

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
March 6, 2013
Teleconference

Board Meeting
Synergy Business Park
The Kingtree Building
110 Centerview Dr., Room 108
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Dr. Louis E. Costa, II, President of the Board, called the special meeting of the S.C. Board of Medical Examiners to order at 5:00 PM, on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, by teleconference and at 110 Centerview Drive, Room 108, Columbia, South Carolina, with a quorum present. Dr. Costa announced the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act by notice emailed to The State newspaper, Associated Press, WIS-TV and all other requesting persons, organizations, or news media. In addition, notice was posted on the Board's website and on the bulletin boards located at both of the main entrances of the Kingtree Building where the Board office is located.

Board members present for this meeting were:

Dr. Louis E. Costa, II, President, of Charleston
Dr. David deHoll, of Iva
Dr. Anthony Beall, of Mt Pleasant
Dr. Jeff Welsh, of Columbia
Dr. Stephen Gardner, of Greenville
Dr. Jim Chow, of Columbia
Dr. Robert Turner, of Florence

Members of the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) staff participating at various times in the meeting included:

S.C. Board of Medical Examiners
Rion Alvey, Interim Board Administrator
April Koon, Program Assistant

Office of Advice Counsel
Sheridon Spoon, Advice Counsel

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

An agenda for this meeting was reviewed and approved.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LEGISLATION

Dr. Gardner started the discussion with explaining how and why the South Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (SCAPA) intended to modernize the Physician Assistant Practice Act by introducing new legislation. He stated after several discussions with Paul Jacques, PA, a representative of SCAPA, as well as Dr. Snyder with the SCMA, South Carolina Medical Association, that the proposal started with a national push from the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Dr. Gardner stated that their model had key elements that intended to drop

some of the barriers to licensure and allowing the PA's in this state to practice with the full extent of their clinical skill set.

Dr. Gardner stated that some of these key elements were the deletion of certain application requirements, deletion of the requirements that an applicant appear before the board with their supervising physician and the scope of practice guidelines, deletion of existing requirements concerning on-site settings and how a physician assistant may practice, deletion of the prohibition against requesting or receiving professional samples of schedule II controlled substances and deletion of the prohibition against prescribing schedule II controlled substances. Dr. Gardner stated that he felt like they were trying move toward independence and that would not be safe for the public. He also stated that the Board should oppose this new legislation in the areas where it diminishes the Board authority and support it in the areas where the Board can maintain public safety. He also stated he was willing to make all the phone calls to the appropriate parties to show the Board is willing to make licensing more efficient by getting the PA's into practice and improving access and decrease cost. He stated that he wants to make sure that the Board has immediate approval of licensure qualifications, scope of practice guidelines and supervising physician approvals.

Everyone on the board had an opportunity to make suggestions and although there were no motions made they all agreed with Dr. Gardner's suggestions.

DISCUSSION ON REPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR'S REGULATORY REVIEW TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY BURDENS TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S ECONOMY

Sheridon Spoon, the Medical Boards advice attorney, stated that the Governor is asking for information from all the cabinet agencies on how, from the perspective of business, that the regulatory burden can be reduced. He stated that the Medical Board had done a few things recently that are eligible to put in the final report. Mr. Spoon stated for instance, that the board went through a regulatory clean-up process and repealed a number of regulations in Chapter 81. He also stated that the board had this proposed PA legislation and although the board didn't agree entirely with the legislation, that there were four or five things that the board did agree with in theory. Mr. Spoon also mention the addition of the recent collaboration with the Chiropractic Board for manipulation under anesthesia and the board agreed to add that to the report.

Mr. Spoon stated that LLR wanted at least one member of the board to head up this task force reporting and the board agreed that Dr. Anthony Beall would be the primary contact for that. He also suggested that the board review the policies and advisory opinions and not just the statutes.

Mr. Spoon also told the board for their information only that the Nursing Board is working to try and increase supervision ration to 4 APRN's instead of 3.

A motion was made by Dr. Costa to adjourn and seconded by Dr. Gardner at 6:40 pm on Wednesday March 6, 2013

**Respectfully Submitted
April Koon
Program Assistant**