

**BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
NURSE/EMT DUAL ROLE TASK FORCE
(CONFERENCE CALL)
HELENA, MONTANA
DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2009
MINUTES**
www.medicalboard.mt.gov

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

The Department of Labor and Industry is committed to providing meeting access through reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact the Board office prior to the proposed meeting date for further information.

Item #1: Call Meeting to Order

Members Present: Ms. Nonette Brown, Mr. William Taylor, Dr. James Upchurch, Dr. Michael Bush

Guests Present: Ms. Casey Blumenthal with the Montana Hospital Association, Mr. Jim DeTienne with the Department of Health and Human Services, Mr. Robert Allen with the Montana Nurses Association

Staff Present: Ms. Traci Collett, Ms. Cari Harris, Mr. Tyler Moss Board of Nursing, Ms. Jean Branscum, Mr. Jerry Morse Board of Medical Examiners

Item #2: Review of Agenda

MOTION: Mr. William Taylor made the motion to accept the agenda as presented. Ms. Nonette Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #3: Review of Minutes

MOTION: Mr. William Taylor made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Nonette Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #4: Open Forum for Public Comments

PUBLIC COMMENT STATEMENT:

In accordance with 2-3-103(1), MCA, the Board will hold a public comment period. Please note that Open Forum is the public's opportunity to address the Board on any topic that is not on the agenda for this meeting. While the board cannot take action on the issues presented, the Board will listen to comments and may ask the issue be placed on a subsequent agenda for possible action by the Board. The Chairperson of the committee will determine the amount of time allotted for public comment.

ITEM #5: Draft Administrative Rules

Ms. Jean Branscum opened the discussion and explained that the Department of Public Health and Human Services has a rule in place that allows medical directors to authorize Registered Nurses to work on EMS services as an EMT-B equivalent. The Board of Medical Examiners is drafting a rule to provide that authority to the medical

directors. The committee is working toward how medical directors can assess if the nurse is properly trained. The Board of Nursing was also going to look at what training was necessary to work in that arena. Also the committee is looking at a possible rule change at DPHHS that would allow nurses to work to their capacity as the scope of practice for nurses is defined in Board of nursing rules. Mr. Detienne stated that his office is developing a check off sheet for medical directors to use when authorizing nurses to work on services. The committee agreed that a skill set needs to be developed that will assist medical directors in authorizing nurses. Ms. Cari Harris stated that she felt that the Board of Nursing is willing to look at making changes as needed to accommodate this issue. The committee discussed the possibility of developing an endorsement for practicing nurses in the EMS arena.

MOTION: Mr. William Taylor made the motion to approach the Board of Nursing and ask if they would be willing to look at developing an endorsement for nurses working in EMS. Ms. Nonette Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #6: Supplemental Training Process for Registered Nurses

The committee discussed and agreed that the skills sets are different for nurses working on an ambulance when transferring a patient from facility to facility and nurses working on 911 emergency calls. Also if a nurse is working as an EMT equivalent, the pre hospital protocols and standing orders will define their scope of practice. Mr. Jim Detienne stated that there are sixty-two nurses working on twenty-one different services. Eleven of these nurses are dual licensed. The committee agreed that supplemental training should be discussed and researched further to define the skill set needed for nurses.

ITEM # 7: Recommendations to the Board of Nursing, Board of Medical Examiners and Department of Health and Human Services

The committee discussed the jurisdictional issues of nurses working as an EMT equivalent versus the nurse that is dual licensed. The question is which Board will discipline or has jurisdiction over the dual licensed nurse. The committee agreed that this issue should be discussed by both legal counsels and brings information back to the committee.

ITEM # 8: Determine Next Steps

Ms. Nonette Brown, Ms. Sharon Dschaak, Mr. Kevin Fitzgerald and Mr. Ken Threet will meet and work on developing a skill set to define supplemental Training.

Ms. Anne O'Leary and Mr. Tyler Moss will meet and look at rules for both Boards to determine if rules changes are needed and not conflict with current rules. Also look at regulation and liability.

Ms. Cari Harris will present the motion addressing an endorsement for nurses at the next Board of Nursing meeting.

Adjourn: MOTION: Mr. William Taylor made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Nonette brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: November 13, 2009, 8:30 AM