

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, August 18, 2022
2:00 P.M.
Via WebEx

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Jason Morin, RT, Board Chair
William Beal, Board Vice-Chair
Dr. Brian Bloom, MD, Board Member
Dr. Samy Sidhom, MD, Board Member

Board Members
not present:

None

Staff Present: Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Kayla Mikalauskis, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, BHPL

Staff Not
Present None

- I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum | Notice of Electronic Recording
II. Mr. Jason Morin called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. A quorum of the Board of Respiratory Care was established with members present via WebEx as follows: William Beal present, Brian Bloom present, Jason Morin present, Samy Sidhom present, Quorum was met at 1:05pm. Mr. Morin reminded those present via WebEx that the meeting was being recorded.
- III. Conflict of Interest | Approval of Agenda
The open session meeting agenda was reviewed.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Morin asked the members if there were any conflict of interest for them. There were no conflicts.

ACTION:

A vote to approve the August 18, 2022 agenda made by Mr. Beal and seconded by Dr. Bloom, and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Brian Bloom: Approve; William Beal: Approve; Jason Morin Approve; Samy Sidhom Approve; Absent: None Abstained: None; Opposed: None

DOCUMENT: August 18, 2022 Regular Session Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

Board members were asked to review the minutes from June 23, 2022.

DISCUSSION:

None

ACTION:

Motion to approve the June 23rd minutes made by Dr. Bloom, seconded by Mr. Beal, and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: William Beal: yes; Brian Bloom: yes; Jason Morin: yes; Samy Sidhom: yes. Absent: none. Abstained: none. Opposed: none. Recused: none.

DOCUMENT: June 23, 2022 General Session Minutes

IV. Policy regarding Expedited Processing of Reciprocal License Applications in response to disease outbreak or other critical public health concerns

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Strachan stated that during the pandemic we expedited out of state licenses, because we were in a state of emergency licenses did not necessarily expire when it would have. Ms. Strachan stated that the state of emergency has now been lifted which has triggered this policy to come from the commissioner's office. Ms. Strachan stated that this will only go into effect if the commissioner makes an order. Ms. Strachan stated that if it does go in order, than board staff have 72 hours to license and out of state licensee just checking other states license verification and making sure they are in good standing, with the expectation that the licensee has 90 days to get the rest of the required documents in. Ms. Strachan stated if they fail to do this than their license would expire at the end of the 90 days. Mr. Morin stated that he believes this is a great idea but asks if board staff can check NBRC credential prior to licensing them due to some states not requiring an NBRC. Mr. Joubert stated that this is a required document that has to be submitted within the 90 days. Mr. Morin stated he understood but believes this should be in the policy, so we are not giving a non-credential licensee a 90-day license. Mr. Joubert understood, and Ms. Strachan stated that she would add this to the draft policy.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the draft policy with above amendments made by Mr. Morin, seconded by Dr. Bloom and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: William Beal: yes; Brian Bloom: yes; Jason Morin: yes; Samy Sidhom: yes. Absent: none. Abstained: none. Opposed: none. Recused: none.

V. Changes to National Board of Respiratory Exam- 2027

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Morin stated that changes will be made to the Respiratory Exam in 2027. Mr. Morin stated that he felt it would be right to do all changes at one time due to the length of time the process takes, and would like to change the wording on some regulations, changes to the respiratory therapist examination, and review of all regulations.

VI. Flex Session:

DISCUSSION: Mr. Morin asked Mr. Joubert if there is potential for some improvement on the public notification process, and update the board seats. Mr. Sidhom agreed with Mr. Morin and stated he thinks it would be a good idea if the website had more information about how to become a potential board member, such as the duties and expectations as well as making it more transparent and inclusive. Mr. Joubert stated that staff will update the website.

Mr. Morin asked if there has been any conversation about going back to in person meetings? Ms. Strachan stated that there has been no conversations recently and there has been no change to the law permanently but is extended till March 2023. Ms. Strachan stated that people prefer remote and works better for their schedules, but no official discussion has been made.

A. Topics for Next Session:

None.

VII. Executive Session:

The Executive Session Notice was read by Mr. Morin.

ACTION:

Motion to move to executive session by Mr. Beal , seconded by Dr. Bloom and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: William Beal: yes; Brian Bloom: yes; Jason Morin: yes; Samy Sidhom: yes. Absent: none. Abstained: none. Opposed: none. Recused: none.

VIII. Adjournment:

The Board adjourned at 2:09PM.

The next meeting of the Board of Respiratory Care is scheduled for September 15, 2022

Respectfully submitted:
Board of Respiratory Care