

BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE

FULL BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

8 FEBRUARY 2006

Open Session

Board Members in Attendance:

David R. Gifford, MD, MPH, Chair

Patrick Barry, Esq.

Norm Chapman

Margaret Coughlin

Charles Cronin, DO

Robert Dinwoodie, DO

Joseph DiPietro, Esq.

Richard P. Iacobucci, MD

Noubar Kessimian MD

Henry Litchman, MD

Shelagh McGowan

Board Members Absent:

Thomas Breslin, MD

Staff Members in Attendance:

Robert S. Crausman, MD, Chief Administrative Officer

Bruce W. McIntyre, Esq., Deputy Chief Legal Counsel

Linda Julian, Investigator

Mary Salerno, Administrative Officer

1. A quorum was established at 8:55 AM.

2. On a motion by Dr. Litchman seconded by Dr. Kessimian it was voted to approve the minutes of the Open Session of the January 11, 2006 meeting.

3. Licensing Committee:

On a motion by Mr. DiPietro seconded by Dr. Kessimian it was voted to approve the Licensing Committee minutes of the February 2, 2006 meeting.

4. Chief Administrative Officer's Report

A. The proposed regulations for the Medical Marijuana Bill were discussed. It was clarified that physicians would certify whether or not medical marijuana would be beneficial to a patient but if so, would not actually prescribe it. The State will provide a certification card but neither the physician nor the State will provide or advise the patient as to where to obtain it.

B. Dr. Crausman then gave his CME presentation to the Board

regarding recent news-related items of interest to the Board. The local topics included the recent news items of the Massachusetts doctor residing in Cumberland who threatened the local mayor with bodily harm, a RI doctor censured for borrowing monies from a patient, and the RI anesthesiologist recently placed on probation. In Rhode Island judges are required to report felony physician convictions to the Board.

Other news topics from around the Nation included differing policies for individual states' Physicians Health Committees (PHC). Arizona's PHC is part of the Department of Health whereas Rhode Island's PHC is a separate entity. California has a citation and fine alternative to sanctions for low-level complaints. RI would require a statute change to adopt this procedure. Colorado restricts their physicians from prescribing for themselves and family members including no schedule II drugs, which mirrors the AMA statement. RI also relies on the AMA statement for this purpose. Colorado also does not require laser aesthetics to be done under the direct supervision of a physician. New Mexico is instituting policies to require that applications graduate from a certified medical school. They have also updated their sexual misconduct definitions. Massachusetts requires that the NPI number be part of the license application, which RI should adopt by 2007.

C. Mr. Bruce McIntyre updated the Board on his 3-year effort, in conjunction with other New England states, to start a study on a

universal credentialing system to be used nationwide. Congress had authorized the spending but had yet to appropriate the monies. Through the efforts of Congressman Patrick Kennedy the monies have begun to be appropriated. This year \$700,000 will be allocated to set up the infrastructure for the program, which includes hardware and software for the individual states participating in the study. Next year implementation of the study will begin.

D. The Federation of State Medical Boards' Annual Meeting will be held in Boston at the Copley from April 20-22, 2006. Mr. Bruce McIntyre will attend as the BMLD Professional Staff representative and Mr. Joseph DiPietro, Esq. will attend as the Board's Voting Delegate. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

5. There was no old business to discuss.

6. New business:

There was no new business.

7. At 9:30 AM the Board adjourned to Closed Session.