

A Message from the Chair...

Welcome to the latest edition of the *News from the Board*, and many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the production of it. It is truly a pleasure to collaborate with the very talented board and staff members of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice.

Vermont was represented at the annual meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) a few months ago by four present and former members and staff. David Herlihy - Executive Director, Pat Hunter - Public Member, Patricia A. King, MD, PhD - former Board Chair, and myself - PA-C member and current Board Chair, attended and participated in many activities.



The Board would like to take a moment to recognize Patricia A. King, MD, PhD, who has been elected to the position of Chair-Elect of the FSMB. We are proud of her accomplishment and know she will continue to provide excellent leadership when she ascends to Chair in 2018.

The FSMB provides many model policies and briefs utilized by state medical boards and serves as a valuable resource to the Board. Each year, the sitting Chair of the FSMB selects a signature issue. In 2016-2017, then Chair Art Hendenger, MD, made physician burnout a focus. The 2017 meeting featured several informative sessions on what has come to be recognized as a growing problem. What is burnout? Burnout is defined as an “experience of physical, emotional and mental exhaustion caused by long term involvement in situations that are emotionally demanding. Of the three components to burnout: 1) physical and emotional exhaustion, 2) depersonalization and 3) lack of personal accomplishment, it is depersonalization, which is a tendency to view patients as less than individuals and where situations become part of a routine, that would seem most critical in providing medical services to patients. As the charge of the BOMP is to provide for public safety and welfare, this component is of particular interest and is highlighted in one of the newsletter articles “Expansion of the Vermont Practitioner Health Program (VPHP)”. The Board is pleased to have the additional capacity of behavior and mental health services added to the existing substance use/abuse component of VPHP.

Also in this edition of *News from the Board* is an informative article about Physician Assistant participation in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs, adding to the workforce able to treat this patient population. Other articles, designed to update licensees on the ever-changing landscape of medicine and medical regulation, include the 2017 Rule Governing the Prescribing of Opioids for Pain, Findings of the Continuing Medical Education Audit, and updates from the Vermont Department of Health.

The Board strives to make the newsletter relevant and valuable to our licensees, and welcomes feedback and suggestions for future articles.

Best Regards,
William K. Hoser, MS, PA-C