

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
POLYSOMNOGRAPHY PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 4:00 p.m., Room 545**

PRESENT: Susheel Patil, M.D., Chair, Norman Schubert, RPSG, Theresa Banks, RRT, RPSGT, Brenda McKinley, Consumer Member, Angela Dawson, RPSGT, Helene Emsellem, M.D., Katherine W. Buki, M.D.

STAFF PRESENT: David Finkler, Staff Counsel, Ellen Douglas Smith, Deputy Director, Phyllis Washington, Allied Health Analyst, Sandy Van Horn, Policy Analyst, Julie Washington, Allied Health Analyst, Precious Wells, Allied Health Administrative Specialist

CONFERENCE CALL: Becky Robertson and Ted Thurn, American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Patil called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Ms. McKinley and seconded by Mr. Schubert, the Committee approved the October 23, 2014 open and closed meeting minutes.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Van Horn updated the Committee on the General Assembly Session concerning Senate bill 449 and House bill 574 regarding criminal background checks. The hearing for the two bills will take place on March 5, 2015. The bills will become effective on October 1, 2016. The bills require all licensees to submit to a criminal background check as part of initial licensure, renewal and reinstatement. The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) will do the background checks and forward results to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) A-STEP Requirements and Maryland Licensure

The revised regulations regarding qualification for licensure for sleep technologists in Maryland became effective on December 22, 2014. This has generated questions from candidates who have been working in the sleep field for years and are pursuing licensure through the A-STEP pathway. The candidates are asking if they have to take both the A-STEP Introductory course (an 80 hour course) and the A-STEP modules (23 self-study modules) to meet the educational requirements for licensure in Maryland.

Becky Robertson and Ted Thurn, AASM representatives, were available by phone conference. Ms. Robertson explained that the AASM A-STEP educational program is a two-step program. Step one of the program is the introductory course that was created specifically for people who are brand new to the sleep technology field. The course has to be taken at an accredited A-STEP provider, and

there are only two accredited A-STEP providers in Maryland. The AASM accreditation standards do not require board certified technologists to be enrolled in the introductory portion of the A-STEP program, but they are required to take the learning modules.

The committee discussed the A-STEP program requirements. They determined that technologists who are new to the field (i.e. do not have their RPSGT) and pursue the A-STEP pathway are required to take both the A-STEP introductory course and the A-STEP self-study modules. Technologists who have their RPSGT registry and they have been practicing polysomnography are only required to take the A-STEP Self-Study Modules.

On a motion made by Dr. Patil and seconded by Dr. Emsellum the Committee approved the AASM A-STEP program educational requirements for Maryland licensure.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sample Attestation Letter for Completion of Clinical Hours from a Physician

The Committee discussed the attestation letter for completion of clinical hours from a physician. They decided to have the letter revised and brought to the next Committee meeting for review.

Request for Extension of the Licensure Deadline Date – Evaluation of Credentials – Dina M. Trammel, RPSGT, EEGT

The Committee reviewed Dina Trammel's credentials. Ms. Trammel applied for licensure as a polysomnographic technologist on June 18, 2014. She requested an extension of the licensure deadline citing that her spouse is in the military and she was subject to travel/live in other states because of his deployments. Dr. Patil feels that Ms. Trammel does meet the criteria for an extension, and that it appears if Ms. Trammel applied for licensure again she would now qualify for a license. The Committee determined that Ms. Trammel does meet the criteria under exceptional circumstances.

On a motion made by Dr. Patil and seconded by Mr. Schubert, the Committee approved an extension of the licensure deadline date/waiver of education.

Registered Sleep Technologist Exam Accreditation

The Board staff checked to see if the Registered Sleep Technologist (RST) exam was accredited and found that the exam has not been accredited. The Committee will not consider the RST Exam until the exam is accredited.

AASM A-STEP Requirements and Maryland Licensure Inquiry from Kenneth Lutz, RPSGT and Robyn Willey, RPSGT

Mr. Lutz applied for licensure as a polysomnographic technologist on January 8, 2015. Mr. Lutz has been working in the sleep field since 2007. He is applying for licensure through the A-STEP pathway. Mr. Lutz has completed the AASM's self-study modules and he wants to know if he has to take the A-STEP introductory course. The Committee reviewed Mr. Lutz's credentials and approved his application for licensure.

Ms. Willey applied for licensure as a polysomnographic technologist on January 13, 2015. She has been working as a polysomnographer since 2003. Ms. Willey is applying for licensure through the A-STEP pathway. She has completed the AASM's self-study modules and she wants to know if

she has to take the A-STEP introductory course. The Committee reviewed Ms. Willey application/credentials and asked the following questions:

1. The Committee wants to know if Ms. Willey and Dr. Dolan have a working relationship.
2. Is Dr. Dolan board-eligible or board-certified in sleep medicine by either the American Board of Sleep Medicine (ABSM) or the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)?
3. On the age specific care and evaluation - core competency, Dr. Dolan marked N/A through all age specific categories. The Committee wants to know why she marked all N/A and what remedial action has been performed for a correction plan/retesting date?
4. During the time Dr. Dolan signed off on the core competency, was she working in a sleep lab that is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine or The Joint Commission?

Ms. Washington will contact Ms. Willey and Dr. Dolan for a response to the questions.

Education Requirements for RPSGT Licensure in Maryland from Joe Moser, RPSGT and Kallie Ejigu

Mr. Moser, RPSGT and Ms. Ejigu would like to apply for licensure through the A-STEP pathway. They want to know if they are required to take the introductory course of the A-STEP Educational Program if they completed the AASM's 23 self-study modules and completed the required clinical hours/competencies. The Committee determined that Mr. Moser and Ms. Ejigu would not have to take the introductory course. However, they are required to take the AASM's self-study modules and meet all other licensure requirements.

Inquiry from Bryan Schwartz - Polysomnographic Licensure and Accreditation

Bryan Schwartz, Regulatory Coordinator, Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) in Cary, NC contacted the Board about the possibility of the ACHC becoming a recognized accrediting agency. The Committee determined that Mr. Schwartz should present his proposal to the Board. The Committee requested Mrs. Smith bring Mr. Schwartz's proposal up at the next Executive Committee meeting.

2015 Meeting Schedule – FYI

The Board staff provided the Committee with a copy of 2015 meeting schedule.

Committee Roster – FYI

The Board staff provided the Committee with a copy of the roster as a FYI.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate Change – FYI

Ms. Smith informed the Committee that the mileage reimbursement rate has changed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Submitted by:

Phyllis Washington

Phyllis Washington
Allied Health Analyst