

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

**THIS AGENDA CONSTITUTES NOTICE OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS  
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING LAW, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20**

**Thursday, November 10, 2016  
9:30 a.m.**

**239 Causeway Street ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Floor ~ Room 417 A/B  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114**

**AGENDA**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item #</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Documents</b>	<b>Staff Contact</b>
9:30 a.m.	<b>I</b>	<b>Call to Order Determination of Quorum</b>		
	<b>II</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	Draft Agenda	
	<b>III</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest</b>		
	<b>IV</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> A. September 8, 2016, Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Draft Minutes	
	<b>V</b>	<b>Speaker</b> A. Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH		

	<b>VI</b>	<b>Inquires</b> A. PA Scope of Practice, submitted by John W. O’Brien, Senior Counsel, Office of Counsel to the Inspector General. US Department of Health and Human Services.	E-mail Inquiry	MS
	<b>VII</b>	<b>Regulatory Mandates</b> A. Approved course for licensure renewal pursuant to Chapter 52 of the Acts of 2016, Section 22. Boston University-Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing for Chronic Pain.  B. Approved course for Domestic and Sexual Violence Training pursuant to MGL c 260, §9 of the Acts of 2014.  C. Death Certificate Advisory and CLE requirements pursuant to Chapter 133 § 48 of the Acts of 2016 amended M.G.L.c. 46 § 9. This change in state law authorizes physician assistants to sign death certificates effective July 1, 2016.	Board Memo  Board Memo  Draft Advisory	MS  MS  MS
	<b>VIII</b>	<b>Investigations</b> <u>Complaints</u> A. SA-INV-5770, Vaughn, Paula		
	<b>IX</b>	<b>Flex Session</b> A. OPP Status Report B. Topics for next agenda	Report	RC

10:00 a.m.	<b>X</b>	<p><b>Executive Session</b>  The Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) and (3) 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, and to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as a public discussion may have a detrimental effect on the Board's position.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the <u>Good Moral Character</u> provision of an application or applications as required for registration.</li> <li>2. Specifically, the Board will discuss complaints or charges brought against a Licensee or Licensees.</li> <li>3. Finally, 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.</li> </ol> <p><b>The Board will not reconvene in public session subsequent to the executive session.</b></p>	Closed Session	
12:00 p.m.	<b>XI</b>	<b>Adjournment</b> - next Board meeting scheduled for December 8, 2016		

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**  
**BOARD MEETING**

**November 10, 2016**  
**239 Causeway Street, Room 417**  
**Boston, MA 02114**

**MINUTES**

Board Members

Present:

Dipu Patel-Junankar, PA-C, Physician Assistant 1, Chair  
Laura Hilf, RN, MS, Public Member 1  
Brian Gorsuch, PA-C, Physician Assistant 2  
Paul Crehan, PA-C, Physician Assistant 4  
Richard Baum, MD, Massachusetts Medical Society  
Alithia Broderick, PA-C, Physician Assistant 3  
Robert Baginski, MD

Board Members

Not Present:

Shannon Sheridan-Geldart, PA-C, Physician Assistant, Educator

Staff Present:

Philip Beattie, Assistant Executive Director, MultiBoard, BHPL  
Rebecca Ferullo, Office Support Specialist, BHPL  
Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of General Counsel, DPH  
Timothy St. Laurent, Assistant Director, BHPL

I. Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

A quorum of the Board was present. The Board Chair, Ms. Patel-Junankar, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda

The Meeting Agenda was reviewed.

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Ms. Hilf made a motion to approve the agenda; Mr. Gorsuch seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: November 10, 2016 Board Meeting Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 8, 2016 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting were reviewed.

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Mr. Crehan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Gorsuch seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: September 8, 2016 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes

IV. Inquiry

A. PA Scope of Practice, submitted by John W. O'Brien, Senior Counsel, Office of Counsel to the Inspector General. US Department of Health and Human Services.

DISCUSSION: Board members reviewed the inquiry regarding whether or not PAs can perform urogynecology procedures and discussed that it is covered by the scope of practice agreement.

ACTION: None

Document: E-mail Inquiry

V. Investigations

A. SA-INV-5770, Vaughn, Paula

DISCUSSION: A complaint was submitted against the licensee for practicing under a podiatrist. She was previously told by the Division of Professional Licensure that this was okay. She then checked with the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure and was told a podiatrist cannot be a supervising physician. She has since that time changed her supervising physician to someone licensed by the MA Board of Registration in Medicine. Ms. Vaughn previously had a staff assignment closed with reprimand.

