

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
RESPIRATORY CARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 11, 2016, Conference Room 100
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215**

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: John Brown, M.D., Thomas Grissom, M.D., Robin Smith, RRT

STAFF PRESENT: Ellen Douglas Smith, Deputy Director, Julie Washington, Allied Health Analyst, Felicia Wright, Allied Health Supervisor, Cecilia Laurent, Allied Health Analyst, Mark Woodard, Legislation and Policy, Noreen Rubin, Board Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:26 a.m.

Ms. Smith introduced new Allied Health staff members to the Respiratory Care Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Committee voted to approve the open meeting minutes of February 12, 2015.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mark Woodard informed the Committee about a new law, Health Occupations Article, §1-222 that states an individual may not serve concurrently as a member of a health occupations board or an advisory committee and as an elected officer of a professional association. This law went into effect October 1, 2015.

BOARD COUNSEL

There was nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nomination of New Chair

At the February 12, 2015 meeting, the Committee nominated Dr. John Brown to fill the position as Respiratory Care Committee Chair. Dr. Brown accepted the nomination.

Position Statement on the Setting up of CPAP/BiPAP Machines

Dr. Grissom gave a brief summary regarding this issue. The Board still receives inquiries asking if Maryland have requirements for the “setup” of CPAP/BiPAP machines, and if the setup has to be performed by a licensed respiratory care therapist. While Maryland does not have specific requirements, the Committee agreed that setup of the Bi-PAP/C-PAP equipment should be performed by licensed respiratory care therapists. Dr. Grissom stated that a number of states allow non-certified individuals who deliver from home medical equipment companies to go into the patient’s home and set up the machines.

At the February 12, 2015 meeting, the Committee reviewed a copy of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board’s Position Statement and agreed to adopt some of North Carolina’s language to write a draft Position Statement for Maryland. They agreed to draft a Position Statement for the setup of CPAP/BiPAP machines for submission to the Board.

Transportation of Patients Across State Lines

Dr. Brown gave a brief summary regarding the transporting of patients needing respiratory care across state lines. He stated there would have to be a change in statute to offer reciprocity across state lines. Currently, there is nothing in the respiratory care statute regarding transporting patients across state lines.

The Committee reviewed transport language of several states that have specific exemptions in the respiratory care therapy statutes addressing the issue of patient transport across state lines. The Committee took an interest in the New Hampshire language, which states,

“This chapter shall not prohibit a respiratory care practitioner who is licensed in another jurisdiction of the US or foreign educated respiratory care practitioner credentialed in another country from practicing respiratory care in conjunction with the inter-facility transport of a critically ill patient”.

Dr. Brown recommended developing a draft, modifying the language in the New Hampshire law for Maryland. Ms. Rubin recommended the Committee to research what the surrounding states are offering when it comes to reciprocity for transporting patients. Ms. Rubin also recommended placing an exception from licensure under Health Occupations Article, §14-5A-08 of the Respiratory Care statute.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of CVs for Respiratory Care Therapist to Fill Vacant Positions

The Committee will review CVs submitted and will make a selection of candidates to fill vacancies on the Respiratory Care Meeting and inform the Board of their choices.

Financial Disclosure Statements

Committee Members are reminded to complete the annual online financial disclosure statement by April 30, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by:

Julie Washington

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