



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Development Committee
Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

MINUTES

The Development Committee meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 7:30 a.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Melanie Blake, Committee Chair.

Committee members present: Melanie Blake, MD, Committee Chair
W. Reeves Johnson, MD,
Neal Beckford, MD
Charles Handorf, MD
Robert Ellis, Consumer Member
Deborah Christiansen, MD

Staff present: Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant, BME
Angela Lawrence, BME Executive Director
Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

Ms. Lawrence made opening remarks to the Board and provided an overview of the requirements for a meeting by teleconference. All of the requirements were satisfied. The electronic meeting was scheduled for the purpose of considering time sensitive matters in light of the covid-19 pandemic in which the Center for Disease Control recommends limiting the number of attendees at meetings for the next eight weeks. The Board motioned and voted on approval to conduct the meeting for this purpose. The teleconference was then turned over to the Chair, Dr. Melanie Johnson.

Dr. Blake informed the Committee that there was nothing to report concerning the Advanced Practice Professionals Taskforce at this time. They are waiting on the legislative session to end that could possibly satisfy some concerns. Dr. Christiansen provided an overview of the suggested changes to the rules regarding prescribing amphetamines the Amphetamine Taskforce decided. After a brief discussion and acknowledgment of the work the taskforce did, Dr. Handorf made a motion to accept the proposed recommendations and move them to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dr. Blake asked for an insight into the administrative process during the COVID 19 pandemic. Ms. Lawrence provided a brief insight into the long hours being put in by staff and changes into how meeting could be conducted going forward. There was positive discussion by Committee members concerning successfully screening panels that had been conduct by WebEx and if consideration is being made to continue to use this method. Ms. Baca-Chavez stated that it something leadership is looking into and determining what is statutorily required. The Committee discussed and considered sending a note of thanks for response to Covid-19; Dr. Blake addressed the impact Covid-19 has had on

many lives and to extend thanks to all health professionals, board, staff and citizens for all doing their part in keeping everyone safe and healthy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.