

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE
MORRIS CONFERENCE ROOM
6TH FLOOR
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
July 11, 2006
10:00 A.M.
FINAL**

The July meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Respiratory Care was convened in accordance with its notice to the Secretary of State, the Record of Hackensack, Trenton Times, Courier Post and Star-Ledger and was held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: James Brophy, Michael G. Brown, Jeffrey Brozoski, Kenneth Capek

EXCUSED OR ABSENT: Tajwar Aamir, M.D., Janet Castronovo, Dr. Robert Malovany Also in attendance: Dorcas K. O'Neal, Executive Director; Tobey Palan, Deputy Attorney General; Bernadette Abercrombie, Latoya Jacobs, Bonnie Sheppard, Maryann Sheehan, staff. Gregory Collins and Raquel Lesnever, Division of Law interns.

PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Educational Program Directors:

Dianne Adams Northwest New Jersey Consortium for Respiratory Care Education
Joseph Goss President, NJ Society for Respiratory Care
Dr. Al Heuer, RRT UMDNJ Respiratory Therapy Program Director
Robert Muller, RRT Bergen Community College Respiratory Therapy Program Director
John Rutkowski, RRT UMDNJ Respiratory Therapy Program Director of Clinical Education

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board deferred approval of the June 6, 2006 minutes to the September 2006 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Respiratory therapy program directors Dianne Adams, Al Heuer and Robert Muller as well as clinical education director John Rutkowski appeared at the invitation of the Board to discuss the clinical portion of the programs being conducted at their schools. Mr. Muller indicated that Bergen Community College runs a two-year registry program. His program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Respiratory Care (CoARC.) The clinical portion of that program includes six hundred hours of clinical practice conducted in a hospital setting. Mr. Muller believed that recertification isn't sufficient for persons who have been out of practice for more than five years.

Ms. Adams reported that the Northwest Consortium for Respiratory Care Education includes Morris Community College, Morristown Memorial Hospital, St. Clair's Hospital and Sussex Community College. She said they run a two-year Associate Degree program. Science, math and other prerequisites can be taken before or after but not during the professional phase of study. Students take 12 credits in the fall and spring semesters and 8 credits in a ten-week summer program. Her experience indicates that people want job security and are being attracted to the health care field.

Dr. Heuer reported that UMDNJ's Newark program has existed for 26 years as part of the university's School of Health Related Professions. It includes a partnership among UMDNJ and Hudson, Middlesex, Raritan Valley, Union and Warren Community Colleges. The program's required pre-requisite GPA is 2.5; incoming students' actual GPA is usually 2.9 or 3.0. Once completing the prerequisites at a community college and then coming to UMDNJ, students begin in a condensed summer semester and then take a fall and spring semester. Dr. Heuer indicated that the respiratory education attrition rate is 35% according to COARC, and only about half go on to take the higher level of exam for RRT.

Mr. Capek stated that the Board in the past had used the Kettering review course when needed but that the review course did not include a clinical portion. He inquired as to what types of refresher courses are available at the schools. Ms. Adams indicated that externships usually are paid by the hospitals but that perhaps an externship program could be developed that would require a person to work under the direct supervision of a respiratory therapist for a period of time. Additional possibilities could include a clinical semester, and there could be a series of challenges to the course work along with a final exam and an exit clinical competency exam. One program director suggested that the Board issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for review programs if the Board had an interest in ascertaining the clinical competence of persons who had been out of practice for more than five years. Chairman Capek thanked the directors for participating in the panel discussion.

2. The Board reviewed a letter from Joseph Goss, RRT, president of the NJ Society for Respiratory Care, who questioned whether the administration of vaccines falls within the scope of practice of respiratory care practitioners and whether the Board has taken a position on properly trained respiratory therapists administering influenza, pneumococcal or other vaccines. Mr. Goss further inquired about whether the administration of antidotes via injection falls within the Board's scope of practice and whether the Board has taken a position on practitioners administering pralidoxime and other antidotes. The DAG will review other states' rules, and the Executive Director will provide minutes where the Board addressed a similar question. Reagendized.

3. A letter from attorney Leslie Jones inquired as to whether "spacers," devices that help in the delivery of asthma medications, can be administered by respiratory therapists in New Jersey without a prescription. On a motion by Jeffrey Brozoski, seconded by James Brophy, the Board directed the Deputy Attorney General to clarify the question with Mr. Jones and then to review the NJ statute regarding the matter. Reagendized.

4. The Board reviewed a letter from Julie A. Clouser of Select Medical Corporation asking whether their employed respiratory therapists or respiratory technicians must complete a proficiency examination in order to be considered qualified laboratory personnel. On a motion by Mr. Brophy, seconded by Mr. Brozoski, the Board directed the DAG to call Select Medical Corporation to determine what they mean by proficiency examinations and what types of lab functions they want to perform. The Deputy will also suggest that Ms. Clouser reference the federal Clinical Laboratories Improvement Act (CLIA) regulation and contact the New Jersey Department of Health.

5. AARC - New Jersey Society of Respiratory Care Conference and Exhibition. On a motion by Mr. Brophy, seconded by Mr. Brozoski, the Board asked the Executive Director to request permission for the Board to purchase exhibit space at a cost of \$700 for the New Jersey Society for Respiratory Care's annual conference in October.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The Board reviewed N.J.A.C. 13:44F-10.1, proposed legislation for continuing education and A3063, concerning meeting notice and minutes requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. Both were reagendized.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on September 5, 2006. Notice will be made that the November 7, 2006 meeting is being changed to November 14, 2006.

There being no other business to come before the Board in Public Session, on a motion made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorcas K. O'Neal
Executive Director