



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Development Committee**

Monday, May 23, 2022

MINUTES

The Development Committee meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 4:31 p.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Stephen Loyd, Board Chair.

Committee members present: Stephen Loyd, MD, Committee Chair
Melanie Blake, MD
Robert Ellis, Consumer Member
Deborah Christiansen, MD

Staff present: Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel
Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant, BME
Stacy Tarr, Administrative Director

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Loyd with a roll call of members and staff present. Having determined a quorum with four members present, Dr. Loyd opened the meeting with the first agenda item regarding the Advisory Ruling request made by Dr. Subba Gollamudi. Dr. Gollamudi is seeking permission from the Board to supervise the performance of select anterior segment ophthalmic laser procedures by qualified interns and residents of Southern College of Optometry. Previously this Advisory Ruling request was brought before the Tennessee Board of Optometry, however the Board of Optometry does not regulate schools. Ms. Baca-Chavez addresses that although the Board of Medical Examiners does not govern Optometry schools there are rules which govern the use of lasers for medical treatments. Dr. Gollamudi is knowledgeable of the current rules and policies surrounding the use of lasers in medical practice and the required supervisory roles, as such, the Board recommends he follows the guidance provided by the rules and policies. Dr. Christiansen made a motion to accept Ms. Baca-Chavez proposed response to the Advisory Opinion Request. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed and will be presented to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Loyd then called for the second agenda item regarding ACCME's CME Passport, which was presented to the full Board at the March 15, 2022 meeting. Ms. Baca-Chavez provided an update regarding the CE Broker contract, and the limitations set forth by the contract with CE Broker. The current contract with CE Broker concludes in January 2023. This contract seems to give exclusivity rights to CE Broker, which would preclude the addition of CME Passport to the website at this time. The Committee discussed ways to proceed after the contract term has ended. The final agenda item was an update from Dr. Blake regarding the February 23, 2022 Senate hearing. The Joint Government Operations Committee gave a positive recommendation for recent Rules regarding licensure renewal and continuing medical education cycle updates. There were some questions surrounding reentry, however they were satisfactorily answered, and the Board received a positive recommendation to move forward. Public comment was made by Dr. Beugelsdorf regarding public

chapter 494, which governs the operation of Medical Spas. Dr. Beugelsdorf is requesting the Medical Spa Registry be updated to reflect all information required by law in the name of transparency. Dr. Beugelsdorf also requests the Board follow-up to ensure there is no unlicensed practice and that the supervising physicians are following appropriate rules. The Committee addressed some of the concerns raised by Dr. Beugelsdorf explaining that the Board is complaint driven, and that anyone can put in a complaint, not just the patient. These complaints are followed up on, however without a complaint there can be no follow-up. Dr. Blake amended her earlier update on the Senate hearing. She previously provided an update for the May 16, 2022 Joint Government Operations Committee meeting. On February 23, 2022, the Senate questioned whether or not the Board planned to promulgate rules around dispensing or prescribing medications, and whether or not the Board had disciplined anyone for the dispensing and prescribing of medications for COVID-19. At this time the Board is not promulgating rules and has not disciplined anyone. The source of confusion came from letters received by some entities that some felt may be related to COVID-19 but were actually generic form letters sent to licensees at the opening of any investigation. The letters only notify the individual that an investigation has been opened, but the topic of the investigation is not mentioned in those letters. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.