



Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JOINT LEGISLATION AND RULES COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING Held on Thursday, April 29, 2021 1740 W. Adams St., Board Room 4100, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Committee Members

Randy D. Danielsen, PhD, P.A., D.F.A.A.P.A., Chair
Kevin K. Dang, Pharm D.
Thomas E. Kelly, M.D., F.A.C.E.P.
Susan Reina, P.A.-C
John J. Shaff, PA-C, DFAAPA

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Danielsen called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Committee Members participated via Zoom: Dr. Danielsen, Dr. Dang, PA Reina and PA Shaff. The following Committee Member was absent: Dr. Kelly.

The following Board Member participated via Zoom: Chairman Whitfield.

ALSO PRESENT

The following Board staff participated in the virtual meeting: Patricia McSorley, Executive Director; Kristina Fredericksen, Deputy Director; Michelle Robles, Board Operations Manager. Also present: Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG").

C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No individuals addressed the Committee at the Call to the Public.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 22, 2020 Joint Legislation and Rules Committee Teleconference
- February 21, 2020 Joint Legislation and Rules Committee Teleconference

MOTION: PA Reina moved to approve the January 22, 2020 Joint Legislation and Rules Committee Teleconference and the February 21, 2020 Joint Legislation and Rules Committee Teleconference minutes.

SECOND: Dr. Dang.

The following Committee Members voted in favor of the motion:c

VOTE: 4-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

E. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE CERTIFICATION OF PRESCRIBING PRIVILEGES FOR APPLICANTS UNDER THE UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION APPLICATION

Dr. Danielsen informed the committee that he would like to move for a recommendation to the full Board regarding this issue. The critical issues today regarding individuals applying for controlled

substance prescribing certification under the universal recognition application and the document that looks at current pharmacology training and ARCPA recognized programs. Dr. Danielsen noted that the all PA educational programs have pharmacology courses with the average amount of 75 hours of formal classroom instruction. This does not include instruction in pharmacology discussion regarding drug therapy. The NCCPA certification exam focuses 18% on pharmacology. The committee's job is to create a recommendation for applicants in this particular case from Puerto Rico who have been licensed and are applying for prescribing privileges under the universal recognition application. The applicants are licensed in Puerto Rico where they are not required to graduate from an ARCPA program.

Ms. McSorley confirmed that is correct that they're not required to graduate from a physician assistant program however these applicants hold an MD status in Puerto Rico or are educated as MDs in other countries so that they can be licensed in Puerto Rico. One requirement to obtain licensure in Puerto Rico the applicant can go to a program to become a PA or submit a diploma of medical doctor or certification of having satisfactorily completed academic studies of a medical doctor degree issued by a university, college or school whose coursework is accepted and registered by the Council of Medical Licensing and Regulation.

Dr. Danielsen commented that staff would need to research the accreditation of the schools and the amount of pharmacological or drug training that they received.

Ms. Smith clarified Board staff's report that the individual applicants have withdrawn their request for certification. Ms. Smith stated that this could be an opportunity for the Committee to consider adopting a rule that outlines the type of information and investigation the Board would request in this type of situation. The Board's statute A.R.S. § 32-2504 outlines the 3 requirements for certifying PA's for prescribing privileges. The statute requires 45 hours of pharmacology and clinical management of drug therapy within three years prior to application or being NCCPA certified, and to meet any other requirement by Board Rule.

Committee members agreed that the amount of hours in pharmacology that should be required would be at least the minimum hours required by current PA's who are licensed. Committee members discussed applicants completing an accredited PA school in Arizona or having the PA take an exam from an accredited program. Committee members also discussed creating a partnership with PA schools to allow these applicants to take a pharmacology course. Dr. Danielsen suggested these individuals show proof of formal pharmacology training, even from an offshore school, within a certain amount of years is that enough information to make a decision.

Committee members also discussed reciprocity and noted that PAs in Puerto Rico cannot prescribe controlled substances and therefore they cannot prescribe here and there would be more oversight by the supervising physician.

Ms. Smith clarified that the issue before the committee is about the request for prescribing privileges, not the qualifications for initial licensure. Ms. Smith suggested that a rule could be adopted for an applicant to obtain certification who has graduated from a non-accredited school containing elements that the Board feels would be helpful to make that determination.

Dr. Danielsen noted that if put into rule it would that apply to offshore schools as well and not just Puerto Rico. Dr. Danielsen commented that the Board has the ability to establish the standard in the Board's rule. Chairman Whitfield inquired if there is a program or agency that the Board can refer the applicants to complete to determine if the applicant is competent to practice in Arizona.

Ms. McSorley commented that it is a possibility however a competency evaluation is a very expensive process.

Dr. Danielsen inquired if the Board is obligated to solve this issue.

Ms. Smith clarified that for certifications, if the Board wants applicants to meet requirements not in statute, a rule would be necessary. This will also allow the Board's decision process to be defended on a forward going basis.

Committee members further discussed proposed requirements such as graduating from an accredited program, providing proof of transcript for formal education with a minimum of 45 hours of formal education or clinical hours in pharmacology and/ or submit proof of clinical competency. Dr. Danielsen recommended individuals who apply for certification of prescribing privileges must demonstrate a minimum of 75 hours of pharmacology or clinical management of drug therapy inclusive of all body systems approved by the Board within five years. Committee members discussed these hours must meet a checklist establish based on the approved body systems.

MOTION: Dr. Danielsen moved for to send the following recommend to the Board to initiate rulemaking to enact the requirement that Individuals who apply for certification of prescribing privileges under the Universal Recognition and who did not graduate from an ARCPA accredited institution must pass a pharmacology and drug management examination approved by the Board.

SECOND: Dr. Dang.

Ms. Smith confirmed that this certification is regarding controlled substance prescribing privileges. Without a delegation and/or a DEA license a PA can prescribe for 72 hours.

The following Committee Members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Danielsen, Dr. Dang, PA Reina and PA Shaff. The following Committee Member was absent: Dr. Kelly.

VOTE: 4-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

F. DISCUSSION OF DATES AND TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETING

Will schedule as needed.

G. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PA Shaff moved for adjournment.

SECOND: Dr. Dang.

The following Committee Members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Danielsen, Dr. Dang, PA Reina and PA Shaff. The following Committee Member was absent: Dr. Kelly.

VOTE: 4-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The Committee's meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director