



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING



San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront
1800 Old Bayshore Hwy.
Burlingame, CA 94010
(650) 692-9100

Thursday July 30, 2015
MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 Call to Order / Roll Call

The Licensing Committee of the Medical Board of California (Board) was called to order by Chair Dr. Michael Bishop at 1:45 p.m. A quorum was present, and due notice was provided to all interested parties.

Licensing Committee Members Present:

Michael Bishop, M.D., Chair
Dev Gnanadev, M.D.
Denise Pines
Jamie Wright, Esq.

Licensing Committee Members Absent:

Gerrie Schipske, R.N.P., J.D.

Other Members not on the Committee Present:

Michelle Bholat, M.D.
Randy Hawkins, M.D.
Howard Krauss, M.D.
Sharon Levine, M.D.
Ronald Lewis, M.D.

Staff Present:

Liz Amaral, Deputy Director
Christina Delp, Chief of Enforcement
Dianne Dobbs, Legal Counsel, Department of Consumer Affairs
Dennis Frankenstein, Business Services Officer
Cassandra Hockenson, Public Affairs Officer
Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Executive Director
Regina Rao, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Letitia Robinson, Research Program Specialist
Elizabeth Rojas, Business Services Officer
Paulette Romero, Staff Services Manager II
Jennifer Simoes, Chief of Legislation
Lisa Toof, Administrative Assistant II

Kerrie Webb, Staff Counsel
Curtis Worden, Chief of Licensing

Members of the Audience:

Teresa Anderson, California Academy of Physician Assistants
Gloria Castro, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Yvonne Choong, California Medical Association
Zennie Coughlin, Kaiser Permanente
Karen Ehrlich, Licensed Midwife
Julie D'Angelo Fellmeth, Center for Public Interest Law
Lou Galiano, Videographer, Department of Consumer Affairs
Bridget Gramme, Center for Public Interest Law
Doug Grant, Investigator, Health Quality Investigation Unit
Marian Hollingsworth, Consumers Union
Todd Iriyama, Investigator, Health Quality Investigation Unit
Lisa McGiffert, Consumers Union
Michelle Monserrat-Ramos, Consumers Union

Agenda Item 2 Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

No public comment was provided.

Agenda Item 3 Approval of Minutes from the July 24, 2014 Licensing Committee Meeting

Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2014 Licensing Committee meeting; s/Gnanadev. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 Licensing Program Update

Mr. Worden began by thanking the Licensing Program staff for their hard work in trying to meet the Licensing Program goals in the last fiscal year. He stated the year was especially difficult due to several vacancies, various types of leave, and training. The Licensing Program was able to meet the 45-day goal of initial reviews for physician's and surgeon's applications for 32 weeks out of 52 weeks. In addition, staff did not exceed, at any time, the 60-day initial review time as specified in regulation. The Licensing Program issued 5,873 licenses in fiscal year 2014-2015, which was an increase of 351 licenses from the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Worden stated licensing staff was requested to work overtime in order to process all of the applications, and issue licenses for residents who needed licensure by July 1, 2015. Licensing managers and staff worked very hard during that period of time, and put in a lot of hours to get that accomplished. There were approximately 45 applicants who did not receive their licenses by July 1, 2015. He stated it was important to note that the 45 applicants either applied late, did not provide all of the required primary source documentation timely, or had fingerprint responses pending. Some also were out of the country applicants waiting for the immigration process and the issuance of their social security numbers. He added a few of the applicants did not take their United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 3 until June 25, 2015 and results are received approximately 30 days after the exam. Staff was keeping track of these applicants to ensure they receive priority processing and are licensed as quickly as possible.

Mr. Worden stated the Consumer Information Unit received 155,092 calls in fiscal year 2014-2015, an increase of 6,634 more calls than last fiscal year. There were 107 international medical schools pending recognition. He added seven of the medical schools must complete self-assessment reports. The Licensing Program has received 45 midwifery applications, issued 42 licenses, and renewed 153 licenses in the fiscal year.

Dr. Bishop asked if Mr. Schunke was still doing Licensing Outreach Fairs.

Mr. Worden replied that Mr. Schunke was attending the Licensing Outreach Fairs on a regular basis and had recently done one for the new residents who are going to need licensure by next year.

Dr. Bishop stated that he was pleased to hear that as the Licensing Outreach Fairs are very well received by all.

Dr. Bishop asked if there was a reason for the increase in the volume of calls received.

Mr. Worden replied that it was related to no longer having the Web Applicant Access System (WAAS). Due to the implementation of BreZE, applicants and programs are no longer able to look up the deficient items needed for licensure.

Dr. Bishop asked if there was any mechanism in BreZE to mitigate the issue.

Mr. Worden informed him that as of June 30, 2015, there was a new BreZE update that would allow staff to input deficiencies into the system that would be viewable to applicants. Unfortunately, it would only be deficiencies identified from that day forward, not any from the past so it would take a while for it to become useful, and it is not as detailed as WAAS.

Agenda Item 5 Update on June 30, 2015 Postgraduate Training Requirements and Physician Reentry to Practice Interested Parties Meeting

Mr. Worden began his presentation informing the Committee that on June 30, 2015, the Board held an Interested Parties Meeting regarding the minimum number of years the Board requires of accredited postgraduate training to obtain a physician's and surgeon's license, and requirements for physicians who want to reenter the practice of medicine after an absence of an extended period of time. He stated Dr. Bishop chaired the interested parties meeting and it was held in Sacramento. The current minimum requirements for a U.S. and Canadian medical school graduate is one year of residency, and he or she must be licensed by the end of 24 months if in California. The minimum requirement for an international medical school graduate is 24 months of residency and he or she must be licensed by the end of 36 months if in California. He added all of the accredited postgraduate training, including training in other states and Canada, counts towards the 24 and 36 months. Mr. Worden stated the specific requirements for postgraduate training by state, and the issues that have been identified by Board staff, Graduate Medical Education (GME) deans, GME staff, and GME program directors to consider prior to seeking changes to California statutes and regulations, were identified in the June 30, 2015, materials. He stated these were provided from the limited meetings Ms. Kirchmeyer and Mr. Worden had with some of the GME deans and other program directors. Mr. Worden explained the Board was considering increasing the minimum requirements to three years for U.S. and Canadian, and international medical school graduates. One of the other things the Board would consider is the process of how international medical schools

are reviewed.

Dr. Bishop thanked the Board staff for their hard work on this project and asked the Board to include in the assessment, financial or fiscal impact on the Board for having two levels of licensure, and identify any burdens.

Agenda Item 6 Future Agenda Items

Dr. Bishop asked for input on agenda items for the next Licensing Committee Meeting. No suggestions were made for future agenda items.

Agenda Item 7 Adjournment

Dr. Bishop adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.