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ADVISORY BOARD ON ATHLETIC TRAINING

Minutes

October 23, 2025

The Advisory Board on Athletic Training met on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Pawlowski, AT, Chair
Chris Casola
William S. Powers, AT

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry D'Shawn Wright (citizen)
Virginia Wells, MD

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Executive Director - Licensure
Jennifer Deschenes, Deputy Executive Director – Discipline
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Executive Director – Medical
Licensure and Administration
Kathleen LaMotte, Board Administrator
Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Roslyn Nickens, Licensing Supervisor
Sonya Armstead, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Debra Rodman - VATA

Call to Order

David Pawlowski called the meeting to order @ 10:02 a.m.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Kathleen LaMotte announced the emergency egress instructions.

Roll Call

Ms. LaMotte called the roll; a quorum was declared.

Introduction of Members

Mr. Pawlowski asked everyone present in the room to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Powers moved to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2025, meeting. Mr. Casola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

Michael Sobolwale proposed a minor revision to the agenda, suggesting the removal of the "Orientation to the Board" presentation. Instead, he will email the presentation to Board members as a refresher, noting that most have previously received the information.

Mr. Powers moved to adopt the amended agenda. Mr. Casola seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None received

New Business

1. Recommendation of draft amendments for licensure by endorsement

Erin Barrett presented draft regulatory changes aimed at establishing a separate pathway for licensure by endorsement in Virginia. This new pathway would streamline the process for individuals already licensed in other states, making it slightly easier for them to obtain licensure in Virginia. The Board's recommendation will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration of an exempt regulatory action to amend the current regulations.

Ms. Barrett also explained that the General Assembly determines whether Virginia may enter licensure compacts. The simplest compacts, such as those for nursing and massage therapy, allow for multi-state licensure. Most other compacts, including those for physical therapy, counseling, occupational therapy, and physician assistants, operate under a "compact privilege" model. While this model is designed to expedite licensure, it still requires an FBI criminal background check and can take 4–5 years to fully implement due to the regulatory process.

There was discussion regarding the use of NATABOC, which has since split into two separate entities. A statutory change may be necessary to update the language in the regulations accordingly.

The Board expressed support for the proposed changes, recognizing the benefit of helping qualified professionals become licensed more efficiently. Board staff noted that the time required to issue a license largely depends on how promptly applicants submit the necessary documentation.

Mr. Powers moved to adopt the proposed changes for recommendation to the full Board. Mr. Casola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Election of Officers

Mr. Powers moved to retain Mr. Pawlowski as Chair. Mr. Casola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pawlowski then moved to nominate Mr. Powers as Vice Chair. Mr. Casola seconded the motion. The motion also passed unanimously.

3. Athletic Trainer Interstate Compact

Mr. Pawlowski reported on his recent attendance at the National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC) conference in Omaha, where licensure portability was a key topic of discussion. He outlined the potential benefits and drawbacks of joining an interstate compact for athletic trainers. Topics included:

Fees: The Board of Medicine may need to absorb certain costs, such as access to the compact database and state participation fees. However, the applicant's fee may be comparable to the current endorsement fee.

Eligibility: Licensure by endorsement would remain open to applicants from all states, while compact licensure would only apply to those from participating states.

Dr. Harp raised a point about the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), which already facilitates expedited licensure for military members and their families.

4. Approval of 2026 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Powers moved to approve the 2026 meeting calendar. Mr. Casola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Licensing Report

Sonya Armstead provided the following licensing statistics for Athletic Trainers:

- Total number of licensed Athletic Trainers: 1,787
- New licenses issued since January 1, 2025: 188
- Average processing time: 23 days
- Clearance rate: 109%

Announcements

Members were reminded to submit their travel expense reimbursement vouchers within 30 days of the meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Pawlowski adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director

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