

Report on State Board of Dentistry Meeting 1/30/09

A. Prosecutorial Division

The meeting started with a report of the prosecutorial division. One dentist was convicted of healthcare fraud and was given a 3 year suspension and was required to provide care 10 hours a month for elderly and low income patients. Discussion ensued about the conflict of revoking license and requiring him to practice on the low income patients. Attorney would have offered a different plea if he would have known about the board's concern. The other cases involved standard of care violations and fraudulent representation on an EFDA application.

B. Report of Board Chairperson

The newsletter issue was brought up again. In an attempt to cut budgets the state wants all board newsletters to be published electronically with limits of 2 pages or 1000 words to be published every two months. The board was concerned that no one would go to the effort to read the document on line. They feel that it should be printed and mailed so that all dentists would see the published offenses and penalties and would find that to be a deterrent to committing similar offenses. They felt that they should be able to do this since they are a self funded board.

Chairman Reitz also spoke about standard of care and how he thinks the board can be effective in maintaining that standard. He felt that mandatory CE was very effective in this respect. He feels that the board gets the worst offenders "off the street".

Report of Committees

Licensure- The proposal for accepting the various regional exams for licensure in PA has been passed on for proposed rulemaking.

Ethics – sexual misconduct rules are currently being published. This issue is now completed

Local Anesthesia – Dental Hygienists Scope of Practice (16A-4617) and EFDA program Approval (16A-4616) – editing preamble in preparation for regulatory review.

Scope of Practice Committee-

They are in the process of reviewing the letter from AGD regarding the creating of an enteral sedation tier for anesthesia permit. No further discussion.

CDHC proposal

The board has discussed allowing the CDHC program to go on in PA however to maintain some control over the situation they have decided on the following constraints.

1. they want the CDHC to be a licensed EFDA or Hygienist. This way at least the board will hold authority over the CDHC since they have a license. Second if the program is a failure at least they can fall back on their EFDA or Hygiene training if the CDHC has no job opportunity without the program. They don't want to see people getting trained for nothing.
2. They will appoint an oversight committee consisting of 1 member from SBOD, PDA, PAGD, PHA, PDHA. Our member will be Vance Jones..

3. There will be a maximum of 18 students in the program
4. There will be a 5 year limit . CDHC would cease to exist unless it was legislated to continue.

The board views this as an experiment in access to care and feels that it is not the only solution. They feel that if it does not work it should not continue.

PSMOS

The oral surgeons society has taken on the responsibility of providing the office inspections required by the regulations for the anesthesia permit. There were concerns raised to the board regarding a letter from PSMOS regarding a change to a 200 annual fee instead of 950 every 6 years to cover the cost of doing the office inspections. The PSMOS is currently over \$20,000 in the hole due to several conditions. First, when the reqs were issued there were over 900 permits but only 600 dentist actually decided to renew under the new regs. The fee was determined based on the higher number. Further the influx of cash every six years as apposed to more regularly will create a big cashflow issue for them. The board felt that the letter implied that this was a licensing fee and they did not want it confused with the actual license fee so they asked to explain it explicitly.

PSMOS is also looking to provide services other than the inspection for the 200 annual inspection fee including a revised inspection manual, Free CE courses for permit holder and CE for the evaluators to maintain consistency.

WEW! That's all folks

Respectfully submitted
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Legislative chair