

**BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**October 14, 2010**

**Room 108/109**

**The Public Session of the Board meeting commenced at 1:17PM. Board members present were:**

**Drs. David Freedman, President, Tanya Sellers-Hannibal, Vice-President, Jay LeBow, Craig Friedman and Mr. Jay Boyar and Ms Barbara Crosby. Staff present was Ms. Schwartz, and representing the OAG was Mr. Richard Bloom, Board Counsel.**

**Guests present were:**

**Richard Bloch, Esq., Executive Director and Chief Counsel of the MPMA, Linda McGinnis, DPM, MPMA representative, and Mark Spier, DPM, guest at large.**

**A. MINUTES:**

The minutes of the September 16, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted.

**B. OLD BUSINESS:**

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

The Board and the MPMA representatives engaged in a discussion regarding the various possibilities in achieving the communal goal of the Board and the MPMA membership: retaining the autonomy of the Board. The Board maintained their stand in moving forward with the proposed Legislation which will register the PMA's in a comprehensive manner which would include those PMA's that take podiatric x-rays as well. The process via which the Board proposed to accomplish this endeavor was discussed yet again. Mr. Bloch stated that although the MPMA supports the autonomy of the Board, the mechanism by which the Board would like to accomplish this was not acceptable to the Board of Directors of the MPMA. Mr. Bloch stated that perhaps two separate registries could be considered: one to register those that take podiatric X-rays and another registration/certification for practice expanders. The discussion that ensued did not accomplish a collaborative agreement. Ms. Schwartz stated that the Board entertained the concept of registering only those PMA's that take x-rays, however, after consultation with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), it became evident that approximately only 200-235 podiatric entities are registered with MDE, thus the number of registrants would not support fiscally the budgetary needs of the Board as required by DLS's Report. The Board reiterated that as a profession, podiatric medicine is moving forward, and the professionals need to employ the same type of credentialed assistants as support/paraprofessional staff as the Dentists, Physicians, Chiropractors,

Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists. The Board requested the support of the MPMA in lobbying for the Board's proposed Legislation. **This information will be disseminated at the next MPMA Board of Directors' meeting.**

## **2. Updates on the Preliminary Sunset Evaluation Report**

The Board discussed the issues that were still pending with the DLS Report; awaiting the waiver of a full review, and the introduction of a bill during the upcoming session for extending the Board's statute for the next ten years.

## **3. Updates on the proposal of OPP's for licensure/certification**

A representative from the Podiatrists' Association spoke about their interest to come under the Board of Podiatry, and asked questions as to the process. The Board stated that when the OPP's could merge their interests into one legislative proposal, the Board would be happy to review with the parties their proposal, for consideration as a legislative bill. At this time it does not appear that the interested parties are ready for this endeavor.

## **4. Updates on the Board's sanctioning guidelines process**

Drs. Freedman and Chatlin will be leading the work on this task, and will report at the next meeting.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Informational Literature regarding the new healthcare reform was distributed.**

#### **b. CME's for Volunteer work**

The Board did not approve the concept.

#### **b. Volunteer License**

The Board stated that depending on the number of possible interested licensees who would choose a Volunteer license; it is projected that a fee of \$200.00 annually will be collected. Fees will be in regulation, and the considered fee of \$200.00 fee is an extremely preliminary fee that as yet has not been tested with those interested in such a license.

#### **c. MPMA complaint against Dr . Schools machines that produce "custom fit orthotics w/o a podiatrist's prescription or evaluation**

The MPMA has brought to the Board's attention that Dr. Scholl machines are proliferating in shopping malls and in large department stores. A discussion ensued as to a possible resolution to address this "practice of podiatry without a license". The Board questioned if FTC should be informed of this practice.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.