

VERMONT BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE
Minutes of the May 6, 2020 Board Meeting
*****Remote Conference Call*****

Approved

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

Richard Bernstein, MD, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM

Members Present:

Brent Burgee, MD; Richard Clattenburg, MD; Allen Evans; Francis Heald; Rick A. Hildebrant, MD; William K. Hoser, PA-C; Patricia Hunter; Leo LeCours; David Liebow, DPM; Sarah McClain; Christine Payne, MD; Judy P. Rosenstreich; Ryan Sexton, MD; Marga Sproul, MD; Margaret Tandoh, MD; Robert E. Tortolani, MD.

Others in Attendance

David Herlihy, Executive Director; Paula Nenninger, Investigator; Scott Frennier, Investigator; Karen LaFond, Operations Administrator; Margaret Vincent, AAG; Megan Campbell, AAG; Kassandra Diederich, AAG; Bill Reynolds, AAG; George Belcher, Esq; Brad Salzman, PA-C; Jessa Barnard, Vermont Medical Society.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the April 1 and April 15, 2020 Board Meetings:

Ms. McClain moved to accept the minutes of the April 1, 2020 meeting. Dr. Tortolani seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

Mr. Heald moved to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2020 meeting. Ms. Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

3. Board Issues (Dr. Bernstein):

Dr. Bernstein asked Ms. Hunter to report to members on her recent virtual attendance at the annual Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) conference during the "Other Business" item on the agenda.

4. Administrative Updates (Mr. Herlihy):

Mr. Herlihy thanked members for their continued participation in remote meetings and thanked board staff for ensuring the business of the Board continues during this challenging time, noting in particular the efforts of staff who have school-age children who have been making extraordinary efforts to get the work done while also meeting the challenges of parenting. He noted that Tracy Hayes, Licensing Specialist, has processed 233 renewal applications for the Physician Limited Training Licenses in addition to issuing emergency licenses, new LTL licenses, and a high volume of regular applications. He said that a new podiatrist application would be approved later in the meeting, which is welcome news because of our small podiatrist workforce and the need for podiatry services.

5. Presentation of Applications:

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

6. Other Business:

- Ms. Hunter shared with the Board that the annual FSMB conference became a meeting that was held remotely. She noted that Patricia King, MD (former Board Chair) chaired a committee that reviewed sexual misconduct guidelines to provide to state medical boards when handling investigations of that nature. She stated that one of the recommendations was to attend a training related to trauma informed investigations, which the Board undertook in January 2020. She was proud to know this board was already making efforts to be better prepared to address these sensitive topics and noted that this may be discussed at a future board meeting, and that there will be future webinars and workshops in the coming months. Ms. Hunter also acknowledged the hard work Dr. King has done for the FSMB and for Vermont.
- **Legislative Update:** Mr. Herlihy noted that the General Assembly continues to have meetings remotely and he hoped to receive an update on the bill related to the Board statute and the PA Bill. He will keep the members updated.

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

- **In re: Eike Blohm, MD – Cessation of Practice Agreement – MPS 040-0420**

Ms. Campbell addressed the Board, summarizing the facts leading up to the Cessation of Practice Agreement. Ms. McClain made a motion to approve the Cessation of Practice Agreement. Mr. LeCours seconded the motion.

Ms. LaFond recorded the roll-call vote: The motion passed; Yeas: Dr. Bernstein, Dr. Sproul, Dr. Burgee, Dr. Clattenburg, Mr. LeCours, Ms. McClain; Opposed: none; Abstained: none; Recused: Dr. Tandoh, Dr. Payne and South Investigative Committee.

- **In re: Joseph Haddock, MD – Temporary Voluntary Limitation of Practice Agreement – MPC 019-0218**

Ms. Campbell addressed the Board, summarizing the facts leading up to the Temporary Voluntary Limitation of Practice Agreement. Mr. Heald made a motion to approve the Temporary Voluntary Limitation of Practice Agreement. Dr. Bernstein seconded the motion.

Ms. LaFond recorded the roll-call vote: The motion passed; Yeas: Mr. Hoser, Dr. Bernstein, Mr. Heald, Dr. Hildebrant, Ms. Hunter, Mr. LeCours, Dr. Liebow, Ms. McClain, Dr. Tandoh, Dr. Tortolani; Opposed: none; Abstained: none; Recused: Dr. Sproul and Central Investigative Committee.

- **In re: David S. Gawlik, PA-C – Stipulation and Consent Order – MPC 049-0518**

Mr. Reynolds addressed the Board, summarizing the facts leading up to the Stipulation and Consent Order. Mr. LeCours made a motion to approve the Stipulation and Consent Order. Mr. Heald seconded the motion.

Ms. LaFond recorded the roll-call vote: The motion passed; Yeas: Mr. Hoser, Dr. Sproul, Mr. Heald, Dr. Hildebrant, Ms. Hunter, Mr. LeCours, Dr. Liebow, Ms. McClain, Dr. Tandoh, Dr. Tortolani; Opposed: none; Abstained: none; Recused: Dr. Bernstein and Central Investigative Committee.

