

VERMONT BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE
Minutes of the March 6, 2019 Board Meeting
Gifford Medical Center, Randolph, Vermont

Approved

1. Call to Order; Call the Roll; Acknowledge Guests:

William K. Hoser, PA-C, called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m.

Members Present:

Richard Bernstein, MD; Brent Burgee, MD; Richard Clattenburg, MD; Allen Evans; David Liebow, DPM; Sarah McClain; Christine Payne, MD; Judy Rosenstreich; Ryan Sexton, MD; Marga Sproul, MD; Gillian L. Stearns-Parr, MD; Robert E. Tortolani, MD.

Others in Attendance:

David Herlihy, Executive Director; Paula Nenninger, Investigator; Scottie Frennier, Board Investigator; Karen LaFond, Operations Administrator; Margaret Vincent, AAG; Lindsay Browning, AAG; Bill Reynolds, AAG; George Belcher, Esq.

2. Public Comment:

None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the February 6, 2019 Board Meetings:

Dr. Liebow moved to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2019 meeting. Dr. Bernstein seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

4. Board Issues (Mr. Hoser):

Appoint Member to the Medical Marijuana Review Board: Dr. Liebow made a motion to appoint Simha Ravven MD to the Medical Marijuana Review Board for a one-year term, pursuant to 18 VSA § 4473(b)(5). Dr. Stearns seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

Mr. Hoser mentioned that he will be attending the annual Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) next month and Mr. Herlihy and Ms. Hunter will also be in attendance.

5. Administrative Update (Mr. Herlihy):

Mr. Herlihy welcomed the new members: Robert Tortolani, MD and Judy Rosenstreich, and noted that Rick Hildebrant, MD has also been appointed to the

Board. Dr. Tortolnai and Dr. Hildebrant will serve on the South Investigative Committee and Ms. Rosenstreich will serve on the Central Investigative Committee.

6. Presentation of Applications:

Applications for physician and physician assistant licensure were presented and acted upon as detailed in Appendix A, incorporated by reference into these minutes.

7. Presentations to the Board:

None

8. Recess; Convene hearing to discuss any stipulations or disciplinary matters that are before the Board:

- **In re: John Merrill Severinghaus – MPN 135-0916 – Voluntary Temporary Limitation of Practice**

Hearing Officer Belcher presided over the hearing. Ms. Browning addressed the Board, summarizing the facts leading up to the Voluntary Limitation of Practice. Dr. Payne made a motion to approve the Voluntary Limitation of Practice. Mr. Hoser seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: Dr. Tortolani, Ms. Rosenstreich, Ms. McClain, and Central Investigative Committee.

9. Reconvene meeting; Executive Session to Discuss:

- **Investigative cases recommended for closure**
- **Other matters that are confidential by law, if any**

The Board began discussion of this topic out of order, before the scheduled time for the beginning of the public hearing. Ms. McClain made a motion at 12:43 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential matters related to investigations. Dr. Liebow seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

Ms. McClain made a motion at 1:06 p.m. to return to Open Session. Dr. Liebow seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

Dr. Sexton made a motion to return to executive session at 1:14 p.m. to continue the discussion of confidential matters related to investigations. Dr. Tortolani

seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

10. Return to Open Session; Board Actions on matters discussed in Executive Session:

Dr. Liebow made a motion at 1:35 p.m. to return to Open Session. Ms. McClain seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

Ms. McClain, North Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPN 090-0818 – Letter #1
MPN 002-0119 – Letter #1; Dr. Sexton recused
MPN 133-1118

Dr. Sexton made a motion to close the cases presented. Dr. Tortolani seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: 1 and North Investigative Committee.

Dr. Sexton, Central Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPC 134-1118 – Special Letter #1
MPC 094-0918 – Special Letter #1
MPC 138-1118 – Special Letter #1
MPC 156-1218 – Special Letter #1
MPC 139-1118 – Special Letter #1

Ms. McClain made a motion to close the cases presented. Dr. Stearns seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: Central Investigative Committee.

Dr. Liebow, South Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPS 150-1218 – Letter #1

Dr. Bernstein made a motion to close the cases presented. Ms. McClain seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: South Investigative Committee.

11. Other Business:

Ms. LaFond gave a data presentation on the current active physician licensee population in Vermont. The data was extracted from the elicense system as reported by the physicians at the time of the 2018 license renewal. She went

over the number of total licensees, the number whose licenses lapsed with the 2018 renewal, the number of licensees whose licenses lapsed and had a Vermont practice site, and the number of physicians who were newly licensed during the 2016-2018 licensing period. She also provided a breakdown by specialty for physicians with a location in Vermont and those outside of Vermont, including the number who lapsed. Additional statistics provided included numbers regarding telemedicine practitioners, age breakdowns for the five specialties with the most Vermont practitioners, and by-county numbers for Vermont practitioners.

Mr. Herlihy reviewed H.116 in detail, which proposes to revise the laws regarding physician supervision of physician assistant practice. After many comments from members it was decided that it would be best to establish a subcommittee to further review and make a recommendation to the full Board regarding a position on the legislation. It was decided that the Subcommittee members will be: Dr. Sexton, Mr. Hoser, Dr. Tortolani, and Ms. Rosenstreich. Ms. Vincent and Mr. Herlihy will provide staff support to the Subcommittee.

12. Upcoming Board meetings, committee meetings, hearings, etc.: (Locations are subject to change. You will be notified if a change takes place.)

- **March 15, 2019, Central Investigative Committee Meeting, 9 a.m., Central Vermont Medical Center, Conf. Rm. 2, Berlin, VT**
- **March 20, 2019, Board meeting on pending applications, 12:10 p.m., Board of Medical Practice office, 108 Cherry Street, 2nd, Floor Burlington, VT (and via telephone)**
- **March 20, 2019, South Investigative Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Asa Bloomer State Office Building, 4th Floor, Room #492, Rutland, VT**
- **March 21, 2019, North Investigative Committee Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Vermont Department of Health, 108 Cherry Street, Conference Room 2C, Burlington, VT**
- **April 3, 2019, Licensing Committee Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Gifford Medical Center, Red Clover Conference Room, Randolph**
- **April 3, 2019, Board Meeting, 12 p.m., Gifford Medical Center, Red Clover Conference Room, Randolph**

13. Open Forum:

None

14. Adjourn:

Mr. Hoser declared the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Attachments: Appendix A

APPENDIX A

Presentation of Applications

Dr. Bernstein moved for the issuance of physician licenses and physician assistant licenses for:

Amer Abu Alfa, MD	Bruce Brient, MD	Barbara Carr, MD
John Cronin, MD	Erika Cyr, MD	Sarah Davidson, MD
Manoj Dhariwal, MD	Wendy Ellis, MD	Mead Ferris, III, MD
Ashwin Gopalan, MD	Anthony Gotay, MD	Lara Hammond, MD
Michael Jung, MD	Jonathan Manhard, MD	Emily Miller, MD
Luke Miller, MD	June Mossop, MD	Michael Most, MD
Guy Nuki, MD	Carl Ramsay, MD	Zahra Shariff, MD
Jacob Shaw, MD	Jordan Ship, MD	Brian Steixner, MD
Jamie Stevens, MD	Gus Stratton, MD	Hugh Walter, PA-C
Emah Yacoub, MD		

Recommended by Ms. McClain for licensure. Seconded by Dr. Stearns. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: Mr. Hoser; recused: none.