

STATE BOARD FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

MINUTES

August 15, 2008

The Wyoming State Board for Respiratory Care met on Friday, August 15, 2008 via telephone conference call. Public access to the call was made available at 1800 Carey Avenue, 4th Floor, Cheyenne WY.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The meeting was brought to order by Chair Rena Piper, at 9:07 a.m. In attendance were Board Members Joseph B. Burke, Loretta Crider, Wanda Hulit, and Rena M. Piper. Also present were Executive Director Veronica Skoranski and Assistant Attorney General Cara Chambers, and visitors as reflected on the attached sign in sheet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Crider the minutes of December 31, 2007 were approved as amended.

INFORMATION

Skoranski presented the financial report through June 2008. The reports reflect that the Board is in sound financial standing.

Skoranski presented a report showing new licenses issued from December 4, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Skoranski presented a report showing temporary licenses which expired on June 30, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

Rena Piper was elected as Chairman by acclamation. Wanda Hulit was elected as Vice Chairman by acclamation. Loretta Crider was elected as Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation.

The Board opinioned that as long as spirometry services are performed in a physician's office and under the supervision of a physician, then those services can be provided by someone who is not a licensed respiratory care practitioner. (Reference W.S. 33-43-102(a)(iii)).

Burke reported that per conversation with Cheryl Koski, former director of the Board of Nursing, the scope of practice for CNAs is very limited on what they can do and it would not include Spirometry. The practice of spirometry by a CNA is not a violation of the Respiratory Practice Act, but the CNA needs to review their scope of practice.

For a non-physician to work in a Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy program depends on what type of issues it is being used for such as wound care, brain injury, is it used as a therapeutic tool and not to treat respiratory issues. For the Veterans Administration, respiratory therapy is specifically exempt while working for the federal government. For general use in non-VA facilities, there is not license or credential necessary. (Reference 33-43-117(c) and (d)).

The Board reviewed a letter from Wendy Yates of Respiroics regarding competency observations and/or testing on contracted therapists by non-licensed employees. The Board does not see a problem with this practice. As long as they employees do not practice respiratory care as defined in the law, they do not have to be licensed.

Skoranski updated the board on the status of the online renewal program. The Board was offered the opportunity to act as a test subject for the IT department's development of generic online programming at no cost to the Board. Skoranski agreed to work with the ITD staff to have the online renewal program running and available for the October 31, 2008 renewal period. Included in the discussion was the question of how the Board would verify continuing education credits. On motion by Hulit, the Board will require documentation this year and work on modifying the rules to add an auditing process.

The Board discussed the letter received from Janie Burnett on behalf of the Wyoming Society for Respiratory Care (WSRC) regarding the Board's fee structure. This would take a rule change and will be discussed when the Board works on revising the rules. The Board scheduled a working session for modifying the rules and regulations on October 17, 2008 in Casper.

The Board discussed attendance at the National Board for Respiratory Care meeting in Kansas on September 12-13, 2008. Piper will check her schedule to see if she can attend. There is no expense to the Board.

Discussion was held regarding the relationship between the license and the NBRC credential. It is unconstitutional to require a person licensed in Wyoming to maintain an NBRC credential. The Board will accept an NBRC credential as proof that an applicant meets the licensing requirements, but the Board does not have the authority to require the credential.

It was decided to schedule three (3) regular meetings for the Board on the first Friday in February, third Friday in June and in late September in conjunction with the WSRC annual conference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Crider the Board convened in executive session 10:41 a.m.

The Board reconvened into public session at 10:45 a.m.

On motion by Hult, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Investigative Review Committee and dismissed complaint #2007-01 without prejudice. Burke abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Crider, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by the Board

Veronica Skoranski, Executive Director

Rena M. Piper, Board Chair