

Maryland Department of Health
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

JUNE 9, 2021
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The 444th Board Meeting was convened at 9:40 a.m. via video conference on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

Members Present

1. Felicia Anthony, Chair
2. Debra Buckalew
3. Patricia Cash
4. Thomas Edmondson, Vice-Chair
5. Stevanne Ellis
6. Kelly Freidman
7. Joyce Fritsch
8. Kimberly Malin
9. Earl Runde
10. Zollie Stevenson
11. Calvin Vain

Representatives of the State

1. Ciara J. Lee
Executive Director
2. Andrea L. Hill
Licensing Coordinator
3. David Wagner, Esq., Board Counsel
Assistant Attorney General
4. Lillian Reese
Legislative Coordinator

Visitors

1. Kimberly Link, MDH Liaison to Health
Occupations Boards and Commissions

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 443rd Board Meeting, held on April 14, 2021, were approved as submitted.

Chair's Report

Board Chair Anthony stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 9:30 am.

New Member Orientation

New Member Orientation is now available for the newly appointed Board Members. Ms. Lee will be obtaining additional information for coordination of a date, which is to be determined.

Office Report

Ms. Lee gave the following report:

For the month of April:

2 Original Licenses were issued
15 Licenses were renewed
1 License went into inactive status
3 AIT applications were processed
1 Endorsement application was processed

For the month of May:

1 Original License was issued
17 Licenses were renewed
0 Licenses went into inactive status
2 AIT applications were processed
0 Endorsement applications were processed

As of June 8, 2021 there are currently:

567 active LNHA's
25 inactive LNHA's
295 non-renewed (lapsed) LNHA's
20 candidates are currently in active AIT programs

Credentials Committee Update

During the May 4, 2021 Credentials Committee Meeting, the Committee voted to approve the following:

1 new 9-month AIT program
1 new 11-month AIT program
1 program with a new preceptor
2 endorsement applications

During the June 1, 2021 Credentials Committee Meeting, the Committee voted to approve the following:

2 new 10-month AIT programs
2 new 12-month AIT programs
1 endorsement application

New Office Promotion

Ms. Andrea Hill has been newly promoted to Deputy Director of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, and will continue to fulfill the duties as the Licensing Coordinator. Congratulations!

New State Exam Rollout

The rollout of the new State Exam will begin on September 1, 2021. This adaption will include the most up-to-date COMAR. PSI's plan is to administer two different tests - Version A (old edition) and Version B (new edition). Ms. Andrea Hill will determine and assign which test an applicant should receive depending on when they applied. Both versions A & B will have two different compositions/layouts. Effective June 2023, the old test will become obsolete and be discontinued. Testing applicants will have two (2) years from the date of their application to take/retake their exam. Once their two (2) year period has ended, then they will need to complete and resend a new application to become eligible to test. A formal announcement will be distributed to our constituents via BENHA's GovDelivery communication system.

Updated MDH Pandemic Response (Patterson Building)

Effective June 1, 2021, the State's pandemic response changed from an Elevated Level II status to Level II—Flexible Operations. The operations for the Patterson Avenue Metro Executive Building are still TBD, but the following conditions stand for MDH agency-wide:

- Health screening processes at building entrances in state-owned facilities will continue, but the process has changed.
- New signs and posters will be visible. These signs and posters ask employees and visitors to “self-certify” that they do not have symptoms that prevent them from entering the building.
- For fully vaccinated employees and visitors, physical distancing and masks are no longer required, but are still strongly encouraged for non-vaccinated employees and visitors. Individuals who are more comfortable wearing masks are welcomed to do so.
- Janitorial services in state facilities have continued throughout the pandemic in compliance with CDC guidelines, and will continue.
- More information and clarification to come---updated operations based on the Level II pandemic response must be fully in effect by July 1, 2021.
- BENHA will make further operational determinations once more information has been received, but will continue to implement virtual meetings until further notice!

Proposed Legislation

Board Chair Anthony brought the discussion to the Board about the regulations not addressing in detail the practice of AIT applicants wanting to work in the facility that they are currently completing their program. There was a lengthy discussion, and the Board voted to have the Legislative Committee bring the topic back to the Board for the September Board meeting with verbiage to clarify this as a regulation amendment.

Meeting Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



Executive Director



Board Chair