

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

**250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108**

**MEETING MINUTES
GENERAL SESSION
(OPEN SESSION)
June 8th, 2023
Via WebEx**

Board Members

Present:

Dr. Dipu Patel, PA-C, Physician Assistant 1, Chair
Dr. Richard Baum, MD, Physician Member
Jaime Jaronko, PA-C, Physician Assistant 4, Secretary
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
Katie Goldrick, Assistant Executive Director, Multi-Boards
Kayla Mikalauski, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards
Sarah Constantino, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards
Tracy Tam, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards
Heather Engman, Chief Board Counsel

Staff Not

Present:

None

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

Dr. Dipu Patel, Board Chair, called the Regular Session of the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

Roll-call as follows: Dr. Dipu Patel: present; Dr. Richard Baum: present; Jaime Jaronko: present; Mary Kuzmeski: present; Hannah Nolan: present.
Absent: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None.

II. Conflict of Interest | Approval of General Session Agenda

DISCUSSION:

Board members were asked to disclose any conflicts of interest with the agenda.
Dr. Patel asked the board members to review June 8th, 2023, General Session Agenda and make a motion to approve when ready.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the June 8th, 2023, General Session Agenda was made by Ms. Mary Kuzmeski, seconded by Ms. Jamie Jaronko, and unanimously passed by roll-call as follows:
Dr. Dipu Patel: approve; Dr. Richard Baum: approve; Jaime Jaronko: approve; Mary Kuzmeski: approve; Hannah Nolan: approve.
Absent: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None.

Document: June 8th, 2023, General Session Agenda

III. Approval of February 9th, 2023, General Session Minutes

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Patel asked the board members to review the February 9th, 2023, minutes and make a motion to approve when ready.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the February 9th, 2023, General Session Minutes was made by Ms. Mary Kuzmeski, seconded by Ms. Jamie Jaronko, and unanimously passed by roll-call as follows: Dr. Dipu Patel: approve; Dr. Richard Baum: approve; Jaime Jaronko: approve; Mary Kuzmeski: approve; Hannah Nolan: approve.
Absent: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None.

Document: February 9th, 2023, General Session Minutes

IV. Physician Assistants-Compact Licensure, PA Name Change, Telehealth Regulations Discussion

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Patel requested the current literature on Physician Assistants compact licensure, Physician Board Registration of Physician Assistants

Associates name change, and Physician Assistants telehealth regulations so the Board would be better prepared when it goes to legislation.

Ms. Heather Engman, Chief Board Counsel, stated the name change and adoption of the compact licensure would require statutory changes so that process would have to go through state legislature. Ms. Engman stated once there is a legislature change, the Board would work on amending the regulations. Ms. Kuzmeski stated she would like to have a review of how other states adopt new policies and handle regulation changes so the Board can implement these changes quickly.

Dr. Baum stated he would like to know how academic institutions would handle these changes such as the name of their degrees in universities across the country. Dr. Patel stated the legislative changes will come through APA and their state chapters which will then be implemented through universities. Dr. Baum asked if a graduate holding a physician assistant degree will be licensed as a physician associate because universities will take time to implement these changes. Dr. Patel stated we do not know at this time because it has not been implemented by any states yet.

Dr. Baum asked what the purpose for this name change is. Dr. Patel stated there is a perception of physician assistants as assistants that are not qualified for the work they perform and a perception of physician assistants providing lesser quality of care. Ms. Kuzmeski also added physician assistants are listed as providers to insurance companies but are listed as assistants in their professional name. Ms. Engman stated the COVID-19 pandemic had illustrated a need for more flexibility regarding physician assistant supervision and how they fit into the healthcare team due to staffing challenges.

Dr. Baum asked if licensees would still require a supervising physician. Dr. Patel stated there is legislation on that as well, but it is a separate issue than the name change. Dr. Patel stated the nomenclature would be changed from supervising physician to collaborative physician and has already been implemented in some states. Ms. Kuzmeski stated it would be more of a collaboration than a supervision because licensees cannot practice alone but the burden of documentation would be reduced.

Mr. Steven Joubert, Executive Director, stated he will work with Board counsel on the topics that were discussed.

V. Investigations:

Triage(s): N/A

Complaint(s): N/A

Staff Assignment(s): N/A

VI. Flex Session

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Joubert asked who would be able to attend the next meeting on Thursday, July 13th, 2023. Mary Kuzmeski, Jamie Jaronko, and Dr. Richard Baum responded they would be able to attend but Dr. Dipu Patel responded that she would not be able to. Ms. Kayla Mikalauski stated there would not be enough board members present for quorum. Mr. Joubert made a proposal to reschedule the July board meeting. Board members decided to reschedule the July meeting to Thursday, July 27th, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Dr. Patel asked for an update on Board member recruitment. Mr. Joubert stated he was actively recruiting and reaching out to diverse candidates. Mr. Joubert also stated he had submitted names to the Commissioner's Office as well as the Governor's Office.

Dr. Patel stated there would be board elections held in the July board meeting for the roles of vice chair and secretary.

VII. Executive Session:

DISCUSSION:

Board Chair, Dr. Patel read the Executive Session Statement as follows: The Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) for the purposes of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against an individual. 1. Specifically, the Board will consider approving prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. ch.30A, § 22(a) for previous executive sessions of the Board. 2. Specifically, the Board will discuss complaints or charges brought against a Licensee or Licensees. The Board will not reconvene in public session subsequent to the closed session(s).

VIII. 65C Session:

N/A

IX. Adjudicatory Session:

N/A

X. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn and move to the Executive Session was made by Dr. Dipu Patel, seconded by Ms. Jamie Jaronko, and unanimously passed by roll-call as follows:

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Dr. Dipu Patel: present; Dr. Richard Baum: present; Jaime Jaronko: present; Mary Kuzmeski: present; Hannah Nolan: present.
Absent: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None.

Let the record show that the meeting adjourned at 9:26 A.M.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants is scheduled for Thursday, July 27th, 2023, at 9:00 A.M. remotely on WebEx.

Respectfully Submitted:
The Board of Registration of Physician Assistants