

**RHODE ISLAND CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE BOARD
OPEN MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 10, 2007**

The Open Session of the Rhode Island Clinical Laboratory Science Board was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, 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:

Hon Fong L. Mark, Ph.D., F.A.C.M.G.

James Sung, MD

Gail Fracassa

Denise Morel

Wayne Aucoin

Board members not in attendance:

Elizabeth Mancini

William Cashore, MD

Staff members in attendance:

Donna Dickerman

Minutes of the meeting held November 9, 2006 were reviewed. On a motion entered by Dr. Sung seconded by Gail Fracassa, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes as presented.

Adjournment to Executive Session

On motion of Gail Fracassa, seconded by Dr. Sung, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, as Amended to review minutes from November 9, 2006. On a motion by Gail Fracassa, seconded by Dr. Sung, the board unanimously voted to accept the minutes as presented.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order. On motion of Dr. Sung, seconded by Wayne Aucoin, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Executive Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

Members met to discuss and have on record their position to the Department's proposal to eliminate licensure of clinical laboratory scientists. Members voiced concern why they were not informed of the proposal. This administrator explained in the initial stages of budget proposals/negotiations, this information is confidential. Unfortunately, the Department failed to inform them when the

proposal became public, and realizes its mistake in this omission.

Clinical Laboratory Science Board

Open Session – Page 2

May 10, 2007

Board members were unanimous in their position against the proposal to delicense. The following reasons were cited: (1) Delicensing would lead to the industry hiring unqualified people, a cheaper labor source, to reduce costs, which could adversely affect patient care. They feel this would be especially prevalent in physician's offices and private laboratories, where "the dollar is the bottom line"; (2) The intent of the law when initially written and enacted still applies; (3) Members noted the board/licensees were not notified of the proposal, therefore, unable to testify their opposition at a legislative hearing. However, East Side Laboratory and the RI Blood Center were present at said hearing, providing support to the proposal, leading one to believe they were notified. Their question – why/how did those two agencies know; (4) Without licensure the practice would lose the requirement of continuing education, which

the Board feels is necessary in a field where technology/practices changes often; and (5) They voiced concern of a lack of trust among the lab science community that they were not informed of the proposal.

On a motion entered by Gail Fracassa, seconded by Denise Morel, the Board unanimously voted against the proposal to delicense clinical laboratory scientists.

Adjournment

On a motion entered by Dr. Sung seconded by Wayne Aucoin, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Dickerman

Board Administrator

Health Professionals Regulation