

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

Thursday, October 29, 2020
2:30 PM
Via WebEx

239 Causeway Street
Room 417 A/B
Boston, MA 02114

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Martha DeSilva, RT, Board Chair
Jason Moury, RT, Vice-Chair
Essam Ansari, MD, Board Member
Amy Keenan, RN, Board Member

Board Members
not present: None

Staff Present: Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Karen Geoghegan, Assistant Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, BHPL
Walens Noel, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL

I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum | Notice of Electronic Recording
Members present via WebEx via roll-call:

Executive Director, Mr. Steven Joubert, called the meeting to order at 2:45p.m. He reminded those present via WebEx that the meeting was being recorded. Board members stated their names for the record. A quorum of the Board of Respiratory Care was established with members present via WebEx as follows: Martha DeSilva: present; Jason Moury: present; Essam Ansari: present; Amy Keenan: present. Absent: none.

II. Conflict of Interest | Approval of Agenda
The open session meeting agenda was reviewed.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Joubert asked the Board members to review the general session agenda and disclose if there were any conflicts of interest regarding the items on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Mr. Jason Moury, seconded by Ms. Martha DeSilva and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Martha DeSilva: yes; Jason Moury: yes; Essam Ansari: yes; Amy Keenan: yes. Absent: None. Abstained: None; Opposed: None; Recused: None.

DOCUMENT:

October 29, 2020 Regular Session Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Moury pointed out a typographical error under Item III.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the September 25, 2020 minutes with edits made by Ms. DeSilva, seconded by Mr. Moury and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Martha DeSilva: yes; Jason Moury: yes; Essam Ansari: yes; Amy Keenan: yes. Absent: None. Abstained: None; Opposed: None; Recused: None.

DOCUMENT:

September 25, 2020 General Session Minutes

IV. Template for Fines:

DISCUSSION:

Board Counsel, Ms. Mary Strachan, presented Ms. Vita Berg's memo to the Board. She explained that, per M.G.L. chapter 112 § 65B, the Board has the authority to levy fines as a means of discipline if a Licensee is found to be practicing after their license has been either suspended, surrendered, or revoked. Per M.G.L chapter § 65A, the Board has the authority to fine someone who is practicing prior to receiving a license in Massachusetts. She explained a few scenarios where this has been implemented before.

ACTION:

Motion to implement the template for fines made by Ms. DeSilva, seconded by Mr. Moury and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Martha DeSilva: yes; Jason Moury: yes; Essam Ansari: yes; Amy Keenan: yes. Absent: None. Abstained: None; Opposed: None; Recused: None.

V. CEU Standardization

Standard for accepting CEUs for Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)

At the last Board meeting, Board members asked for clarification about whether the Board of Respiratory Care awards CEU credits for CPR, Advanced CPR, PALS, and Neonatal Resuscitation, and if so, how many credits? Board member Jason Moury noted that this issue has caused great

confusion for Licensees and that he reviewed what some other states do. Board Counsel researched the issue and presented her findings to the Board. Ms. Strachan stated that the regulations say that certification or recertification in Basic Life Support does not qualify as continuing education. The regulations are silent as to ACLS, PALS and NRP. She also reviewed a policy that was adopted by the Board in 2008 that reiterates the regulations and notes that the Board *may* award CEUs for Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support but the policy does not state how many CEUs the Board will award for these courses. Lastly, Ms. Strachan reviewed the American Heart Association (AHA) standards and the AARC standards for guidance. For ACLS, the AHA awards 6.50 CE and for PALS, AHA awards 3.75 CE. AARC awards 20 CE for NRP or NPS. Ms. Strachan recommended that the Board provide clarity to Licensees by awarding a specific number of CE credits for each course and adopt the number put forward by the experts (AHA and AARC).

DISCUSSION

Mr. Moury explained that he agreed with most of the recommendations but made a clarification to bullet point three. He explained that NPS is a credential for Neonatal Pediatric Specialist ~~and recommended not awarding CEUs for it.~~ He additionally noted that he did not believe that 20 CEUs was a good representation for NRP as it is required for most any Respiratory Therapist who works in a hospital with a maternity setting. He recommended 9 CEU credits for this course, every other renewal cycle, as the course consists of repeated information.

Ms. Strachan stated that she would draft an amendment to the Board's policy and would bring it to them for review at the next meeting.

ACTION:

Motion to adopt the following CEU standardization: 6.5 CEUs for ACLS, 3.75 CEUs for PALS, and 9 CEUs every other renewal cycle for NRP and to amend Board policy RC-08-01 *Continuing Education Credits for Examination Preparatory Courses in Advanced Level Specialties*. meeting by Mr. Moury, seconded by Ms. DeSilva and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Martha DeSilva: yes; Jason Moury: yes; Essam Ansari: yes; Amy Keenan: yes. Absent: None. Abstained: None; Opposed: None; Recused: None.

DOCUMENT:

Memo to Board Members from Board Counsel.

VI. Change to CEU Requirement

Ms. Strachan presented the alert that she had written to Respiratory Therapists, advising them of the new CEU requirements for renewal. She let the Board know that the alert is now live on the website.

DISCUSSION:

None.

ACTION:

None.

VII. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2021

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Joubert let the Board know that with expected departures and attendance challenges, Board staff is proposing that the Board of Respiratory Care change the day of the week that they meet in 2021. He told the Board that the available dates were Monday, Thursdays, or Fridays. Ms. DeSilva stated that she preferred Thursdays and Ms. Amy Keenan confirmed her availability. Board staff determined that the third Thursday of the month worked with the conference room schedule.

ACTION:

Motion to hold the 2021 Board of Respiratory Care meetings on the third Thursday of each month by Ms. DeSilva, seconded by Ms. Keenan and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Martha DeSilva: yes; Jason Moury: yes; Essam Ansari: yes; Amy Keenan: yes. Absent: None. Abstained: None; Opposed: None; Recused: None.

VIII. Open Investigations: N/A

IX. Flex Session

A. Announcements

In celebration of Respiratory Therapists Week, the Board congratulated all Respiratory Therapists and thanked them for all that they do, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

X. Executive Session

Ms. DeSilva announced that the Board would meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1) for the purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than the professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Specifically, the Board would discuss and evaluate the Good Moral Character provisions of certain applications as required for registration for pending applicants. Specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of licensee(s) relevant to their petitions for license status change. In addition, the Board will consider approval of prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, § 22(f) for sessions held during for previous executive sessions of the Board. The Board would not reconvene in open session subsequent to the closed session(s).

ACTION:

Motion to enter into Executive Session made by Ms. DeSilva, seconded by Mr. Moury and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Martha DeSilva: yes; Jason Moury: yes; Essam Ansari: yes; Amy Keenan: yes. Absent: None. Abstained: None; Opposed: None; Recused: None.

DOCUMENT:

None.

XI. Adjournment:

The Board did not reconvene following Executive Session.

The next meeting of the Board of Respiratory Care is scheduled for **November 17, 2020.**

Respectfully submitted:

Board of Respiratory Care