

**BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE**

**FULL BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**11 OCTOBER 2006**

**Open Session**

**Minutes**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

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

**Thomas Breslin, MD**

**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:**

**Patrick Barry, Esq.**

**Margaret Coughlin**

**Staff Members in Attendance:**

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

**Bruce W. McIntyre, Board Legal Counsel**

**Linda Julian, Investigator**

**Mary Salerno, Administrative Officer**

**Guests:**

**Herbert Rakatansky, MD, Chair, Physician's Health Committee**

**Rosemary Maher, ACSW, LICSW, RI Medical Society**

**1. A quorum was established at 8:35 AM.**

**2. On a motion by Dr. Breslin seconded by Dr. Kessimian it was voted to approve the minutes of the 5 October 2006 Licensing Committee Meeting.**

**3. On a motion by Dr. Cronin seconded by Mr. DiPietro it was voted to approve the minutes of the Open Session of the 13 September 2006 meeting.**

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

**A. Dr. Herbert Rakatansky and Ms. Rosemary Maher of the RI Medical Society (RIMS) and Physician's Health Committee (PHC) gave a very informative presentation to the Board regarding the role that their organizations play in the mental and physical well being of physicians in Rhode Island and the safety of the patients they serve.**

**The PHC was formed in 1978 as a result of the high suicide rate of physicians nationwide. They facilitate treatment of physicians for alcohol and substance abuse, mental disorders, and boundary violations, with a high success rate. The PHC accepts referrals from any source and respects anonymity. All referrals are confidential unless physicians with serious problems refuse to comply with recommendations and treatment strategies and patient safety is an issue. In such cases the PHC works closely with the RI Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline to insure that these physicians are complying with treatment recommendations and are not putting patients at risk.**

**The main goal of the PHC is to identify physicians with need very early rather than waiting for years of incidents to occur before they are contacted to intervene. Intervention in the early stages is much more successful, shortens treatment time and decreases dollar amounts spent. The Committee has also made significant headway in going to hospitals and educating new residents as to availability of programs. Residency referrals have increased. There is also a Medical Student Health Committee from Brown University.**

**The PHC is an organization that has one full-time employee, one part-time employee and many volunteers. Funding and staffing is becoming an issue. Additional sources of funding are being examined to insure that services continue to be provided as needed.**

**B. USMLE Contract/Agreement Letter of Understanding:** It was voted unanimously to approve and sign the new Letter of Understanding giving the USMLE the ability to define “Pass/Fail.”

**C. Dr. Crausman and Atty. McIntyre will draft a new administrative fee schedule and present it at the next Board meeting.**

**D. Request by Dr. Hafeez Kahn to establish a pain management clinic at the RI Hospital Campus:** On a motion by Dr. Dinwoodie seconded by Mr. DiPietro it was voted to approve the request in addition to allowing these decisions to be made Administratively without the Full Board approval. They will be placed on the Consent Calendar for review.

**E. FSMB Call for Nominations:** Materials were distributed and Mr. McIntyre reviewed a brief description of positions and requirements.

**F. Dr. Crausman reviewed the Kentucky newspaper article regarding that State’s investigation into the company that provided John Curran his false educational certificates.**

**G. Billing for Death Certificate Paperwork:** Hao Huang, MD wrote to the Board asking whether or not it was legal for a physician to bill for filling out death certificates. It is the attending physician of record’s responsibility to fill out the death certificate but in the case of a

nursing home attending physician these duties can be time consuming. The Board found that it was not unprofessional conduct to bill a nominal amount to the Estate of the deceased patient and the certificate cannot be withheld pending payment. This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

#### **5. Old Business:**

Telemedicine - The “Draft Model Act to Regulate the Practice of Telemedicine Across State Lines” was redistributed and subcommittee members Norm Chapman and Dr. Dinwoodie will meet to review the draft and report back at the next Board Meeting.

Suggested future Board discussion: Pharmaceutical sponsored clinical research and product sales in the office. Possible related literature includes a paper by Sean David and Dean David Greer titled, “Social Marketing.”

#### **6. New business:**

None presented

**7. At 10:05 AM the Board adjourned to Executive Session.**