

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA****EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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TO: MEMBERS, MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

FROM: Linda Whitney
Chief of Legislation

SUBJECT: BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

At the Executive Committee, the members directed staff to develop an institutionalized process so board members can become more actively involved in the board's legislative agenda.

Define the Role of the Legislative Committee

1. Have the entire Executive Committee serve as the legislative committee.

This would keep the process as is, and require interim meetings of the Executive Committee to consider new and amended legislation to provide direction between meetings. This may not provide for the expertise needed on subject matters.

2. Appoint a sub-committee of the Executive Committee to serve as the legislative committee.

This would reduce the number of members needed to gather to discuss legislation. If more than two, these meetings would need to be publicly held, even if held by teleconference. This may not provide for the expertise needed on subject matters.

3. Instead of establishing a specific legislative committee, establish various two-person committees based upon subject matter.

This would enable the board/president to establish "expert committees" so they may provide immediate feedback to staff on emerging issues related to the subject. The two person committee enables staff to conference call and discuss legislation with both members at the same time. The medical director, when hired, would be one of the staff included in the discussion.

Two-person committees could be created on an as-needed basis, to cover expertise and turnover of board members. One member could be a longer term member and the second member could be a newer member. This would enable many members to become actively involved in board topics.

These members would represent the board in meeting with authors and policy members as this would spread out the work load and time a board member would need to come to Sacramento.

Recommendation: Select #3 and establish two person committees.

Examples of issue/topics:

Budget, Enforcement Program, Licensing Program, Access to Care, Telemedicine, Scope of Practice

On-going Program of Legislative Members attending Board Meetings

This concept was attempted four years ago, with limited success, but was not a formalized process.

The formalized process could be as follows:

- a. Eight weeks prior to the meeting, MBC staff will contact, in writing and by phone, legislative offices, both the capitol and district, representing the area the board meeting will be held, to encourage attendance, explaining the agenda of the board and any bills that are being tracked authored by the Member. Board members who reside in or near the legislative district office could contact the Member as well.
- b. A follow up contact will be made two weeks prior to the meeting when the actual agenda is public. Staff will encourage Legislative representatives to attend, especially those in district.
- c. Members or staff will be greeted by the Legislative staff and introduced to the Board. They will be asked to make a few remarks of interest. If a Member is attending to speak specifically on an agenda item or bill, the board chair/president will be asked to accommodate the Member or staff.
- d. In addition, when the board has developed a listing of bills on which it is taking positions, staff will notify, in writing and by phone, that this bill will be presented to the board. This will provide an opportunity for the legislative member or staff to attend the meeting and explain the concept behind the bill.

Board outreach to Legislative Offices

At the beginning of each session, the Chief of Legislation meets with all new members to provide an orientation to the Medical Board. Although the Member and staff are asked to pass along a packet to the district office, no contact is made with the district office.

The Enforcement Chief has proposed that supervisors from the board's district offices be assigned to go to legislative district offices to meet with staff and provide the information packet. Assuming 12 supervisors, and equally dividing the legislative offices of approximately 120, that would require that all supervisors meet with 10 legislative district offices in the beginning, then each new session, this would only require a check in call with the office staff and 2-4 new offices to visit. The initial 10 could be done over the next 12 months, and the new contacts and calls could be made at the beginning of each calendar year.

By providing this outreach, we will better understand the issues in each legislative district and we may encourage attendance at our board meetings.

Board Member Meetings with Legislative Members

1. Meetings in District

During the fall, board staff can develop talking points related to issues of the board. This will be used so all board members can meet with legislative members in their local areas during the fall and winter to discuss the board. Legislative staff will develop the listing of Legislative members to meet with in the districts and discuss the list with each board member to make adjustments as appropriate. Meetings could be done by one or two board members depending upon who the Legislative member is and where the district office is located.

2. Meetings at the Capitol/Day at the Capitol

A well thought out plan will need to be developed, well in advance of the date. It would take the commitment of the full board and a clear agenda that will be discussed. A planning committee would need to be created now if the board wants to do this in March/April of 2008. This would take a considerable amount of staff time. The impact may not be as successful and meaningful as meetings in the district.