

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Profession Licensure
Board of Registration of Respiratory Care
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108**

**July 18th, 2024
Via WebEx**

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES (OPEN SESSION)

Board Members Brian Bloom, MD
 Jason Morin, Respiratory Therapist, Board Chair
 Daniel Fisher, Respiratory Therapist, Board Chair
 Meaghan Kaplan, Consumer
 Adrian Velasquez, MD

Board Members
not present: Mr. William Beal, Consumer

Staff Present: Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
 Tracy Tam, Assistant Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
 Kayla Mikalauski, Management Analyst, Multi-Boards, BHPL
 Danielle Macfarland, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
 Alexandra Datalo, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
 Mireilly Montanez, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
 Meghan Bresnahan, Board Counsel

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

Mr. Jason Morin, Board Chair, called the General Session of the Board of Registration of Respiratory Care meeting to order at 1:07 pm, and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum. Mr. Jason Morin: present; Dr. Brian Bloom: present; Ms. Meaghan Kaplan: present; Dr. Adrian Velasquez: present.

Absent: Mr. William Beal, Mr. Daniel Fisher

II. Conflict of Interest | Approval of Agenda

Discussion:

None

Action:

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Dr. Brian Bloom, seconded by Ms. Meaghan Kaplan, and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Mr. Jason Morin: approve; Dr. Brian Bloom: approve; Ms. Meaghan Kaplan: approve; Dr. Adrian Velasquez: approve.

Absent: Mr. William Beal, Mr. Daniel Fisher

Document: July 18th, 2024, General Session Agenda

III. Approval of Executive Session Minutes

The General Session Minutes for June 20th, 2024, were reviewed for approval.

Discussion:

None

Action:

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Brian Bloom, seconded by Ms. Meaghan Kaplan, and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Mr. Jason Morin: approve; Dr. Brian Bloom: approve; Ms. Meaghan Kaplan: approve; Dr. Adrian Velasquez: approve.

Absent: Mr. William Beal, Mr. Daniel Fisher

Document: June 20th, 2024, General Session Minutes

IV. Triage: N/A

V. Flex Session:

Mr. Steven Joubert asked the Board who will be in attendance for the next Respiratory meeting. Dr. Adrian Velasquez stated he would not be in attendance. Mr. Jason Morin stated he may have a possible conflict, but the matter has not been scheduled. Dr. Brian Bloom stated he would be in attendance. Mr. Steven Joubert stated the meeting will be moved from August 15th to August 29th so the Board would make Quorum.

Mr. Steven Joubert addressed the conversation on June 20th regarding Telehealth advisory guidance. Ms. Meghan Bresnahan has been working on this matter although the advisory is not complete. Ms. Meghan Bresnahan stated the advisory will be complete within the next month or 2 to be presented to the board. Mr. Steven Joubert addressed the item D, regarding transcripts from the Closed Schools' discussion. Mr.

Steven Joubert stated that this matter was mentioned to senior leaders and other executive directors that were present at meeting. Mr. Steven Joubert stated that these matters would be handled on a case-by-case basis because this is not an occurrence that does not happen regularly.

Mr. Steven Joubert stated the next item on the agenda is Respiratory Care Compact licensure. Mr. Jason Morin stated the Respiratory Care compact is driven by the American Association for Respiratory Care. Mr. Steven Joubert stated it is an initiative to simplify the process where if a Licensee is licensed and is in good standing in one state then, there would be a mechanism for reciprocity to get licensure in another state. Mr. Jason Morin asked the Board members if this was a process that Massachusetts would like to adopt or a similar measure to get Licensee's licensed in the Commonwealth. Dr. Brian Bloom stated he has no reservations against this. Dr. Brian Bloom stated that the Board would have to look further into details regarding scenarios of misconduct. Mr. Jason Morin stated there has to be a mechanism where licensees with any misconduct or reprimand can be identified and is transpirable between the states. Mr. Jason Morin stated he does not know how they would transfer information back to Massachusetts if there was an issue with the license. Mr. Jason Morin stated he would be not mind doing any outreach to obtain this information. Ms. Meaghan Kaplan asked would we have access to look at the out of states Board to make sure these licensees are in good standing? Mr. Steven Joubert stated this would be a matter that we would put in the amended regulations if we were ever to adopt Reciprocity or contact licensure. Mr. Steven Joubert stated the Board of Nursing Home Administrators are also looking to adopt this policy regarding Reciprocity and contact licensure. Mr. Steven Joubert stated Massachusetts has their own regulations so if a licensee has an issue on their out-of-state license and then comes to Massachusetts then we still have the authority to discipline them. Mr. Jason Morin stated do applicants need to report any pending disciplinary actions out-of-state when applying to Massachusetts? Mr. Steven Joubert stated they would have to disclose that information. Mr. Steven Joubert stated the matter would be heard as a GMC issue and then the Board would decide whether to approve the case or whether to carry the same penalties from another licensing authority. Mr. Jason Morin stated there would be two ways we could approach the Reciprocity and Respiratory Care Compact issue. Mr. Jason Morin stated that we could sign on to the compact that exist, or we could Build our own Reciprocity. Ms. Meaghan Kaplan stated that any process that would get more qualified Respiratory Therapist in front of patients is ideal.

Mr. Daniel Fisher entered the meeting at 1:25 pm.

Mr. Jason Morin asked Mr. Steven Joubert if we wanted to explore Reciprocity, is one way simpler than another? Mr. Steven Joubert stated with this juncture we need more discussion and more study of both options. Mr. Steven Joubert stated that we would need to look at regulations and do some independent research and he could compile that information to collaborate with Board Council, Communication Directors, and Senior Directors. Mr. Steven Joubert stated we would need to gather more data to identify the

best course of action and then put it on the agenda. Ms. Meghan Bresnahan stated there is a lot that goes into joining a compact. Ms. Meghan Bresnahan stated this type of issue has been discussed at the Nursing Board meetings because there is a Nurse licensure compact such as this one in place for the Board of Nursing. Ms. Meghan Bresnahan stated we would need to discuss the pros and cons, and we could potentially reach out to National Center for Interstate Compact who organized the presentation for the Board of Nursing. Ms. Meghan Bresnahan stated we could invite them to our general session so they could give an overview of the process to have a better idea of what the compact would entail. Mr. Jason Morin stated he would also reach out the AARC to see if there is a point person for the compact on their end and invite them to our next general session.

VI. Executive Session: N/A

VII. Adjournment:

Action:

Motion to adjourn the General Session made by Dr. Brian Bloom, seconded Mr. Daniel Fisher, and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Mr. Jason Morin: adjourn; Dr. Brian Bloom: adjourn; Mr. Daniel Fisher: adjourn; Ms. Meaghan Kaplan: adjourn; Dr. Adrian Velasquez: adjourn.

Absent: Mr. William Beal

Let the record show that the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

The Board of Registration of Respiratory Care