



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

STEVE ARWOOD  
DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN TASK FORCE  
ON PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS  
APRIL 29, 2014 MEETING  
APPROVED MINUTES**

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended, the Michigan Task Force on Physician's Assistants met in regular session on April 29, 2014 at the Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Upper Level Conference Center, Conference Room 4, Lansing, Michigan.

***CALL TO ORDER***

William Palazzolo, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

***ROLL CALL***

***Members Present:*** William Palazzolo, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson  
Sara Basso, Public Member  
Pamela Gnodtke, Public Member  
John Lopes, Jr., PA-C  
April Adado, PA-C  
Dennis Dobritt, D.O.  
John McGinnity, PA-C  
James D. Rogers, M.D.  
Joel Kutz, PA-C  
CaShawnda Range, PA-C  
Vicki Anton-Athens, DPM

***Members Absent:*** Lisa Hadden, Public Member  
Susan Laham, PA-C

***Staff Present:*** Shellayne Grimes, Secretary, Policy, Rules and Board Support  
Norene Lind, Policy Manager, Policy, Rules and Board Support  
Karen Carpenter, Rules Analyst, Policy, Rules and Board Support  
Susan Affholter, Pain Management and Palliative Care Coordinator  
Andrew Hudson, Assistant Attorney General

**Others Present:** Joan Hartman, US Department of Justice

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION* by McGinnity, seconded by Gnodtke, to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2013 meeting, as presented.

*MOTION PREVAILED*

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*MOTION* by Adado, seconded by Lopes, to approve the agenda, as presented.

*MOTION PREVAILED*

## **REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS**

None

## **PRESENTATION**

Lind introduced Joan Hartman from the U.S. Department of Justice, Eastern Michigan Region. Ms. Hartman gave an informative presentation on how USAMIE is using data to find health care fraud and abuse in the East Michigan Region. Hartman stated that home health care is the largest problem area in addition to collusive arrangements between physicians and independent pharmacies. Hartman believes that over 200 physicians are currently involved in fraudulent activities. Three hundred (300) prosecutions have been handled in the last three (3) years. She would like to find avenues for cooperation between DOJ and the Task Force on Physician's Assistants in dealing with this problem.

Discussion was held about possible ways to share information between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Department/Board. Any arrangement would have to abide by current LARA policies and procedures for filing complaints. Hartman was encouraged to contact Director Carole Engle to discuss further how information might be shared.

Ms. Hartman may be emailed at [Joan.Hartman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Joan.Hartman@usdoj.gov) with any questions or she can be reached by telephone at 734-994-6510.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

### **Elections**

Lind led the election for Chairperson.

*MOTION* by McGinnity, seconded by Basso, to nominate Palazzolo for Chairperson.

*MOTION PREVAILED*

Palazzolo took over the duties of Chairperson and led the election for Vice-Chairperson.

*MOTION* by Adado, seconded by McGinnity, to nominate Basso for Vice-Chairperson.

*MOTION PREVAILED*

### **Committee Assignments**

Palazzolo asked for volunteers to join the Disciplinary Subcommittee (DSC). Kutz will replace McGinnity, and Anton-Athens will replace Palazzolo.

### **HPRC Committee Representative**

Lind referenced a Memorandum dated December 13, 2013 from Susan M. Bushong, Contract Administrator for the Health Professional Recovery Program. Board members are urged to recommend fellow professionals who may be interested in representing their profession to sit on the Health Professional Recovery Committee. Interested candidates may submit their curriculum vitae and a letter to Susan Bushong, Bureau of Health Care Services, 611 W. Ottawa St., 1<sup>st</sup> floor, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909. Her email address is [BushongS@michigan.gov](mailto:BushongS@michigan.gov) and her telephone number is (517) 335-1760.

### **Advisory Committee on Pain and Symptom Management (ACPSM) Update**

Affholter provided a PowerPoint presentation which included updates from the Pain Management and Palliative Care Program. Several handouts were available for board members to take with them. Anyone interested in additional information may email the Department.

### **Department Update**

Lind reported that four (4) Bills have been passed into law relating to Board member conflict of interest, allegation review, enforcement, and Board/DSC decisions. One of the new laws will require three (3) board members to review allegations submitted to them by the Department. These laws will take effect on July 1, 2014.

Carpenter informed that a Public Hearing was held on November 22, 2013 for the proposed administrative rules, and no one attended. Hence, the rules were finalized and became effective on March 20, 2014.

Carpenter distributed and summarized two Memorandums entitled "Summary of Public Acts 95-98 of 2014" and "Changes to Board of Pharmacy Rules Affecting Prescribers."

## ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

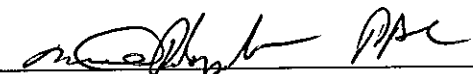
None

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

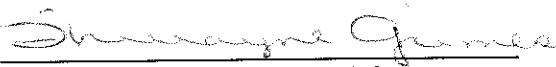
The next meeting will be held on July 29, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Upper Level Conference Center (UL), Conference Room 4, Lansing, Michigan.

## ***ADJOURNMENT***

*MOTION* by McGinnity, seconded by Adado, to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

  
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William Palazzolo, PA-C, Chairperson

7/29/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Minutes Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shellayne Grimes, Board Secretary

4/29/2014  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Minutes Prepared