ACTION: Dr. Baum made a motion to dismiss the complaint; Mr. Crehan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: None

VI. Flex Session

A. OPP Status Report

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beattie informed Board members that staff is currently working on twelve cases, all of which are from 2016.

ACTION: None

Document: None

B. Topics for next agenda

DISCUSSION: Ms. Patel-Junankar inquired about the timeline for pending applications.

ACTION: None

Document: None

VII. Regulatory Mandates

A. Approved course for licensure renewal pursuant to Chapter 52 of the Acts of 2016, Section 22. Boston University-Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing for Chronic Pain.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Strachan informed the Board that DPH is currently working to develop courses to meet this requirement, but at this time it is suggested that licensees use the course available through Boston University. Ms. Patel-Junankar suggested that the Board find another option to recommend as well because the BU course only provides 2 CMEs. She also asked if category II CMEs were acceptable for this requirement. Board members would like to include language to allow half the required opioid prescribing CMEs to be category II.

ACTION: Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to accept the course with the changes discussed; Mr. Crehan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: Board Memo

B. Approved course for Domestic and Sexual Violence Training pursuant to MGL c 260, §9 of the Acts of 2014.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Strachan informed Board members that the training has not yet been developed and that PAs will not be held responsible while it is not available, and updates will be posted to the website.

ACTION: Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to approve the language; Mr. Crehan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: None

C. Death Certificate Advisory and CLE requirements pursuant to Chapter 133 § 48 of the Acts of 2016 amended M.G.L.c. 46 § 9. This change in state law authorizes physician assistants to sign death certificates effective July 1, 2016.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Strachan presented the Board with a draft advisory regarding the new law allowing PAs to sign death certificates. Training and coding will be required and the links for this information are in the advisory.

ACTION: Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to approve the language; Mr. Crehan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: None

10:01am Break

10:10am Return

VIII. M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C Session (closed session)

IX. Speaker

A. Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH

DISCUSSION: Dr. Bharel spoke to Board members. She thanked them for their service on the Board, discussed her background in healthcare and asked each member to introduce themselves and state what is important to them on the Board. Dr. Baum asked about the legalization of marijuana after the recent election. Dr. Bharel discussed the next steps of looking in depth at what was approved with Question 4 and how it will work with the medical marijuana program. DPH will have a role.



She stated that a major concern will be reaching out to adolescents and making it clear it will be legal for individuals over 21, as well as its effects on the developing brain and links to other drug use. Ms. Patel-Junankar stated that she knows PAs and her students would like to be really involved in the development of public health. Dr. Bharel responded by discussing chapter 55 and the data that has been collected and used in new and important ways. She stated she would love to visit schools and discuss this, as students are the next wave of healthcare and very important. Ms. Patel-Junankar also inquired why the process of appointing new Board members is such a lengthy process. Dr. Bharel agreed that it can take a long time and she is working on improving DPH's portion of the process. Ms. Patel-Junankar also showed concern that many laws pass for nurses but not PAs and cause issues in practice. Ms. Strachan reminded Board members that they cannot lobby for legislature, but professional groups can. Ms. Patel-Junankar and Dr. Baum stated they wanted Dr. Bharel to be aware of these difficulties.

ACTION: None

Document: None

10:35am Dr. Bharel left

X. M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C Session (closed session)

XI. Executive Session (closed session)

At 10:45 a.m., Ms. Patel-Junankar announced that the Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) for the purpose 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, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

1. Specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the Good Moral Character as required for registration for pending applicants.
2. Specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of licensees relevant to their petitions for license status change.

3. Approval of prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. ch.30A, § 22(f) for sessions held during the March 10, 2016 meeting.

Dr. Baum made a motion to enter into Executive Session; Ms. Hilf seconded the motion; Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote with Board members present and voting in favor: Dr. Robert Baginski: yes; Mr. Paul Crehan: yes; Ms. Dipu Patel-Junankar: yes, Ms. Laura Hilf: yes; Mr. Brian Gorsuch: yes; Ms. Alithia Broderick: yes; Opposed: None Abstained: None Recused: None

## XII. Adjourn

There being no other business before the Board, Mr. Paul Crehan made a motion to adjourn the Meeting; Dr. Richard Baum seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at 239 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted:

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Dipu Patel-Junankar, PA-C, Chair

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Date