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ADVISORY BOARD ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Minutes

October 23, 2025

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin Hepner, PA-C, Chair
Tracey Dunn - citizen
Erin Myers, PA-C
Lucy Treene, PA-C
Brian Hanrahan, MD *

** Dr. Hanrahan joined at 1:09*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: 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
Matthew Novak, DHP Policy and Economic Analyst
Roslyn Nickens, Licensing Supervisor
Jamie Culp, Licensing Specialist
Erin Pollard, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Jonathan Williams - VAPA

Call to Order

Justin Hepner called the meeting to order @ 1:00 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 present in the room to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Two scrivener's errors were noted and corrected on the previous minutes. Ms. Dunn moved to approve the minutes as amended from the June 12, 2025, meeting. Ms. Treene seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

Staff requested a change to the agenda. An orientation to the Board of Medicine (BOM) had been planned; however, this presentation was delivered to most members of the Advisory Board last year. Staff proposed sending the presentation out as a refresher for those who previously viewed it and as an introduction for new members. Ms. Dunn motioned to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meyers. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None received

New Business

1. Regulatory Update

Since publication, the proposal to remove the requirement for including the name of the patient care team physician or podiatrist on prescriptions issued by physician assistants has progressed from the Department of Planning and Budget to the Secretary's Office for further review.

Regarding the broader revisions to 18VAC85-50, which govern the practice of physician assistants, the Board of Medicine's Executive Committee has scheduled further discussion for its December 5, 2025, meeting.

2. Recommendation of draft amendments for licensure by endorsement

Mr. Novak reviewed a draft regulatory change for licensure by endorsement to create a separate path to licensure in Virginia when people are licensed in other states. This will allow a slightly easier process for these applicants to enter Virginia. This board's recommendation will be sent to the executive committee in December to consider adoption of an exempt regulatory action to amend the regulations.

Ms. Dunn moved to approve the licensure by endorsement proposal. Ms. Meyers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Report on PA education and scope of practice nationally – Matthew Novak

Mr. Novak presented the study required by HB2489, which was submitted by the Virginia Department of Health Professions. A copy of the report was provided to the Advisory Board. The study offers a national overview of physician assistant education and scope of practice, including:

- A review of PA education and training requirements across the U.S., which are largely consistent and include a master's level education, national certification, and extensive clinical rotations.
- A survey of scope of practice models, noting that Virginia uses a collaborative practice model, while other states vary between supervisory, collaborative, or fully autonomous models.
- An analysis of potential costs and benefits to patients if PA autonomy were expanded in Virginia.

No formal recommendations were made in the report; it was presented as an informational item for the Board's awareness

4. Compact update – Justin Hepner, PA-C, Chair

Mr. Hepner provided an update on the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact. As of this report, 19 states have officially joined the compact, with additional states having legislation pending¹. The compact facilitates multistate practice for PAs, allowing them to obtain a compact privilege to practice in other member states without needing separate licenses.

The inaugural meeting of the Compact Commission was held in September 2024, and the annual meeting now includes delegates from all member states. At the inaugural meeting, Mr. Hepner was appointed to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Hepner reported that the compact is progressing well and remains on track for full implementation.

5. Election of Officers

Ms. Treene nominated Mr. Hepner to serve as Chair. Ms. Treene seconded the nomination.

Ms. Treene nominated Ms. Meyers to serve as Vice Chair, and Dr. Hanrahan seconded the nomination.

Both motions passed unanimously.

6. Approval of 2026 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Hepner moved to approve the 2026 meeting calendar. Ms. Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Licensing Report

Mr. Culp provided the following licensing statistics for Physician Assistants:

- **Total licenses issued this year:** 7,269
- **New licenses issued:** 741
- **Total reinstatements:** 20
- **Total by reciprocity:** 97
 - From Maryland: 60
 - From D.C.: 15
 - From both MD and D.C.: 22
- **Average processing time:** 31 days
- **Clearance rate:** 104%

Announcements

Members were reminded to submit their travel reimbursement voucher within 30 days

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Hepner adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director