

BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE

FULL BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

10 DECEMBER 2008

Open Session

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Patrick Barry, Esq.

Thomas Breslin, MD

Norm Chapman

Charles Cronin, DO

Margaret Coughlin

Robert Dinwoodie, DO

Joseph DiPietro, Esq.

Richard P. Iacobucci, MD

Noubar Kessimian MD

Shelagh McGowan

Board Members Absent:

David R. Gifford, MD, MPH, Chair

Staff Members in Attendance:

Robert S. Crausman, MD, Chief Administrative Officer

Linda Julian, Board Investigator

Mary Salerno, Administrative Officer

Staff Members Absent:

Bruce W. McIntyre, Board General Counsel

Guests:

James Carney, PA-C, RI Board of Physician Assistants

1. A quorum was established at 8:40 AM.

2. On a motion by Mr. Chapman seconded by Mr. DiPietro it was voted to approve the minutes of the 4 December 2008 Licensing Committee meeting.

3. On a motion by Mrs. Coughlin seconded by Mr. DiPietro it was voted to approve the minutes of the Open Session of the 12 November 2008 meeting.

4. Chief Administrative Officer's Report:

A. Licensure eligibility request from Praveen Rapolu, MD, MPH: After preliminary review of materials submitted by this physician with his request a motion was made by Dr. Kessimian seconded by Dr. Breslin to invite this physician to apply for medical licensure in the State of Rhode Island.

B. Model Guidelines for the use of “Doctor” title in clinical settings-
On a motion by Mr. DiPietro seconded by Mrs. Coughlin it was voted to submit the following proposed resolution to the Federation of State Medical Boards:

Whereas, The use of the title “Doctor” in clinical settings by non-physicians has been a source of confusion for patients and healthcare providers

Whereas, A number of clinical disciplines have moved towards doctorate level training as a requirement for clinical practice and licensure

Whereas, Healthcare professionals who earn a doctorate in a recognized field of scholarly and clinical endeavor merit the title “doctor.”

Whereas, There must be clear and effective safeguards in place to protect patients and to assure appropriate disclosure of credentials and training

Therefore, be it hereby

Resolved, That the RI BMLD respectfully requests the Federation of State Medical Boards to work towards the development of a uniform national standard through the development of model guidelines

regarding the use of the “Doctor” title with collaboration from other stakeholder groups such as the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Mr. DiPietro outlined for the Board the procedure for presenting the above to the FSMB.

C. Two articles were reviewed by the Board: JAMDA Editorial and Medicine & Health article.

D. The Board reviewed the recent administratively approved corporation request by George M. Cappello, Esq. on behalf of Raul A. Masin, MD.

E. The FSMB Call for Nominations and a request for a Board Member volunteer to attend the FSMB 2009 Annual Meeting were presented to the Board.

F. The issue of physicians offering coupons for medical services was discussed by the Board. Although distasteful this practice is not unprofessional conduct. If these procedures remain self-pay there are no billing conflicts and the language of the advertisements must remain non-deceptive.

5. Old Business:

None presented.

6. New Business:

None presented.

7. At 9:12 AM the Board adjourned to Executive Session pursuant to Sections 46-42-4 and 42-46-5 of the Rhode Island General Laws.