

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108
BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY
May 18, 2023

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES (OPEN SESSION)

Board Members

Present:

William Beal, Board Vice Chair
Dr. Brian Bloom, MD, Board Member
Jason Morin, RT, Board Chair
Jason Moury, RT Board Member

Board Members

not present:

Vanessa Gomes, RT Board Member

Staff Present:

Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Catherine Goldrick, Assistant Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Heather Engman, Chief Board Counsel
Kayla Mikalauski, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Sarah Constantino, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Tracy Tam, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL

- I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum | Notice of Electronic Recording
Mr. Jason Morin, Board Chair called the General session of the meeting to order at 1:07PM and asked for a roll call attendance. William Beal: Present; Brian Bloom: Present; Jason Morin: Present. Jason Moury: Present
Absent: Vanessa Gomes
- II. Conflict of Interest | Approval of Agenda
Board members were asked to approve the General Session agenda if there were no conflicts of interest regarding the items on the agenda. None are noted.

DISCUSSION:

None

III.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the agenda as written 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 Jason Moury: yes

Absent: Vanessa Gomes

DOCUMENT: May 18, 2023, Executive Session Agenda

IV.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the April 20 Regular Session Minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None.

V.

ACTION:

Motion to approve April 20, 2023, General Session Minutes made 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 Jason Moury: yes

Absent: Vanessa Gomes

DOCUMENT: April 20, 2023, Regular Session Minutes

VI.

OPEN INVESTIGATIONS:

N/A

VII.

Scope of Practice Question

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Joubert stated that he received an email inquiry from a Director of a hospital in the North Shore asking if using an ultrasound machine when inserting an A-line was within the scope of practice? Mr. Moury stated that the practice of inserting an A-line has been approved by the board in the past, using specialized equipment such as an ultrasound machine to aid in the placement should be based by the competency of the individual and by facility to facility. Dr. Bloom stated it is not the normal for a Respiratory Therapist to insert an A-line, however, there should be nothing prohibited in using an ultrasound. Mr. Moury stated in Massachusetts not every facility is specialized in A-line insertions, and when they are mostly the Physician will insert. Dr. Bloom stated that hospitals that are specialized in inserting A-lines, especially ones that have an ICU, should not be

prohibited in letting a specialized Respiratory Therapist, who has the appropriate credentials, in using an ultrasound machine.

Mr. Beal asked does the board let the specialties' fall under the general licenses, and let the hospitals decide? Or does the board need to approve a specialty license for something like this? Dr. Bloom stated he believes that it is not necessary to do another advanced therapy license. Stating a general license and then the hospitals doing advanced credentialing is fine. Mr. Moury agreed.

Mr. Morin asked if the board has to put something in writing for this? Ms. Engman stated that Steven and herself can craft an appropriate answer to respond to this email inquiry. Mr. Morin stated he believes that there should be a clause stating that this is for an advanced Respiratory Therapist and not just any Respiratory Therapist that is hired. Ms. Engman stated that she agreed, and since this is a one-off question that came in through email, a formal advisory is not necessary to be sent out at this time. All board members agreed.

VIII. Flex Session

Mr. Joubert stated that the only topic he has in flex session is that he is working on a PowerPoint presentation regarding the policy and procedures for Respiratory Therapists to send out to Universities to help with questions they may have. Mr. Joubert stated once completed he will bring to the board for review.

Mr. Joubert asked who will be in attendance for the June meeting? At this time, all members will be present besides Mr. Morin.

Mr. Morin asked what the conclusion for the Limited License expiration date, that was spoke about the previous month. Mr. Joubert stated that he believes the expiration date should stay as is, and operationally the staff can extend them to the summer months if need be, such as instead of a may expiration the staff can extend to June or July. Mr. Morin stated since it is a 2-year expiration from the issuance, would it be easier to have all licenses just expire in July of the second year? Mr. Joubert stated that formally the board would have to go into the regulations, and it would be easier to just operationally move the expiration date if necessary. All members agreed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to move into Executive Session made by Dr. Brian Bloom, seconded by Mr. William Beal and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: William Beal: yes; Brian Bloom: yes; Jason Morin: yes Jason Moury: yes
Absent: Vanessa Gomes

The general session adjourned at 1:35PM.