

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration of Physician Assistants**

**MEETING MINUTES
GENERAL SESSION
(OPEN SESSION)**

**July 14, 2022
Via WebEx**

Board Members

Present:

Dipu Patel, PA-C, Physician Assistant 1, Chair
Shannon Sheridan-Geldart, PA-C, Physician Assistant Educator,
Vice-Chair
Paul Crehan, PA-C, Physician Assistant 4, Secretary
Robert Baginski, MD, Physician Member
Richard Baum, MD, Physician Member
Mary Kuzmeski PA-C, Physician Assistant 2
Hannah Nolan, MPAS PAC, Physician Assistant 3

Board Members

Not Present:

None

Staff Present:

Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards
Mary Strachan, Esq., Board Counsel, Office of the General
Counsel
Kayla Mikalauski, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards

Staff Not

Present:

Lisa Seeley-Murphy, Board Investigator, Multi-Boards
Patricia Young, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards

I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum | Notice of Electronic Recording

Ms. Dipu Patel, Board Chair, called to order the General Session of the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants at 9:29AM. Members present via WebEx roll call: Dipu Patel: present; Paul Crehan: present; Richard Baum: present; Mary Kuzmeski: present; Hanna Nolan: present. Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: present. Absent: Robert Baginski. Dr. Robert Baginski joined the meeting shortly after roll call.

II. Conflict of Interest | Approval of General Session Agenda:

The General Session agenda for July 14, 2022 was reviewed for approval. Ms. Dipu Patel, Board Chair, asked for a motion since there were no items on the agenda for discussion.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the July 14, 2022 agenda was made by Mr. Paul Crehan, seconded by Ms. Shannon Sheridan-Geldart and unanimously passed by roll-call vote as follows: Dipu Patel: approve; Robert Baginski: approve; Paul Crehan: approve; Robert Baginski: approve; Richard Baum: approve; Mary Kuzmeski: approve; Hanna Nolan: approve. Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: approve; Absent: None; Abstained: None; Opposed: None.

Document: July 14, 2022, General Session Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2022

The General Session minutes for July 14, 2022 was reviewed for approval. Ms. Dipu Patel asked for a motion after the review.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the April 14, 2022, General Session minutes was made by Dr. Richard Baum, seconded by Ms. Hanna Nolan and unanimously passed by roll-call vote as follows: Dipu Patel: approve; Robert Baginski: approve; Paul Crehan: approve; Richard Baum: approve; Mary Kuzmeski: approve; Hanna Nolan: approve; Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: approve; Absent: None; Abstained: None; Opposed: None.

Document: April 14, 2022, General Session Minutes

IV. Investigations

None

V. Flex Session

A. Announcements:

Ms. Patel informed Mr. Steven Joubert, Executive Director, that she will be speaking at Northeastern University on July 29, 2022, giving the Board talk. She stated that it was a last-minute addition so she was not sure if he needed to go through approval channels for the addition. Mr. Joubert stated that he would just need the agenda so that he could forward it to the Bureau's Director of Policy.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Patel went on to request that the information in the Board packet be sent to the members a week before the meeting. She stated that she finds herself the day before scrambling to read a lot of material and not having enough time to prepare for the meeting or absorb the information. Ms. Patel stated that because the Board is legally obligated to post that they are having meeting, according to Open Meeting Law, a week before, she thinks that the Board packets should be sent out that day. Ms. Patel pointed out that the phone calls for quorum coming in a week to 10 days beforehand has been very helpful.

Ms. Patel asked Ms. Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, if there are any updates on the changes coming to telemedicine. She stated that she knows this Board's regulations are not changing

but she knows there are changes coming Nationwide. Ms. Strachan stated that she did check with the Bureau Policy Director but she still has not received anything specific to telemedicine still. Ms. Strachan went on to state that as soon as she hears anything, she will certainly let Board Members know.

Ms. Kuzmeski stated that she had written an email to Mr. Joubert regarding the new Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration change. She went on to state that those licensees no longer need a supervising physician to be reported to the state. Ms. Kuzmeski stated that in the email, she questioned whether or not the attestation could be made similar to the Physician Assistant license. She stated that somewhere in the law, it states that there are specific notifications but it doesn't say how the notifications will happen, she wanted to know if it was appropriate to bring that up. Ms. Strachan explained that each of the different divisions within the Department of Health has its own regulations and statutes. One of the statutes that created the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants requires notification as do the regulations. So, the Board does not have the legal authority to change statutes. Ms. Strachan stated that the Board can draft more specific regulations to implement the broad language that the statute is written in, but cannot draft regulations that conflict with the statute. Ms. Kuzmeski stated that she was not asking if they could change the statute but if they could interpret the statute and state that an attestation would be sufficient notification. Ms. Patel added to what Ms. Kuzmeski was saying by suggesting that the Board could amend its regulation to state attestation is sufficient. Ms. Strachan stated that within the statutory language it does state that the Board should be notified of a change of employment, supervising physician or departure from the Commonwealth, but it does not say how the notification should be made. Ms. Strachan then stated that to get a regulation changed would be a lengthy process and went on to explain what the steps would be required. After some discussion, a few Board members decided that this change would be worth going through the potentially lengthy process. Ms. Patel asked for a motion to be made but Dr. Baum stated that he thinks that the Board should not vote on this just yet. He stated that it seemed more sound to hold off with this vote for the future so that they can reassess, for when they have a few other regulations that they want or need changed, as opposed to voting on just one thing at a time. Ms. Strachan stated that the Board members could not discuss going through the regulations offline, as suggested, because of Open Meeting Law. The discussion would have to be during an open session for transparency sake. Ms. Strachan suggested that they could create a sub-committee of members who could discuss issues and make recommendations to the Board. Ms. Patel suggested that the sub-committee meet at the end of their regular monthly meeting. That way, the members would be there and there would not be any worry about making quorum. It was decided that whomever wanted to be on the sub-committee would email Mr. Joubert and cc Ms. Strachan before the next Board meeting.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the April 14, 2022, General Session minutes was made by Ms. Mary Kuzmeski, seconded by Ms. Hanna Nolan and unanimously passed by roll-call vote as follows: Dipu Patel: approve; Robert Baginski: approve; Paul Crehan: approve; Richard Baum: approve; Mary Kuzmeski: approve; Hanna Nolan: approve; Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: approve; Absent: None; Abstained: None; Opposed: None.

VI. Adjournment

ACTION:

Motion to adjourn and move to Executive Session was made by Mr. Paul Crehan, seconded by Ms. Shannon Sheridan-Geldart and unanimously passed by roll-call vote as follows: Dipu Patel: approve; Robert Baginski: approve; Paul Crehan: approve; Richard Baum: approve; Mary Kuzmeski: approve; Hanna Nolan: approve; Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: approve; Absent: None; Abstained: None; Opposed: None.

Let the record show that the meeting adjourned at 9:58AM.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants is scheduled for **Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.** remotely on WebEx.

Respectfully Submitted:

The Board of Registration of Physician Assistants