



Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners Meeting

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

MINUTES

The special board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Melanie Blake, Board President.

Board members present:	Melanie Blake, MD, President Stephen Loyd, MD, Vice President Robert Ellis, Consumer Member, Secretary Deborah Christiansen, MD Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member Keith Anderson, MD Phyllis Miller, MD John Hale, MD John McGraw, MD Samantha McLerran, MD
Board member(s) absent:	Randall Pearson, MD Julianne Cole, Consumer Member
Staff present:	Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant, BME Angela Lawrence, BME Executive Director Stacy Tarr, Administrative Director Candyce Wilson, Administrative Director Brandi Allocco, Board Administrator Samantha Green, Board Administrator

Ms. Lawrence made opening remarks to the Board and provided an overview of the requirements for a special meeting by teleconference. All of the requirements were satisfied. A role call was conducted, and a quorum of the Board was established with the following members present: Dr. Melanie Blake, Dr. Stephen Loyd, Mr. Robert Ellis, Dr. Deborah Christiansen, Dr. Phyllis Miller, Dr. Samantha McLerran, Ms. Jennifer Claxton, Dr. John Hale, Dr. John McGraw, and Dr. Keith Anderson. The electronic meeting was scheduled for the purpose of considering the policy regarding medical misinformation and disinformation regarding Covid-19. Dr. Loyd motioned for approval to conduct the meeting electronically

for this purpose and Dr. Hale seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and it passed. By roll call confirmation all members present attested they received all meeting materials prior to the meeting. The teleconference was then turned over to the President of the Board, Dr. Melanie Blake.

I. Consideration of Removal Of Policy From The Board Of Medical Examiners Website

Dr. Blake called the meeting to order at 4:13pm. Dr. Blake began by welcoming the newest Board Members, Dr. Keith Anderson and Dr. John McGraw. It was discussed that the policy regarding medical misinformation and disinformation regarding Covid-19 was adopted from recommendations from the Federation of State Medical Boards, the American Medical Association, and the American Board of Specialty Medicine, as well as other Medical Boards and Associations. Due to Tennessee legislation adopted November 12, 2021, the Board has considered the removal of the policy from the Board of Medical Examiner's website. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez briefly discussed the new legislation before turning the meeting back over to the Board. Dr. Hale motioned to move the policy from the Board of Medical Examiner's website. Dr. McGraw seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with Mr. Ellis, Dr. Christiansen, and Dr. McLerran opposed.

II. Public Comment

Public comments were received from Dr. Amy Bono, Dr. Diana Sepheri-Harvey, and Dr. Katrina Green regarding their concern for removal of the policy from the Board of Medical Examiners website. Dr. Miller made a clarifying comment regarding her vote. Mr. Grant Mullins from the Office of General Counsel explained the process of policy adoption for all Health Related Boards. The Board took no further action. Dr. Loyd motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Miller seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with Dr. Hale opposed.

This concludes the Board of Medical Examiners meeting.