



POLYSOMNOGRAPHY PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

MINUTES

A regular meeting of The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners' Polysomnography Professional Standards Committee was held in the Division of Health Related Boards, 665 Mainstream Drive, Poplar Room, Nashville, TN 37243.

Members Present: Roxanne Valentino, M.D.
 Jim O. Donaldson, PSGP
 Theresa Hill, Consumer Member
 Charity Worrick, PSGP

Absent Members: Scott Vogt, PSGP
 Dan Brown, PSGP

Staff Present: Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant
 Tracy Alcock, JD, Advisory Attorney
 Tammy Davis, Administrator
 Stacy Tarr, Administrative Director
 Candyce Waszmer, Administrative Director

The committee convened at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present and Dr. Valentino, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order with a roll call.

Approval of Minutes

After review of the minutes from the February 20, 2018, Jim Donaldson made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Charity Worrick. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Applicant Interviews

There were no applicant interviews at this meeting.

Ratification of New Licenses & Reinstatements

Mr. Donaldson made a motion to approve new licenses, temporary permits, and expired licenses. Ms. Worrick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Policy Statement Regarding CPSGT BRPT Credential

Ms. Tracy Alcock, Counsel for the Committee, began the discussion by stating that BRPT (Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists) is how we determine if someone is credentialed to be a polysomnographic technologist, the highest polysomnography state licensure. To hold this rank, the Statutes and Rules are very specific about how this is accomplished. The Tennessee Code Annotated Statute defines a polysomnographic technologist as a person who is credentialed by the BRPT and who is licensed by the Committee to engage in the practice of polysomnography under the general supervision of a licensed physician. The Statutes also state that a person seeking licensure as a polysomnographic technologist must meet several requirements including educational requirements, passing the national certifying examination given by the BRPT, and being credentialed by the BRPT. The rules state that to qualify for licensure as a polysomnographic technologist, the applicant must complete and obtain a passing score on the national BRPT certifying exam within twelve months of graduation from their accredited program and be credentialed by the BRPT. There are different levels of polysomnography licensure in Tennessee: student/trainee; technician; and technologist.

Today's discussion is necessary because historically, the only BRPT examination was for RPSGT (Registered Polysomnographic Technologist). Recently, we have received three applications for a "new" credential: CPSGT (Certified Polysomnographic Technician). These are two completely different certifications. The CPSGT examination is geared toward individuals who are new to the field, have limited clinical experience, or are not ready to take the RPSGT examination. According to the BRPT, the RPSGT is an internationally recognized credential representing the highest certification in the field for the healthcare professionals who clinically assess patients with sleep disorders.

The task before the committee is to determine whether the CPSGT examination is sufficient to qualify for a technologist licensure. The committee must also determine how we should move forward once this decision is made (i.e. policy, position statement, rule amendment, etc.). Ms. Alcock, Committee Attorney, prepared a position statement for the committee's review.

After review and discussion, Jim Donaldson made a motion to accept the position statement, as revised, which clarifies that the CPSGT is not a credential recognized as appropriate to obtain a Tennessee polysomnographic technologist license. Charity Warrick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Office of General Counsel Report

Ms. Tracy Alcock, Committee attorney, reported that there is one open case pertaining to the Polysomnography Professional Standards Committee.

The Committee's two recent rule amendments had an effective date of August 23, 2017. The first rule amendment amended the continuing education rule, found at Rule 0880-14-.09(c), by removing existing language regarding acceptable continuing education programs and substituting language that lists the organizations whose courses the Committee has preapproved for credit towards the continuing education requirement. The second rule amendment amended Rule 0880-14-.08(2), concerning the Committee consultant to now state, "[t]he Committee shall select as a Committee consultant a designee who may serve as a consultant(s) to the Division..."

Manager's Report

The activities that have transpired in the administrative office between February 1, 2018 and April 30, 2018 concerning the Polysomnography professionals are as follows:

New Applications Received:

- Full Technician 4
- Technician/Temp 7
- Trainee/Student 10
- Reinstatements 1

Total New Licenses Issued:

- Full Technician 14
- Technician/Temp 14
- Trainee/Student 16

There is no information available regarding renewals due to an issue with the new software. This issue is currently being worked on and these numbers will be available at the next meeting. The total number of active licenses as of April 30, 2018 is 539.

Office of Investigations Report

There are currently four monitored practitioners under Board order. One complaint (unprofessional conduct) has been filed this year and it is currently being investigated. One complaint has been forwarded to the Office of General Counsel.

Mid-Year Financial Report

Ms. Noranda French presented the 2018 mid-year fiscal report.

Moving forward, these reports will be presented quarterly.

There being no further committee business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58a.m.