

ADVISORY BOARD ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Minutes

June 12, 2025

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin Hepner, PA-C, Chair
Erin Myers, PA-C, Vice-Chair
Lucy Treene, PA-C
Tracey Dunn, Citizen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Hanrahan, MD

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD - Executive Director
Jennifer Deschenes - Deputy Executive Director, Discipline
Michael Sobowale, LLM - Deputy Executive Director, Licensure
Colanthia Opher - Deputy Executive Director, Medical Licensure and Administration
Kathleen LaMotte - Board Administrator
Erin Barrett, JD - DHP Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Matthew Novak, DHP Policy and Economic Analyst
Roslyn Nickens, Licensing Supervisor
Jamie Culp, Licensing Specialist
Denise Christian, Licensing Specialist
Erin Pollard, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Robert Glasgow, PA - VAPA
Jonathan Williams - VAPA

Call to Order

Justin Hepner called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.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. Hepner asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Dunn moved to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2024 meeting as amended, correcting an error in the spelling of a member of the public's name. Ms. Treene seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Dunn moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Treene and passed unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None received.

New Business

1. Legislative Report

Erin Barrett 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 DHP regarding the scope of practice of physician assistants, a new license type for anesthesiologist assistants, a 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.

Report on Status of Regulatory /Policy Actions

Matthew Novak reviewed the status of the Advisory Board's regulatory actions. The process to implement Virginia's entry into the PA Compact is still ongoing. The periodic review changes recommended in October of 2024 will become effective July 3.

2. Recommendation of proposed stage language for patient care team requirements

Ms. Barrett noted that the Advisory Board is asked to recommend proposed stage changes to the Board of Medicine regarding the responsibilities of the patient care team physician or podiatrist. This recommended language is based upon the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA).

The Advisory Board discussed the implications of a patient care team physician being available "at all times" but was satisfied with the requirement that the collaborating or consulting physician is required to arrange coverage when they are not available. Being

available to speak by phone was seen as a reasonable interpretation of the collaboration and consultation clause.

The Advisory advocated for the removal of “complex” from the phrase “for complex clinical cases and patient emergencies” as being difficult term define. Practice agreements for physician assistants state that consulting physicians should always be available for consultation and collaboration in all cases.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to recommend the proposed stage changes to the Board of Medicine as amended. Mr. Hepner seconded, and the motion carried 3 – 1.

3. Recommendation of proposed stage language for patient care team physician name on prescriptions

This change would remove the requirement for a prescription to bear the name of the patient care team physician. The Advisory Board discussed how the notification requirement would be met. DHP Staff said that licensees would be notified when the revised regulation took effect.

MOTION: Ms. Harper moved to recommend the proposed stage changes to the Board of Medicine. Ms. Treene seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Licensing Report

Jamie Culp provided the following licensing statistics for physician assistants:

Total Licensed in Commonwealth of Virginia - 7,131

Total Licenses Issued from January 1, 2025 to June 9, 2025 - 402

- 71 by reciprocity
- 46 from MD
- 13 from DC
- 12 from both

Current Application Processing Days- 35 days

Clearance Rate- 99%

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 their items pre-loaded on a laptop for viewing during the meeting. The agenda packet will also be projected on screen for the public to see. Agency staff will continue to send out the Notice of the meeting by email ahead of time.

Adjournment

Justin Hepner, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director