

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
POLYSOMNOGRAPHY PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 26, 2014, 4:00 p.m., Room 110

PRESENT: Susheel Patil, M.D., Chair, Norman Schubert, RPSGT, Helen A. Emsellem, M.D., Theresa Banks, RRT, RPSGT

STAFF PRESENT: David Finkler, Esq., Mark Woodard, Policy and Legislation, Phyllis Washington, Allied Health Analyst

PRESENT BY PHONE: Jessica Schmidt, RPSGT, RST

ABSENT: Brenda McKinley, Consumer Member, Steven Schonfeld, M.D., Ellen Douglas Smith, Acting Deputy Director, Wynee Hawk, R.N., J.D., Policy and Legislation

GUEST: Thurlyn Wilson, applicant

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Patil called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Schubert and seconded by Dr. Emsellem, the Committee approved the April 24, 2014 open meeting minutes.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There was nothing to report.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT

There was nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Draft Regulations – Polysomnography Clinical Component and Extension

The Committee reviewed the draft regulations and recommended corrections. The Board staff will provide the Committee a copy of the corrected regulations.

Mr. Finkler stated that disciplinary ground #28, failure to cooperate with a lawful investigation, was added to the statute. However, due to clerical error, it was left out of the regulations. He recommended that ground #28 be added to the regulations.

On a motion made by Mr. Schubert and seconded by Ms. Banks the Committee approved the staff recommendation that Ground #28, failure to cooperate with a lawful investigation be added to the regulations.

Request for Extension of the Licensure Deadline Date for Justin Rabon, RPSGT and Boris Doosey, RPSGT

Mr. Finkler gave background on the requests for an extension of the licensure deadline date. He advised the Committee that they would have to make a decision on whether or not the requests for an extension from several applicants who applied for licensure after the October 1, 2013 deadline fit “exceptional circumstances”. If the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that the applicant has an exceptional circumstance, the Committee will make a recommendation to the Board.

Dr. Patil stated that Justin Rabon, RPSGT and Boris Doosey, RPSGT are supported by Dr. Emsellem who wrote the extension request letter on their behalf. Dr. Emsellem may comment on some general aspects of the requests. However, Dr. Emsellem will have to abstain from the vote.

Dr. Emsellem stated that Mr. Rabon and Mr. Doosey are unpaid trainees who have met the educational criteria in anticipation that there would be a regulation in place for applicants who received their education through an AASM accredited educational program. They have trained for more than six months, fulfilled more than 819 hours of clinicals and they have taken an eighty-hour course. Mr. Rabon and Mr. Doosey have taken and passed the ASTEP modules and the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (BRPT) exam.

The Committee recommended that the Board approve an extension of the licensure deadline date for Justin Rabon, RPSGT, contingent upon the receipt and review of a letter of attestation for completion of clinical hours and competencies from a Board eligible or certified sleep medicine physician.

On a motion made by Ms. Schmidt and seconded by Mr. Schubert, the Committee voted to approve the extension request for Justin Rabon, RPSGT. Dr. Emsellem abstained.

The Committee recommended that the Board approve an extension of the licensure deadline date for Boris Doosey, RPSGT, contingent upon the receipt and review of a letter of attestation for completion of clinical hours and competencies from a Board eligible or Board certified sleep medicine physician.

On a motion made by Ms. Schmidt and seconded by Mr. Schubert, the Committee voted to approve the extension request for Boris Doosey, RPSGT. Dr. Emsellem abstained.

The Committee recommended that Board staff use the AAST form for documenting core competencies to create a form for applicants to document their competencies. They requested that a form letter of attestation be created by Board staff for physicians to complete. Dr. Patil

suggested that Dr. Emsellem re-submit her letter and include . . . “the applicant has successfully and adequately met their clinical competencies”.

Evaluation of Credentials – Thurlyn B. Wilson – Discussion

The Committee reviewed Mr. Wilson’s credentials at their meeting of February 27, 2014. Mr. Wilson attended a sleep technologist training program at the Community College of Baltimore (CCBC) in 2004 that was not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The Committee determined that the sleep program that Mr. Wilson attended was not equivalent to CCBC’s CAAHEP accredited sleep technologist educational program. The Committee recommended that Mr. Wilson apply through the ASTEP pathway and provide current clinical competencies.

Mr. Wilson asked for the opportunity to address the Committee to find out what he can do to become licensed in Maryland. He provided background on the program that he attended in 2004 and stated that it was one of the first education programs. He completed his clinical hours at Sinai and Johns Hopkins Hospitals. Today, he own USA Sleep Diagnostics Mobile Services. He took the BRPT exam a number of times and failed, after which he received tutoring and passed the exam in November 2014. After he applied for licensure, he found out that BCCC’s curriculum for their sleep program had changed. He wanted to know if there could be an exception made for the students who did not know that the school’s educational curriculum had changed.

The Committee recognizes that there are some challenges and hurdles that the legislation and statutes have created, which they are trying to rectify. The law has gone through evolution over time and the core (educational requirement) has remained consistent since the law was passed in 2006. It is clear that Mr. Wilson is a valued technologist. However, the Committee cannot recommend to the Board to grant an extension of the licensure deadline date or waive the education requirement based on the pathway that Mr. Wilson has completed. There are alternative pathways that would require him to demonstrate that he has completed a CAAHEP accredited sleep program or the ASTEP program and provide more current clinicals.

Dr. Emsellem informed Mr. Wilson if he were to take the ASTEP, he would also have to complete an eighty-hour course requirement.

NEW BUSINESS

Evaluation of Credentials – Amare Bekele, RPSGT

The Committee reviewed the credentials for Amare Bekele, RPSGT. Mr. Bekele attended the Texas School of Sleep Medicine where he completed a Polysomnography Technician I program in November 2013. The program consisted of 80 hours of AASM accredited sleep technology education and 400 hours of clinical externship. Mr. Bekele passed the BRPT’s RPSGT exam on April 21, 2014.

Dr. Patil stated that Mr. Bekele has to apply for an extension of the licensure deadline date/ education waiver requirement, provide documentation of an additional 146 clinical hours and

provide a letter of attestation for completion of clinical hours and competencies from a Board eligible or Board certified sleep medicine physician.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Phyllis Washington

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