmacy about how many systems have some kind of comment line on the form. Terry reported that many of the e-prescription systems have a comment field where the supervising physicians name could be listed.

LeAnn McWilliams, Osteopathic Association, reported that the association is opposed to the use of a list of providers for physician assistants as described in the proposed rule change.

Iowa Rural Health Association is also opposed to the use of a list. Reports small clinics in rural towns change physician or physician assistant too often.

Tom Coate, Iowa Physician Assistants Society, noted that pharmacists know who the delegating physician is that the PA works under. There are appropriate ways to use the listing of physicians.

Iowa Medical Society believes there are problems with using a list and would like to strike the list portion of the rule.

The Board discussed the need to have the issue clarified so that the services being ordered can be received. Theresa appointed Dr. Ahrendsen, John Olson and Ted Smith, to take an in depth look at this rule change. Pierce noted to include him in on rule drafts.

Board Member Mara Swanson had to leave the meeting because of illness.

Motion was made to move into closed session at 11:55AM. MSC: Molnar/Smith.

Returned to Open Session

Motion made to close the following case numbers 11-002, 11- 003 MSC: Molnar/Koehler

Motion was made to accept the Stipulation Order with terms included. MSC: Nystrom/Koehler,

Theresa appointed Nystrom, Koehler, Hegmann and Smith to the discipline committee.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting. MSC: Mohler/Koehler.