

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, June 11, 2015
9:30 a.m.**

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

AGENDA

Time	Item #	Item	Documents	Staff Contact
9:30 a.m.	I.	Call to Order Determination of Quorum		
	II.	Approval of Agenda	Draft Agenda	
	III.	Approval of Minutes A. May 14, 2015 Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Draft Minutes	

	IV.	Inquiries A. Are Collaborative Practice Agreements required for PAs in the state of MA? B. Are PAs allowed to order restrains? C. Are students who have graduated from a PA program, but awaiting conferring of the degree allowed to apply for licensure and work?	Email Inquiry Email Inquiry Email Inquiry	
	V.	Regulation A. Revision of 263 CMR 3.00 to add 3.07, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Training B. Review 263 CMR 3.01, 3.02, 3.03		VB/MS MS
	VI.	Board Members Education A. Overview of Board Powers	None	MS
	VII.	Other Business/Announcements A. <u>Discussion</u> : PA are not authorized to sign commitment papers (M.G.L.c. 123 §§ 12a, 12b) B. <u>Discussion</u> : Board staff review of PA Complaints	Copy of DMH statutes and regulations None	MS MP
	VIII.	Flex Session A. Topic for next agenda		

10:00 a.m.	VII.	<p>Executive Session 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 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.</p> <p>The Board will not reconvene in public session subsequent to the executive session.</p>	Closed Session	
10:15 a.m.	VIII.	M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C Session	Closed Session	
10:30 a.m.	IX.	Adjudicatory Session	Closed Session	
12:00 p.m.	XI.	Adjournment - next Board meeting scheduled for July 9, 2015		

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
BOARD MEETING

June 11, 2015
239 Causeway Street, Room 417
Boston, MA 02114

MINUTES

Board Members
Present: Dipu Patel-Junankar, PA-C, Physician Assistant 1, Chair
Miguel Valdez, PA-C, Physician Assistant 3, Vice-Chair
Laura Hilf, RN, MS, Public Member 1
Richard Baum, MD, Massachusetts Medical Society
Shannon Sheridan-Geldart, PA-C, Physician Assistant, Educator
Nicole Meregian, PA-C, Physician Assistant 2

Board Members
Not Present: Paul Crehan, PA-C, Physician Assistant 4

Staff Present: Mary Phillips, Executive Director, DHPL
Ichelle Herbu, Assistant Executive Director, DHPL
Rebecca Ferullo, Office Support Specialist, DHPL
Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of General Counsel, DPH
Marjorie Campbell, Investigator Supervisor, Office of Public
Protection, DHPL
Philip Beattie, Board Investigator, Office of Public Protection, DHPL

Guests: Richard Murphy, Director of Physician Assistants Program at Tufts University

- 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 9:29 a.m.
- II. Approval of the Agenda
The Meeting Agenda was reviewed.
- III. DISCUSSION: None

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

Document: June 11, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda

- IV. Approval of Minutes
Minutes of the May 14, 2015 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting were reviewed.

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Ms. Sheridan-Geldart made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Hilf seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: May 14, 2015 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes

V. Inquiries

A. Are Collaborative Practice Agreements required for PAs in the state of MA?

DISCUSSION: The Board answer is that if a PA is practicing in Massachusetts they are required to have Scope of Practice guidelines. These guidelines are an agreement developed between his/her supervising physician for all services for which a Physician Assistant may perform including invasive procedures.

ACTION: Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to have Staff respond to the inquiry. Mr. Valdez seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: Email Inquiry

B. Are Physician Assistants allowed to order restraints?

DISCUSSION: Ms. Strachan states that Physician Assistants are not legally allowed to “Section 12” (hospitalize a person against his or her will if s/he is suffering from a mental health condition that poses a threat of harm to the individual or another person). Ms. Sheridan-Geldart states that the inquiry is regarding a different situation – physically restraining a person. If a person is already under the care of a hospital or other facility, a PA should be able to order physical restraints. The Board stated that it is within the scope of practice for physician assistants to order physical restraints, however, the PA must know and understand the specific facility policies and procedures regarding restraints and comply with Board regulations governing the scope of practice and supervision required. The Scope of Practice guidelines between the physician assistant and the supervising physician should include the parameters and scope of supervision of the physician assistant regarding the use and order of restraints. Board members would like PAs to be authorized to commit a patient to a mental health facility if the PA determines that the individual is a threat to himself or others. Counsel explained that for this to happen, the PA groups would have to lobby for an amendment to the statute and then the PA Board would have to work with the DMH attorneys to ask for a change to DMH regulations.

ACTION: Dr. Baum made a motion to have Staff respond to the inquiry; Ms. Meregian seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: Email Inquiry

C. Are students who have completed their physician assistant program, but awaiting conferring of the degree allowed to apply for licensure and work?

