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ADVISORY BOARD ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Minutes

February 5, 2026

The Advisory Board on Physician Assistants met on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin Hepner, PA-C, Chair
Tracey Dunn - citizen
Lucy Treene, PA-C
Brian Hanrahan, MD ** joined at 1:15

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erin Myers, PA-C

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Executive Director - Licensure
Kathleen LaMotte, Board Administrator
Matthew Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator
Roslyn Nickens, Licensing Supervisor
Erin Pollard, Licensing Specialist
Jamie Culp, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Robert Glasgow, PA, VAPA
Bobby Cockram, PA, President, VAPA

Call to Order

Justin Hepner called the meeting to order @ 1:04 p.m.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Kathleen LaMotte announced the emergency egress instructions.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Treene moved to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2025 meeting. Ms. Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Public Comment

Bobby Cockram, current President of the Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants and practicing PA at Inova Health System, provided an update on legislation to remove the three-year practice requirement. He noted that proposed amendments aim to address physician concerns without changing the PA scope of practice. He also highlighted issues with pharmacies inconsistently interpreting regulations about prescriptions, leading to unnecessary requirements that impact patient care. Mr. Cockram urged engagement with the Board of Pharmacy to clarify these regulations.

New Business

Regulatory update

Mr. Novak reported one update since the regulatory chart was prepared. The creation of a reinstatement process for physician assistants with lapsed licenses has been sent for publication and will become effective April 9. He also noted that numerous actions were released from the Attorney General and the Office of the Governor at the end of the previous administration. The proposal to remove the patient care team physician name from prescriptions will be sent for the next publication cycle, with hopes to come before the Board in June to allow for the 60-day comment period.

Legislative report

Matthew Novak reported on the status of several bills of interest to this Advisory Board.

HB156 – Continuing Education; Electronic Death Registration

Directs the Board of Medicine and Board of Nursing, in collaboration with the Office of Vital Records, to establish continuing education requirements on the electronic death registration system and require attestation regarding timely signing of death certificates. A substitute version changes this to a renewal question asking if the licensee works in a relevant field and whether they have completed training via the designated website.

HB746 – Authorization to Practice without a practice agreement

Authorizes physician assistants with at least three years of full-time clinical experience to practice without a practice agreement upon receipt of an attestation from a collaborating physician or podiatrist. The bill provides alternative methods for PAs unable to obtain an attestation and establishes a process for licensure by endorsement. It also defines the scope of practice for PAs practicing without an agreement. The bill was referred to the Health and Human Services Committee and assigned to the Health Professions subcommittee in January 2026.

HB1223 – Mandatory Suicide Training

Requires healthcare professionals to complete training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. Most mental health professionals must complete training every six years, other professions only once.

SB22 – Bias Reduction Training

Requires certain licensees to complete continuing education on bias reduction in health care. This bill has Governor Spanberger’s support; similar bills reached Governor Youngkin’s desk in prior years but were vetoed.

SB359 – End of life decision making for aid in dying

Subsequent to the publication of the agenda packet, this bill failed in subcommittee and is unlikely to become law.

SB680 – Agency Bill; Fee Adjustment

Partnership between DHP and DPOR to streamline fee adjustments while maintaining public comment requirements. Revises the Callahan Act to allow quicker fee changes, retain a financial cushion, and impose fees for formal hearings and disciplinary actions. Also changes how fee reductions occur and ensures agencies can address financial issues proactively.

Consideration of proposed stage language regarding Consultation and Collaboration

In 2024, this Advisory Board recommended advancing proposed regulatory changes to the full Board. The Board did not approve the action at that time, citing concerns that the language was too vague, could be misused, and might create barriers to care rather than improving practice. Some members suggested eligibility should be limited to PAs with certain years of experience. The proposal originated from a petition for rulemaking.

Revised language was presented for reconsideration. If approved by the Advisory Board, the proposal will go to the Executive Committee in April and, if affirmed, to the full Board. The Advisory Board discussed potential changes and ultimately supported the previously recommended language.

Action: Mr. Hepner moved to re-submit the draft language to the Executive Committee as previously approved by the Advisory Board. Ms. Treene seconded. The motion carried by verbal vote.

The Chair wished to pass along to the Board the Advisory Board’s sentiment of the importance of practicality and expressed uncertainty about what changes might satisfy the Executive Committee without specific guidance.

The Advisory Board discussed the difficulty of policing how long a PA has been practicing. If HB746 allowing autonomous practice passes, this stage language may only apply to PAs with 0

– 3 years of experience. Dr. Hanrahan added that in his practice he finds this onerous for all but the very newest PAs.

Licensing Report

Total PA licenses issued in 2025: 968

- **By reciprocity: 106**
 - From Maryland: 67
 - From D.C.: 16
 - From both: 23

Applications processed in 2026 (to date): 175

- **By reciprocity: 10**
 - From Maryland: 7
 - From D.C.: 2
 - From both: 1

Virginia PAs obtaining reciprocity in other jurisdictions:

- D.C.: 49
- Maryland: 6
- **Total: 55**

Current processing time: 15 days

Total number of licensed PAs in the Commonwealth: 7,369

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, May 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Justin Hepner adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director