

## **IOWA BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

July 28, 2021

Lucas State Office Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room #526

Des Moines, IA

### **Open Session Meeting Minutes**

**The Board meeting was hosted virtually and in-person at the Lucas Building, 5th Floor, Conference Room 525. Instructions for virtual attendance through ZOOM were provided on the agenda.**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Gentry, Chairperson.

#### **Roll Call**

##### **Members Present**

Michael Schnurr, PA-C

Melissa Gentry, PA-C

Kevin de Regnier, D.O.

Peter Stopulos, Public Member

Laura Delaney, PA-C

Daniel Craig, PA-C

Nick Boeyink, Public Member

Natalie Weber, PA-C

##### **Members Absent**

None.

##### **Staff Present**

Susan Reynolds, Executive Officer

Tessa Register, Assistant Attorney General

Steve Garrison, Bureau Chief

Beth Jorgenson, Discipline Coordinator

Vicky Winter-Clearman, Assistant to Board Administration

##### **Guests Present**

Linda Theisen, University of Iowa

Emma Hester, UIHC

##### **Election of Officers**

Chair

Schnurr moved the nomination of Gentry as Board Chair. A second was received by Delaney. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Vice Chair

Delaney moved the nomination of Schnurr as Board Vice Chair. A second was received by Stopulos. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Craig disconnected from the teleconference at 9:17 a.m.

### **Approval of Open Session Meeting Minutes**

**April 28, 2021**

de Regnier moved approval of the open session meeting minutes of April 28, 2021, as presented. A second was received by Schnurr. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

### **Executive Officer Report, Susan Reynolds**

Reynolds reported Bureau employees were permitted to return to the office on July 1, 2021. In-person attendance for board members will be optional. Effective August 1, 2021, lodging reimbursement rates for in-state travel for board members will be reimbursed at the new increase rates of \$120.

### **Board Chair Report, Melissa Gentry**

Gentry spoke on the Board member per diem, mileage and lodging reimbursement rates. She also noted the board is down an MD board member. If anyone knows of a MD who works with PA's, and is interested in serving on the Board, they need to contact the Governor's office.

### **Assistant Attorney General Report, Tessa Register**

#### **Proclamation Update**

AAG Register provided an update that several PA-related Proclamation provisions had expired, including practicing on a recently lapsed license. PAs should plan to renew their licenses as normal and any PAs practicing on a lapsed license must reactivate by September 23. If a licensee has a hardship with complying with any rules they make seek a waiver.

Gentry requested Reynolds to send an email to IPAS with the changes in the membership information. AAG Register said the guidance document will be updated and posted on the Board's webpage.

Craig rejoined the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

### **Bureau Chief Report, Steve Garrison**

### Priority fee adjustments and comparison research

Garrison reported that the Bureau has previously attempted to raise fees several times over the last decade to keep the Board solvent. The Bureau has only maintained solvency through maintaining vacancies. At their last meeting, the Board requested comparative research from the surrounding states. The last attempt made by the Board in 2018, proposed an initial fee increase of \$130, which is the average initial PA license cost for surrounding states. Currently due to lack of funds the board members cannot attend out-of-state conferences, and it would be good to get the Board back on the national level. The Board also discussed the budget's impact on disciplinary investigations. The discussion was tabled and deemed necessary to proceed further in closed session, pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(g).

Garrison also reported the Bureau discontinued their Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Inspections and Appeals and an offer is out to hire an investigator internally with a start date of September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Administrative Rules**

Notice to Adopt and File ARC 5555C, IAC 645 – Chapter 327 “Practice of Physician Assistant” that establishes standards of practice for physician assistants who provide patient care through telemedicine.

Gentry requested one change from the Noticed version to avoid a situation where the rules could somehow be used to prohibit Medicare reimbursement for telephonic visits. AAG Register proposed a change to the definition of “telemedicine,” to provide “Telemedicine, for the purposes of this rule establishing standards of practice, does not include...” Board consensus was to proceed with adopting the rules with this change, as it is a non-substantive change intended to expressly clarify that the rules merely establish the standard of care for audiovisual telemedicine visits and do not apply to telephonic conversations with patients.

Schnurr moved the Board approve the Notice to Adopt and File ARC 5555C, IAC 645 – Chapter 327 “Practice of Physician Assistant” as amended that establishes standards of practice for physician assistants who provide patient care through telemedicine. A second was received by Delaney. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Reynolds noted the rules will become effective on September 29, 2021, provided they are filed by August 6, 2021.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Closed Session**

## **Review Closed Session Minutes**

April 28, 2021

Schnurr moved the board go into closed session at 9:48 a.m. pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1) (a), to review or discuss records which are required or authorized by state or federal law to be kept confidential, pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(d), to discuss whether to whether to initiate licensee disciplinary investigations or proceedings as allowed under Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(d) to discuss whether to initiate licensee disciplinary investigations or proceedings, and pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(f) to discuss the decision to be rendered in a contested case conducted according to the provisions of Chapter 17A. A second was received by de Regnier. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Schnurr – Aye

Gentry – Aye

de Regnier – Aye

Stopulos – Aye

Delaney – Aye

Craig – Aye

Weber – Aye

Boeyink - Aye

Motion carried.

## **Open Session to vote on items discussed in closed session**

The Board returned to open session at 10:44 a.m.

Craig rejoined the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Schnurr moved the Board approve the closed session meeting minutes of April 27, 2021 as amended. A second was received by Delaney. Abstained none, all ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Schnurr moved the Board close 20-0245, 21-0005, 21-0033, 21-0043 and 21-0160. A second was received by de Regnier. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

## **Board Meetings**

October 27, 2021

January 26, 2022

April 27, 2022

July 27, 2022

October 26, 2022

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Schnurr to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. A second was received by de Regnier. All ayes, opposed none, motion carried.