

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

**Thursday, August 28, 2014, 4:00 p.m., Room 110**

**PRESENT:** Susheel Patil, M.D., Chair, Norman Schubert, RPSG, Theresa Banks, RRT, RPSGT, Brenda McKinley, Consumer Member,

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

**ABSENT:** Helene Emsellem, M.D., Steven Schonfeld, M.D., Ellen Douglas Smith, Acting Deputy Director, Wynee Hawk, R.N., J.D., Policy and Legislation

**GUEST:** Sandy Alsrue, CCBC

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Patil called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion made by Ms. Banks and seconded by Mr. Schubert, the Committee approved the June 26, 2014 open meeting minutes.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**Criminal Background Checks**

Mr. Woodard stated that the Board will be moving forward with a bill that would require criminal background checks as well as finger printing for physicians, naturopaths and all allied health professions. The background checks would be done during initial licensure and renewal. This includes state and federal background checks. The bill is going through an internal review/approval process at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Office of Governmental Affairs. After the bill is signed off by the Secretary and the Governor, it will be introduced in the next legislation session in January 2015.

**Draft Regulations – Polysomnography Clinical Component and Extension - Update**

Mr. Woodard stated that the regulations will be published in the September Maryland Register with a 30 day comment period for stakeholders or interested parties. If there are no major objections or problems, they will be sent to Secretary Sharfstein for signature.

**Sanctioning Guidelines – Disciplinary Ground 28**

Mr. Woodard stated that Sanctioning Guidelines were approved by the Committee in the past. However, Disciplinary Ground 28 – Failure to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the Board was not included.

Mr. Finkler explained Ground 28 and recommended that the Committee determine a minimum and maximum fine.

The Committee discussed and agreed to a maximum fine of \$5,000 and a minimum fine of \$1,000 for Ground 28.

On a motion made by Mr. Schubert and seconded by Ms. Banks, the Committee approved a maximum fine of \$5,000 and a minimum fine of \$1,000 for Ground 28 of the Sanctioning Guidelines.

### **BOARD COUNSEL REPORT**

There was nothing to report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Evaluation of Credentials – Amare Bekele, RPSGT**

The Committee reviewed Mr. Bekele's credentials at its meeting of June 26, 2014. They requested that Mr. Bekele 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. Mr. Bekele provided the documentation.

The Committee recommended approval of Mr. Bekele's request for an extension of the licensure deadline date.

#### **Committee Representative to the Board to Discuss Extension Requests**

Dr. Patil will attend the Board meeting to discuss the Committee's recommendation of approval of the requests for an extension of the licensure deadline date/education waiver.

#### **Sample Attestations for Completion of Clinical Hours from a Physician**

Board staff provided the Committee with a copy of the RST Attestation from the ABSM and Nuclear Medicine Technologist Attestation as samples for completion of clinical hours from a physician. The Committee asked that Board staff use the RST attestation as a model to draft a letter of attestation.

Mr. Finkler suggested that in the interim and until a form/letter is prepared, the physician can write their letters of attestation.

#### **Committee Appointment**

The Committee reviewed the CV for Angela Graves, RPSGT. The Committee would like to interview Ms. Graves. Board staff will set up an interview for the October meeting.

**Questions - Sandy Alsrue, CCBC**

Ms. Alsrue asked the number of clinical hours required for a student who has attended the A-Step program. CCBC would like to start their first program in the Spring of 2015. Dr. Patil stated that the number of clinical hours in the draft regulations for the polysomnography clinical component is 546 for applicant's that choose the A-STEP pathway.

Ms. Alsrue stated that there are students that worked as a sleep technologist prior to October 1, 2013, and they either did not pass the BRPT's exam or did not take the exam. The students are taking CCBC's CAAHEP program. She wanted to know if the students would be able to use their past clinical hours. Dr. Patel stated that students who attend the CAAHEP program do not need additional clinical hours. According to the draft regulations, students who choose the AASM accredited A-STEP pathway would be able to use the hours of clinical experience in the three years preceding the licensure application.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Phyllis Washington*

---

Phyllis Washington