

Physician Assistant Board Meeting August 7, 2020

The Physician Assistant Board (PAB) conducted its quarterly meeting via Webex on August 7, 2020. Due to COVID-19 this was the first board meeting since January of this year.

Board President Jed Grant briefly discussed the waivers that the PAB has been able to get approved. They include waivers for continuing education, extending orders relating to physician assistants (PA), nurse practitioners and nurse-midwife supervision, and PA supervision requirements.

The members discussed the Board's authority to approve controlled substance education courses and how best to implement audits and enforcement of the programs. While performing continuing medical education audits it has come to the attention of the Board that the course is being provided by vendors that do not follow Title 16, California Code of Regulations Section 1399.610.

Pa Thao from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) human resources provided a presentation to the members on the recruitment and selection process for an Executive Officer (EO). Jed Grant and Juan Armento were selected to be on the search committee for an EO as the current EO, Lynn Forsyth, is retiring at the end of August.

PAB staff conducted a 6 month desk study for the purpose of increasing the initial application fee from \$25.00. The Board members voted to direct staff to seek a Legislative amendment to increase the initial fee.

The Board discussed the possibility of accepting electronic signatures from applicants as the current policy is to accept only wet signatures. Staff will be working with the It department at DCA regarding this issue.

The Board's funding condition continues to be remain strong. Even with the office move and hiring additional staff the board will be reverting approximately \$100,000 this year.

The Education and Workforce Sub-Committee reported that currently there are 260 accredited PA programs, 52 programs in development and 17 accredited programs in California. California has the highest number of applicants to PA programs in the United States, however, the lowest ratio of number of applicants to available seats.

We would like to thank the Medical Board and staff for all their continued support.