

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

Thursday, February 23, 2012, 4:00 p.m., Room 100

PRESENT: Douglas Rousseau, RRT, RPSGT, Helen A. Emsellem, M.D., Anne Harter, RPSGT, CRT, Brian Bohner, M.D., Michael DeLayo, RPSGT

STAFF PRESENT: Ellen Douglas Smith, Chief, Allied Health, Karen Wulff, Public Policy Analyst, Robin Bailey, Public Policy Analyst, Julie Washington, Allied Health Analyst, Phyllis Washington, Administrative Specialist

ABSENT: Susheel P. Patil, M.D.

GUEST: Jessica Schmidt, President of the Maryland Sleep Society

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. She introduced Julie Washington, Allied Health Analyst.

Jessica Schmidt introduced herself and stated that she helped develop the polysomnography CAAHEP-accredited program at CCBC-Essex.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Ms. Harter and seconded by Mr. Rousseau, the Committee approved the October 27, 2011 open meeting minutes with corrections.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Karen Wulff and Robin Bailey, Public Policy Analysts

Ms. Bailey explained that Senate Bill 776 amends the law by adding graduation from a sleep technologist educational program that is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (A-STEP) to the requirements for education. Ms. Bailey asked Ms. Schmidt how individuals who take the A-STEP will get the required training to taking the certifying exam. Ms. Schmidt replied that they would obtain the training through their employment.

Ms. Bailey explained that the amendment adding the A-STEP as alternative form of education would not allow these individuals to obtain a license. Part of the requirement to sit for the BRPT exam is paid on-the-job training. Once the licensure requirement goes into effect, no individual will be authorized to practice polysomnography without a license. Paid on-the-job training will be considered practicing without a license.

One of the members noted that the on-the-job training would be also considered paid clinical training. With other allied health education programs, the clinical training is part of the school curriculum taught by an instructor.

Ms. Bailey asked Ms. Schmidt if the A-STEP is taught by an instructor. Ms. Schmidt replied that they are taught by an instructor during the didactic portion of the program.

Given the concerns about clinical training of the individuals who graduate from the A-STEP, Ms. Schmidt stated that she will speak with Julie Jeffers, Lobbyist, Maryland Sleep Society about amending the language in the bill so these individuals will not be fined for practicing without a license while performing clinical training.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT – Noreen Rubin, Esq.

There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Sanctioning Guidelines for Polysomnographic Technologists

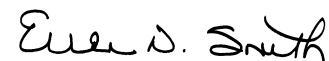
Ms. Wulff explained that under HB 114, passed in 2010, all of the health occupations licensing boards are required to develop sanctioning guidelines for disciplinary actions taken against licensees. She provided a copy of the sanctioning guidelines developed by the Board of Physicians for physicians.

Dr. Bohner stated that fines should be commensurate with the technologist's income. He suggested twenty percent of their income.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Harter and seconded by Mr. DeLayo, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted by:



Ellen Douglas Smith
Chief, Allied Health