8. 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. Dr. Tortolani made a motion at 12:26 PM to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential matters related to investigations. Ms. Rosenstreich seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

Dr. Tortolani made a motion at 12:47 PM to return to Open Session. Dr. Hildebrant seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

Dr. Tortolani made a motion at 1:27 PM to return to Executive Session to discuss confidential matters related to investigations. Dr. Tandoh seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

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

Dr. Liebow made a motion at 1:57 PM to return to Open Session. Dr. Hildebrant seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

Mr. LeCours, North Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPN 015-0220 – Letter #1
MPN 007-0120 – Letter #1
MPN 008-0120 – Letter #1

Mr. Heald made a motion to close the cases presented. Mr. Hoser seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: North Investigative Committee.

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

MPC 177-1219 – Letter #1
MPC 146-1019 – Special Letter #1

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

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

MPS 155-1019 – Letter #1; Dr Sexton recused
MPS 006-0120 – Special Letter #1
MPS 151-1016 – Special Letter #1; Dr. Payne recused

Ms. McClain made a motion to close the cases presented. Mr. LeCurs seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: 2 and South Investigative Committee.

10. Board Actions on Committee recommendations regarding any non-confidential matters:

None

11. Open Forum:

Board members shared some of their experiences during this time of COVID-19. They expressed approval of how it has been handled in Vermont, but also discussed concerns of the stress it has placed on the health care system. Revenue for hospitals has significantly decreased and many may be reporting deficits in the coming months. Concerns were also raised about the potential for a resurgence as the economy is re-opened and during the flu season in the fall, as well as the impact this event will have on the mental health system as the demand for psychiatric care increases.

Mr. Herlihy mentioned that he had been recently contacted about the unavailability of USMLE testing at the Prometric testing site in Vermont. Prometric is the company that provides testing administration around the country for the USMLE. They had been entirely closed across the country for a time but have been reopening on a state-by state basis. In the region the USMLE is being offered at sites in New Hampshire and Maine, but not in Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, or New York. He had provided input that he hoped would result in having administration of the USMLE being recognized by the State of Vermont as essential, which would allow Prometric to begin operating in Vermont.

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

- **May 14, 2020, North Investigative Committee Meeting, 9 a.m., (Remote)**
- **May 8, 2020, Central Investigative Committee Meeting, 9 a.m., (Remote)**
- **May 20, 2020, Board meeting on pending applications, 12:10 p.m., (Remote)**

- **May 20, 2020, South Investigative Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., (Remote)**
- **June 3, 2020, Licensing Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m., TBD**
- **June 3, 2020, Board Meeting, 12 p.m., TBD**

13. Adjournment: Dr. Bernstein declared the meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.

APPENDIX A

Presentation of Applications

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

Elizabeth Aguilar, PA-C	Everett Bacon, MD	Mitchell Ballin, MD
Tia Brodeur, MD	Prakash Darji, MD	Richard DeJournett, MD
Julie DiSano, MD	Conrad Failing, III, MD	Kristina Foreman, MD
Stephen Foster, MD	Jesse Hahn, MD	Anas Hannoun, MD
Ahmed Harhash, MD	Geoffrey Hart, MD	Benjamin Irvine, MD
Jenna Khan, MD	Gary King, MD	Kevin McCarthy, MD
Greg Morgan, MD	Stephen Nolker, MD	Ian Odigie, DPM
Kingsley Orraca-Tetteh, MD	Tatyana Pankratova, MD	Andrew Payne, MD
Dijana Poljak, MD	Christian Pulcini, MD	Timothy Ryken, MD
Nancy Saturn, MD	Benjamin Sawatsky, MD	Sidney Stacy, PA-C
Ashley Weisman, MD	Abdul Zafar, MD	

Recommended by Mr. LeCours for licensure. Seconded by Dr. Tandoh. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: none.

Dr. Bernstein moved for the issuance of limited temporary licenses to practice medicine for:

Vishwanath Anekonda, MD	Thomas Arnell, MD	Agnes Bacopulos, MD
Kristin Bartman, MD	Tanisha Beebe, MD	Kayla Berigan, MD
Breshwan, Best, MD	Wendell Bliss, MD	Jonathan Burgess, MD
Brendan Campbell, MD	Jack Chan, MD	Jonathan Danel, MD
Karamatulla Danyal, MD	Daniel De Los Santos, MD	Pamela Derickson, MD
Jason Dixon, MD	Brendan Ferraro, MD	Solomon Feuerwerker, MD
Kelsey Frey, MD	Eli Goldberg, MD	Lacey Gowdy, MD
Kathryn Grenoble, MD	Ali Jandal, MD	Colton Jensen, MD
Caroline Jirka, MD	Gregory Johnston, MD	Cecily Kennedy, MD
Britta Kilgus, MD	Kaley Kinnamon, MD	Nektarios Konstantinopoulos, MD
John Lamb, MD	Harrison Lands, MD	Jacob Lehman, MD
Michael Madrid, MD	Ruth Ann McGovern, MD	Rebecca Merrifox, MD
Nicholas Moore, MD	Matthew Nowland, MD	Hannah Porter, MD
John Preister, MD	Adrian Richey, MD	Gregory Roy, MD
Jennifer Scontras, MD	Morgan Sekhon, MD	Michael Shelton, MD
Lauren Skogsholm, MD	Eleanor Stedman, MD	Talia Stewart, MD
Nicholas Tooley, MD	Hanna Vigne, MD	Sarah Wachtel, MD
Danielle Wall, MD	Bradley Weitz, MD	

Recommended by Ms. Hunter for licensure. Seconded by Ms. McClain. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: none.