

## ADVISORY BOARD ON ATHLETIC TRAINING

### Minutes

June 12, 2025

The Advisory Board on Athletic Training met on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Pawlowski, AT - Chair  
Chris Casola, AT  
William Scott Powers, AT  
Virginia Wells, MD  
Larry D'Shawn Wright – Citizen Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Arne Owens - Director, Department of Health Professions  
Jennifer Deschenes, JD - Deputy Executive Director, Discipline  
William L. Harp, MD - Executive Director  
Michael Sobowale, LLM - Deputy Executive Director, Licensure  
Colanthia Opher - Deputy Executive Director, Medical Licensure and Administration  
Kathleen LaMotte - Board Administrator  
Matthew Novak - DHP Policy and Economic Analyst  
Roslyn Nickens - Licensing Supervisor  
Joshlynn Jones - Licensing Specialist  
Sonya Armstead - Licensing Specialist

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Debra Rodman - VATA

#### Call to Order

David Pawlowski called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

#### Emergency Egress Procedures

Kathleen LaMotte announced the emergency egress instructions.

#### Roll Call

Kathleen LaMotte called the roll; a quorum was declared.

#### Introduction of Members

Mr. Pawlowski asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

#### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Powers moved to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2024 meeting. Mr. Casola seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Powers moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wells and passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

None received.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Legislative Report**

Matthew Novak reviewed items pertaining to the Board of Medicine from the 2025 General Assembly (GA) session. This included two vetoed bills supporting unconscious bias training, a new reporting system for threats made against healthcare professionals, a study to be completed by the DHP regarding the scope of practice of physician assistants, a new license type for anesthesiologist assistants, a faster regulatory pathway to allow for licensure by endorsement for professions that do not currently have one, a recommendation for education on communication with children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder to be disseminated to DHP licensees, the elimination of the Board of Health Professions and the absorption of the Board's duties by boards and divisions of DHP.

#### **2. Report on Status of Regulatory /Policy Actions**

There were no items to report

#### **3. Consideration of Petition for Rulemaking**

The Advisory Board was asked to review a petition for rulemaking to allow dry needling by athletic trainers. The public comment period received a total of 764 comments, with 500 in favor, 250 opposed, and about 15 not describing a position.

DHP staff advised that the athletic trainer scope of practice does not allow for dry needling, and this change must be made through legislation as opposed to the regulatory process.

The Advisory Board was in favor of dry needling philosophically and wanted to vote "yes" to recommend the petition to the Board of Medicine. The Advisory understood the limitation of the rulemaking process and supported VATA in seeking a patron to add dry needling to the AT scope of practice.

**MOTION: Mr. Powers moved to recommend the petition to the full Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright and passed unanimously.**

**Licensing Report**

Sonya Armstead provided the following licensing statistics

Athletic Trainer: Total Number Licensed: 1,826

Total Number Licensed since January 1, 2025 to Present: 87

Current Processing Time: 27 days

Clearance Rate: 97%

**Announcements**

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Sobowale advised that at future meetings, there will be no paper agenda packet. Advisory members will have the agenda pre-loaded on a laptop. The agenda will also be projected for the public to view. Board staff will continue to send out notices of the meeting by email ahead of time.

**Adjournment**

David Pawlowski, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

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William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director