

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2010

The Open Session meeting of the Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners was held on Thursday, July 8, 2010, in Room 108/109, 4201 Patterson Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 1:25 p.m. by President Dr. David Freedman. Board members present were Drs. Ira Gottlieb, Steven Chatlin, Jay LeBow and Tanya Sellers-Hannibal and Barbara Crosby, RN and Jay Boyar, Ed.S. Also present were Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, Richard Bloom, AAG, Board Counsel, Sally Reier, Administrative Officer and Robyn Day, Administrative Specialist. Guests present were Kristen Neville, Legislation and Regulation Coordinator, Teresa Alpert-Leibman, Orthotist, Certified Pedorthist, Claudia Zacharias, President and CEO, Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC), International, Charles Dankmeyer, Board of Directors member of The American Board for Certification (ABC) in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Lynda Lardner-McGinnis, Maryland Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA) representative, Paula Hollinger, Associate Director of Health Work Force, and Sharon Bloom, Executive Assistant.

A. MINUTES:

The minutes from the June 10, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Presentation for consideration for inclusion under the Podiatry Board of Orthotists, Prosthetists, and Pedorthists (OP&P)

Teresa Alpert-Leibman, representing the volunteer focus group for the OP&P industry in Maryland, Claudia Zacharia, and Charles Dankmeyer representing BOC and ABC respectively came before the Board to invite questions and continue the exploration of possible certification/licensure under the Board of Podiatry.

The Board expressed concerns regarding resources for lobbying and suggested moving forward with efforts in time for the 2011 legislative calendar using the Tennessee Model as a template to propose legislation.

Charles Dankmeyer raised questions concerning the representation of the OP&Ps on the Board of Podiatry and licensing fees. Eva Schwartz indicated that the OP&Ps would function as a subcommittee reporting to the Board. Dr. Freedman suggested that the fee would be dependant on the number of applicants for certification/licensure.

Paula Hollinger recommended that when promoting the legislative process the focus should be on patient safety and the increased need due to the combat injuries and close proximity of area Base Realignment and Closure activity. It was recommended that the proposals be circulated to all ABC and BOC licensees rather than association members only.

2. Approval of Podiatric Fellowships

The Rubin Institute for Advanced Orthopedics (RIO) has developed a podiatric fellowship program. All podiatrists including those fully licensed must obtain a limited license while in training at the RIO. The Board raised concerns that currently, fellowship programs have no requirements for approval by the Council on Podiatric Education, only approval of a Program by the supporting/sponsoring hospital, as well as their financial support.

3. Proposed legislation for registering Podiatric Medical Assistants (PMAs) in Maryland

The Board discussed possible elements to be included in the proposed legislation for registering PMAs. The Board stated that granting registration must include grounds for revocation as well as a provision for including a criminal background check. It was agreed that employer could perform criminal background check if they so chose at the time of employment. Further discussion ensued about streamlining the registration process to enable immediate and continuous access to the educational requirements and application on line. Communication with the MPMA

4. Council on Podiatric Medical Education – Increase in Continuing Education Sponsor Fee

An informational piece was included stating that the Council on Podiatric Medical Education has adopted an increase to the Continuing Education annual Sponsor Fee. A proposal to institute fees for approving Continuing Medical Education was tabled for a later session.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Data Bank Policy Concerning Expunged Actions and Voids

An article from the National Practitioner Data Bank – Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank was included for information purposes discussing that some states are considering legislation that would authorize licensing boards to make previously public disciplinary action non-disclosable under certain circumstances. The Board stated that they were against expunging records, expressing that the public should have access to such information. It was also noted that reports could not be removed from the National Practitioner Data Bank except under very specific conditions.

2. Demographics of Podiatrists in Maryland

The Board reviewed demographic statistics which indicated that there are 410 active Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs) in Maryland. Locale designations selected by DPMs were as follows: Maryland county – 357; Washington, D.C. – 10; “Other” and Not a county in Maryland – 17; and no selection – 26. Dr. Freedman estimated that there may be an average of 1.5 PMAs employed per podiatric licensee and stressed the importance for accurate information for related fiscal impact when proposing legislation.

3. Podiatric Residents/Fellows Training in Maryland

The Board reviewed the various programs being offered by the Rubin Institute of Advanced Orthopedics, Veterans Affairs Maryland HealthCare System Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Washington Hospital Center, Sinai, and Montgomery General for resident and fellowship training. A list of those residents/fellows with a Limited License in Maryland was also attached to the agenda.

4. Proposed Amendments to the statute

The Board discussed drafted provisions for legislative proposals including licensed volunteer podiatrists and conditions for inspections of podiatric offices. Kristen Neville suggested that the three proposals including volunteer licensing, inspections, and the registering of PMAs be introduced as three separate and individually sponsored bills.

5. MPMA Newsletter

Dr. Lardner-McGinnis requested that a Board member review written materials about Board proceedings before publication in the MPMA Newsletter. Dr. Sellers-Hannibal as Vice President was volunteered to do so.



With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Maryland State Government Annotated "10-501 et seq." the Board approved a motion to close its meeting at 2:25 p.m., for the purpose of complying with the Maryland Medical Practice Act that prevents public disclosures about particular proceedings or matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Boyar, Ed.S. Secretary/Treasurer