

## Executive Director's Report

(Prepared January 6, 2012, for the January 12-13, 2012, Board meeting)

**PERSONNEL:** Patti Rix, LMSW, Johnston, Iowa, has been hired for the part-time position of case manager for the Iowa Physician Health Program, and Brandi Allen, Grimes, Iowa, has been hired for the full-time position of investigator. They joined the Board's staff on Monday, January 9, 2012. With their employment, there are no vacant positions in the agency.

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**LEGISLATIVE WATCH:** The second session of the 84th General Assembly begins January 9, 2012. There is likely to be legislation on several fronts regarding scope of practice issues that may directly or indirectly involve the Board of Medicine. The Board of Nursing is seeking to eliminate provisions in state law requiring recognition of appropriateness of education and training by medicine before a nurse practitioner's scope of practice is expanded in some areas. Meanwhile, there may be renewed efforts to establish licensure for naturopaths and direct-entry lay midwives are also expected.

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### FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS:

- The FSMB has approved a new boilerplate description of the FSMB in all formal communications: *The FSMB represents all medical boards within the United States and its territories that license and discipline allopathic and osteopathic physicians and, in some jurisdictions, other health care professionals. It assists these state and territorial medical boards as they go about their mandate of protecting the public's health, safety and welfare.*
- Discussions continue on the FSMB's maintenance of licensure pilot projects. Last fall, various potential pilot projects were identified, but no assignments have been made yet. FSMB has scheduled a conference call for March 7 to provide further direction and overview to the participating state boards, including Iowa.
- The FSMB has launched a website, [www.fsmb.org/centennial/](http://www.fsmb.org/centennial/), to showcase the histories of state medical boards in conjunction with the FSMB's centennial, which is being celebrated this year. The FSMB's 100th annual meeting will be held April 26-29 at Fort Worth, Texas.
- Comments are due January 16, 2012, on the FSMB's draft guidelines for the appropriate use of social media and social networking in medical practices. The draft was prepared by the FSMB special committee on ethics and professionalism. The guidelines encourage physicians who use social media and social networking to protect themselves against unintended consequences of such practices.

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**WEBSITE:** The Board's website, [www.medicalboard.iowa.gov](http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov), is averaging nearly 11,000 unique visitors per month, up from about 3,000 when the site was redesigned in April 2010. Popular items on the site include the "find a physician" database and press releases.

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## **JANUARY-FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

### **Hearings**

(Updated 1/06/2012. Subject to settlements, delays or continuances)

January 12, 8:30 a.m. – Michael C. Prescher, M.D.

January 26, 8 a.m. – Mark. R. Collison, M.D.

### **Meetings**

January 12-13 – Board meeting

January 27 – Iowa Physician Health Committee meeting

February 9 – Board teleconference

March 1-2 – Board meeting

### **Office closings (state holidays)**

January 2 – New Year's

January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr.