

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS BOARD OF EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2006**

The meeting of the New Jersey State Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners was held on January 24, 2006 at the State Office Building at 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ. The meeting was convened in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act with previous notification having been sent to the Secretary of State and the following publications: The Record in Bergen County, The Star Ledger, Camden Courier Post, Trenton Times, Aisling Swift Press of Atlantic City and Asbury Park Press, to advise of the scheduling of this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Dana Baptista, C.P., (Chair) at 10:25 A.M

OPENING STATEMENT - Reading of "The Sunshine Law"

PRESENT - Board Members: Dana Baptista, C.P., (Chair) Louis J. Haberman, C.P.O., (Vice-Chair) Mildred Carlascio, C.O., Brooke T. Artesi, L.O., CPED and Robert C. Manfredi, Jr., C.P.O.

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Attorney General Swang Oo, Executive Director Laura L. Anderson and Recording Secretary Maria A. Ormeno-Bertorelli

MINUTES - THE BOARD, UPON MOTION MADE BY LOUIS HABERMAN AND SECONDED BY MILDRED CARLASCIO, VOTED TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 22, 2005 PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

The vote was unanimous

I ANNOUNCEMENT

New Appointments

The Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners welcomed two new members: Brooke T. Artesi, C.O. and Robert C. Manfredi Jr., C.P.O. recently appointed to the Board..

II LEGISLATION

A. ASSEMBLY BILLS

Bill A-3743 - Limits period for reimbursement from providers for overpayment on health claims to 18 months.

THE BOARD UPON MOTION MADE BY LOUIS HABERMAN AND SECONDED BY ROBERT MANFREDI JR., VOTED TO SUPPORT THIS BILL BECAUSE IT PREVENTS ABUSE BY THIRD PARTY PAYERS AND INSURANCE CORPORATIONS BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL HEALTH CARE ENTITIES TO MANAGE REPAYMENT SCHEDULE WITHOUT PENALTIES AND INTEREST.

Bill A-2774 - Requires health benefits coverage for orthotics and prosthetics appliances and provides reimbursement thereof.

THE BOARD UPON MOTION MADE BY BROOKE ARTESI AND SECONDED BY MILDRED CARLASCIO, VOTED TO SUPPORT THIS BILL BECAUSE NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE FOR ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS APPLIANCES FROM ANY LICENSED ORTHOTIST AND/OR PROSTHETIST.

Bill A-2016 - This bill permits health care professionals to refuse to perform or assist in health care services that

violate their religious, moral or ethical convictions.

THE BOARD UPON MOTION MADE BY LOUIS HABERMAN AND SECONDED BY MILDRED CARLASCIO, VOTED TO SUPPORT THIS BILL BECAUSE IT ALLOWS ALL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE COUNSEL, ADVISE, PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN PROVIDING, PERFORM OR ASSIST IN PERFORMING, REFER, OR ADMIT FOR ANY HEALTH CARE SERVICE WITHOUT FEAR OF COERCION, RETALIATION, DISCRIMINATION, DISQUALIFICATION, OR LIABILITY.

B. SENATE BILLS

Bill S-2752 - Requires health benefits coverage for orthotics and prosthetics appliances and provides reimbursement thereof.

THE BOARD UPON MOTION MADE BY ROBERT MANFREDI JR., AND SECONDED BY MILDRED CARLASCIO, VOTED TO SUPPORT THIS BILL BECAUSE NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE FOR ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS APPLIANCES FROM ANY LICENSED ORTHOTIST AND/OR PROSTHETIST.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Robert C. Manfredi Sr., CPO,C-Ped, LPO

The Board reviewed a letter from Mr. Manfredi Sr., providing copies of Assembly Bill 2774 and Senate Bill 2752.

THE BOARD REQUEST THAT A LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT BE SENT TO MR. MANFREDI AND TO ALSO THANK HIM FOR ASSURING THAT THE BOARD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THESE BILLS.

2. Richard Bray Bray Orthotics and Prosthetics

The Board reviewed a letter from Mr. Richard J. Bray of Bray Orthotics and Prosthetics, who has some concerns with issues within the practice of Prosthetics and Orthotics in the State of New Jersey.

THE BOARD UPON MOTION MADE BY ROBERT MANFREDI JR. AND SECONDED BY MILDRED CARLASCIO, REQUESTS THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO MR. BRAY ADDRESSING HIS CONCERNS REGARDING UNLICENSED PRACTICE, INTERNET SALES OF BRACES, BOARD PROCEDURES ON THESE ISSUES AND THE SUGGESTION THAT HE GIVES ABOUT THE O & P BOARD APPOINTEES. THE BOARD DETERMINED TO INVITE MR. BRAY TO VISIT THE BOARD'S WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND/OR TO PLACE A COMPLAINT.

IV. OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Julia M. Didell, P.O., Licence # 45PO000014100, attended the meeting and placed questions with the Board regarding continuing education, whether the program had to be completed by the next renewal period of February 2007 and submitted with the renewal procedures or if it would start after this renewal and become in effect for the 2009 renewal.

The Board advised Ms. Diddell that since the regulations had been recently adopted, there will be a reasonable amount of time for all the licensees in New Jersey to comply with Continuing Education requirements and a notification to be mailed to all licensees along with the renewal of the year of the requirement, which has been set for 2009.

At 11:25 A.M. the Board upon motion made by Louis Haberman and seconded by Robert Manfredi Jr., voted to move into Executive Session to consider and to review consumer complaints, investigative reports and other information received pursuant to the Board's regulations. The results of these deliberations will be made known when and if the Board determines to initiate disciplinary or other enforcement action. If the Board determines to issue any sanction, that disciplinary action will be taken in public session immediately after the executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Anderson
Executive Director