

BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS/EMBALMERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2010

The Open Session of the State Board of Funeral Directors/Embalmers was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on the above date in Room 104, Rhode Island Department of Health, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established.

Board Members in attendance:

Mary Bray	Raymond Butterfield	Elizabeth
Feid	Edward Murphy	Joan Retsinas

Staff Members in attendance:

Gregory Madoian Maureen Slowik

Open Minutes of the November 16, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made by Raymond Butterfield and seconded by Mary Bray and Joan Retsinas to accept the November minutes.

Members were advised that there is a bill currently being discussed by our Legislators to exempt funeral directors over the age of 65 from having to complete continuing education units every renewal cycle. Edward Murphy will send Health a copy of what is being considered. The media has had several articles regarding certain individuals being blocked from planning and executing a partner's final wishes.

As it stands the State already has provisions for funeral planning agents, and the Board feels what it is place is adequate. Individuals who need to plan a funeral must have the appropriate paperwork in place. If the paperwork is in place, no one should be challenged.

We have received several complaints regarding companies advertising in the Verizon Yellow Pages under Funeral Directors/Embalmers. Maureen Slowik has written to Verizon several times asking what Verizon uses to decide under which categories subscribers are placed. Verizon has never answered her. Since these companies do not fall under our jurisdiction because they are not licensed by Health, it was thought that a letter should be sent to those companies respectfully asking that the next time they renew their yellow pages subscription that they find a different heading under which to advertise. Maureen Slowik will send those letters.

Adjournment to Executive Session

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order. On motion by Raymond Butterfield, seconded by Edward Murphy, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential matters discussed in Executive Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

Adjournment

On motion by Elizabeth Feid, seconded by Joan Retsinas, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 2:40. The next meeting will be held March 15, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Slowik, Board Administrator

Health Professions Regulation