DISCUSSION: There are some physician assistant schools that only confer a degree at certain times of the year. A student has not graduated from a program until they receive the diploma. The Board members discussed whether a letter from the registrar stating that the student has completed all requirements would be sufficient. Several Board members agreed it would be sufficient. The Board members discussed potential issues that may come up between the time a student completes

the program and when he or she is awarded a diploma to prevent the student from graduating, such as allegations of cheating. The Board's opinion is that in order to meet the requirements for licensure in accordance with the Board's laws and regulations, an applicant is required to submit satisfactory proof to the Board that he/she has graduated from a physician assistant program prior to licensure. A transcript has to show not only that the applicant has completed the requirements of a PA program, but was officially conferred the degree from a program to constitute having graduated.

ACTION: Dr. Baum made a motion to have Staff contact the person inquiring and explain the issues; Ms. Merejian seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: Email Inquiry

VI. Regulations

A. Revision of 263 CMR 3.00 to add 3.07, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Training

DISCUSSION: The Board was informed that laws recently enacted require physician assistants to take domestic and sexual violence training in order to be licensed as a PA in Massachusetts. This will require amendments to Board regulations and the language of the amendments is a work in progress. The Board will be updated about the training programs and be presented with regulatory amendments as soon as possible.

ACTION: None

Document: None

B. Review 263 CMR 3.01, 3.02, 3.03

DISCUSSION: 3.01 – (1) this language pertains to grandfathering those PAs who began practice before 1990/91. 263 CMR 3.01(2) is similar, and these should be combined (3) Stays as is. 3.02 – (1) remove (d), Supervising Physician not required. In 263 CMR 3.02(2) (2) change to “Bachelor’s degree or higher,” otherwise stays as is. 3.02(3) no change. 3.03 (1)(b) add “accredited by the ARC or its successor” before PA training program. Change 3.03(1)(e) to “valid form of payment.” 3.03(2) delete in its entirety. 3.03 (3) No change. 3.03(4) (a) add identity so it reads “any change in address or identity of applicant and delete “registrant and replace with licensee. 3.03(4) (b) shall read “any change in employer or employer’s address; 3.04(c) shall read “any change in supervising physician or supervising physician’s address. (d) delete in its entirety (. Ms. Strachan will provide the Board with redline draft of the regulations with the changes as discussed. Ms. Strachan asked if the Board would like to add a Standards of Conduct section. Ms. Strachan will bring an example of this section to the next meeting.

ACTION: None

Document: Copy of 263 CMR 3.01, 3.02, 3.03

VII. Executive Session (closed session)

At 10:09 a.m., Ms. Dipu 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 May 14, 2015.

Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 10:09 a.m.; Mr. Valdez seconded the motion; Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote with Board members present and voting in favor: Ms. Dipu Patel-Junankar: yes; Mr. Miguel Valdez: yes, Ms. Laura Hilf: yes; Ms. Nicole Meregian: yes; Ms. Sheridan-Geldart: yes; Dr. Richard Baum: yes; Opposed: None Abstained: None Recused: None

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 10:57 and entered into M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C Session.

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

Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to enter into M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C Session at 10:57 a.m. Ms. Laura Hilf seconded the motion; Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote with Board members present and voting in favor.

The Board adjourned the M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C Session at 11:00 a.m. and entered into Adjudicatory Session.

VIII. Adjudicatory Session (closed session)

Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to enter into Adjudicatory Session at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Laura Hilf seconded the motion; Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote with Board members present and voting in favor.

The Board adjourned the Adjudicatory Session at 11: 02 a.m. and resumed its Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting.

IX. Board Members Education

A. Overview of Board Powers

DISCUSSION: Ms. Strachan did a presentation to review the government agency structure, how it works, Board appointments and authority. Board Members Education will be an ongoing section on the agenda each month and will include topics related to the duties and responsibilities of Board members. .

ACTION: None

Document: None

X. Other Business/Announcements

A. Discussion: PA are not authorized to sign commitment papers (M.G.L.c. 123 §§ 12a, 12b)

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: None

Document: Copy of DMH statutes and regulations

B. Discussion: Board staff review of PA Complaints

DISCUSSION: The Board would like to track complaints and look for trends. The Board believes they could use this knowledge to focus on certain issues when speaking to schools. The board would like staff to start by looking at the last 5 years. The summary will not include personal information. The Board would also like to track what kind of complaint (lapsed license, substance abuse, etc.), what program the licensee attended, and location of the incident.

ACTION: Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to have Staff start collecting the data discussed; Ms. Hilf seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: None

XI. Flex Session

A. Topic for next agenda

DISCUSSION: Ms. Patel-Junankar and Mr. Valdez were contacted by email regarding a group trying to organize a task force made up of representatives from all 50 states, to create national standards/requirements for PA licensure.

ACTION: The topic will be added to the July 9, 2015 agenda.

Document: None

XII. Adjourn

There being no other business before the Board, Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to adjourn the Meeting; Ms. Sheridan-Geldart seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at 239 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted:

Dipu Patel-Junankar, PA-C, Chair

Date