

**BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE**

**FULL BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**8 MARCH 2006**

**Open Session**

**Minutes**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

**David R. Gifford, MD, MPH, Chair**

**Patrick Barry, Esq.**

**Norm Chapman**

**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**

**Margaret Coughlin**

**Staff Members in Attendance:**

**Robert S. Crausman, MD, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Linda Julian, Investigator**

**Jeffrey Arruda, Office Assistant**

**Guests:**

**Newell E. Warde, Ph.D., RI Medical Society**

**Steven R. DeToy, RI Medical Society**

**David Leveillee, RI Medical Society**

**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 February 8, 2006 meeting.**

**3. Chief Administrative Officer's Report**

**A. Dr. Newell Warde, Executive Director of the RI Medical Society, presented a thoughtful position on the medical malpractice circumstance in Rhode Island. He reviewed current malpractice rates by specialty. He went on to discuss several pertinent economic issues concerning an inability to pass on overhead. The role of the Division of Business Regulations in regulating rate increases each year and the current flattening of the rate of increase was noted. The current group of malpractice providers and their proportionate market penetration was discussed.**

**Overall approximately 50 million dollars in liability premiums for**

physicians are paid per year. Approximately 50 percent of this goes to indemnity payments and 50 percent for case defense. Of the 50 percent of indemnity patients it is estimated that attorney fees are approximately 40 percent leaving an estimated 20 percent of total to compensate plaintiff.

The RI Medical Society receives a prejudgment interest rate of 12 percent, the long time for resolution, approximately 6.4 years, and the legal precedent of Assermely has major subject for tort reform.

Following discussion a lively question and answer period ensued.

B. The Medical Board reviewed the letter of the AAEM regarding Board certification and it was agreed to continue with the current recognition of the American Board of Medical Specialties, AOA related Board certifications thus to allow any petitioning group to present before the Board as appropriate.

C. Regarding telemedicine, it was decided to form a working group of Mr. Norman Chapman and Drs. Dinwoodie and Iacobucci. Additionally, a letter will be written to Dr. Huilgol asking him to provide more detail on specifically what his proposal is regarding telemedicine.

4. There was no old business to discuss.

**5. New business:**

**There was no new business.**

**6. At 9:55 AM the Board adjourned to Executive Session.**

**7. At 11:00 AM the Board reconvened to Open Session to review the minutes of the Licensing Committee. On a motion by Dr. Kessimian seconded by Dr. Iacobucci the Licensing Committee minutes were accepted.**