



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Development Committee Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2020**

MINUTES

The Development Committee meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by WebEx and livestreamed in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Melanie Blake, Committee Chair.

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

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

Ms. Lawrence made opening remarks to the Committee 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 considering the covid-19 pandemic. Dr. W. Reeves Johnson motioned for approval to conduct the meeting electronically for this purpose and Mr. Robert Ellis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and it passed. By roll call confirmation all members present confirmed they received all meeting materials prior to this meeting. The teleconference was then turned over to the Chair of the Committee, Dr. Melanie Blake.

Dr. Blake called the meeting to order and informed the Committee that Dr. Beckford was having difficulty logging in and request assistance. Dr. Johnson also informed the Committee that Dr. Christiansen would be joining the meeting as soon as she finished with her last patient.

Dr. Beckford joined the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Dr. Blake opened the meeting with discussion concerning the Residency and Fellowship Training Clarification. Dr. Johnson began the discussion going over the notes he had submitted for review. Many residencies are only two years in length simply because the program is three years long but includes one year you must have already completed in order to qualify to enter the residency program. International Medical Graduates (hereinafter "IMG") are required to have successfully completed a 3-year ACGME residency program. The ACGME allows the program director to give a one year credit to an IMG who

has completed one year of training that was not ACGME accredited, so they enter at PGY2 and at the end of training are credited to have completed a 3-year residency training. Dr. Saunders read into the record the statute 63-6-207(f) and Ms. Baca-Chavez confirms the language of the statute as well as the rules. Dr. Johnson made a motion to provide Dr. Saunders clearer direction as to what is considered successful completion of a residency training program by not changing the questions on the verification form. An affirmative answer to the question of the applicant successfully completing the program is sufficient. Dr. Christiansen seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Dr. Christiansen joined the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Blake moved on to the next agenda item regarding the five hour CME grace period. Dr. Johnson led the discussion and referenced past board meeting minutes providing background as to how the grace period came about. Ms. Lawrence asked for clarification if the intent was for grace period to be done indefinitely and if so should it be put into written policy. The Board audits 5% of renewal applicants each month. Typically, about 5% of that group is deficient in their CMEs. If someone was deficient in only 5 hours, then they are given 30 days to make it up. If it is more than 5 hours, then the Boards CME policy is applied for their deficiency on CME. Ms. Baca-Chavez presented a revised CME policy to include the five-hour CME grace period. The Committee voted to maintain the five-hour grace period for up to five hours and the updated the current policy reducing the time to make up hours and pay penalties from 180 days to 90 days total. Dr. Johnson made a motion to bring the revised policy before the Board to consider. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote with Dr. Christiansen abstaining. Dr. Blake asked Ms. Baca-Chavez if she could possibly edit the CME FAQ document once the revised CME policy is adopted by the full Board. She suggested it might be premature to begin discussion prior to the adoption of the revised policy. The other Committee members agreed, and Ms. Baca-Chavez agreed to submit proposed edits. Dr. Johnson asked if they could look at one of the questions on the CME FAQ concerning Maintenance of Certification (MOC). Dr. Blake suggested that question should be removed from the FAQ with notification being sent to the licenses. Dr. Beckford added there should be a defined affective date included in the notification and revised CME FAQ.

Dr. Blake moved on to the next agenda item regarding the Re-entry policy. Dr. Johnson stated that there is no data anywhere to support the appropriate timeline. The articles he submitted suggest somewhere between one to five years. Most states start at two year but there is no evidence to support a specific starting number. After a lengthy discussion the Committee could not make a strong argument between two to five years of being out of practice. Mr. Ellis made a motion to invite Dr. Piercy to a full Board or Development Committee meeting for further discussion. Dr. Beckford seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Dr. Blake moved on to the next agenda item concerning Development Committee composition and term. Ms. Baca-Chavez presented a purposed policy after reviewing minutes from a previous meeting finding discussion of a policy and not finding anything in the statute allowing this to be done by rule. The policy defines the purpose of the Development Committee and suggest the length of time members to serve. After discussion the Committee decided to present the purpose policy to the full Board for discussion.

Dr. Blake called for public comment and Mr. Yarnell Beatty with the Tennessee Medical Association was recognized. Mr. Beatty posed a question concerning CME prescribing courses that Dr. Mutter would conduct. With the retirement of Dr. Mutter was there any knowledge of his replacement or will someone

with the department take over the CME course he conducted? Dr. Saunders responded that the Assistant Commission would most likely have information on whether someone would be hired or not to replace Dr. Mutter as well as whether the department would support the prescribing course he conducted given the fact that there are other options across the state. Mr. Beatty offers the Tennessee Medical Association as a resource. They have the ability to accredit continuing medical education, the ability to travel across the state with experts and the ability to provide courses through WebEx and Zoom with small groups as well. Mr. Beatty informed the Committee of a course being offered with Dr. Lewis, Chief Medical Officer for the State of Tennessee, on filling out death certificates. Dr. Blake thanked Mr. Beatty for his comments and asked about his interest in regular updates with Board. Mr. Beatty expressed interest and suggested possibly yearly with the TMA leadership to discuss common issues and how they can assist and/or support the Board. He stated that he typically does attend or monitor the regular meetings and happy to interact at any time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.