

Executive Director's Report

(Prepared April 14, 2014, for the April 17-18, 2014, Board meeting)

MAINTENANCE OF LICENSURE SURVEY: More than 20 percent of licensed physicians practicing in Iowa have completed the Board's online survey on professional development activities that physicians find to be most helpful in maintaining their medical skills and knowledge base. The information from the survey will help the Iowa Board evaluate the possible adoption of maintenance of licensure initiative that would require physicians to provide, as a condition of license renewal, evidence that they are actively participating in a program of continuous professional development. The survey is open to Iowa physicians until April 21. Results of the survey will be presented at the Board's meeting on June 5 and 6.

SENATE CONFIRMATION: The Iowa Senate on April 10 confirmed Governor Branstad's appointments of Diane Cortese, Urbandale, and Ronald Cheney, D.O., Carroll, to the Board. Ms. Cortese, an attorney with The Principal in Des Moines, will complete the unexpired term (2 years) of Ann Gales, Bode, who resigned in January. Dr. Cheney, a surgeon in Carroll, will succeed Greg Hoversten, D.O., Iowa City, who did not seek reappointment. They will join the Board on May 1. On April 15, the Senate confirmed Governor Branstad's appointments of Diane Clark, Lake Mills, and Hamed Tewfik, M.D., Iowa City, to the Board. Ms. Clark and Dr. Tewfik were initially appointed to the Board in 2011 and will begin their second three-year terms on May 1.

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST:

- **SF 2196** is the Iowa Department of Public Health's omnibus bill, which has been amended several times as it has bounced back and forth between the Senate and the House. The Board's original legislation (SF 379) on use of alternate members was added to SF 2196 by the House. This amendment has been accepted by the Senate. SF 2196 is back in the House once more for their agreement with the latest Senate changes.
- **SF 2080** has been signed by Governor Branstad. It's the Board of Pharmacy's bill relating to exchanging information contained in the Iowa information program for drug prescribing and dispensing. The Board of Pharmacy will need to write administrative rules before the new law can be applied. It will allow the exchange of PMP information between Iowa and the border states and Kansas.

- **HF 2274** has been signed by Governor Branstad. This legislation establishes a user-friendly state services fee database and website for use by the public. Each agency, including the Board, will be required to provide information on fees, rates, and other charges imposed by the agency on the public. The public will be able to sign up for electronic notices of any modifications in fees, rates, and charges. The Board will continue to post its schedule of fees at www.medicalboard.iowa.gov

DEATH CERTIFICATES: The Board is encouraging Iowa physicians to enroll to use Iowa's new Electronic Death Registration System, which will be implemented on April 21, 2014. Physicians who complete death certification registration are required by state law to use the new system, which will make the filing of a death certificate more efficient and will reduce errors in the process. The Iowa Department of Public Health's Bureau of Health Statistics has provided training for funeral directors, physicians, and state and local registrars, all of whom must enroll to use the system by completing a participation agreement and user-access form. To receive this material, contact the Bureau of Health Statistics at (866) 309-0831 or ivesadmin@idph.iowa.gov

FSMB ANNUAL MEETING: Public member Diane Clark will serve as the Board's voting delegate to the Federation of State Medical Boards' annual meeting April 24-26 in Denver. Other Board members and staff members scheduled to attend the meeting are Hamed Tewfik, M.D., Mark Bowden, Kent Nebel and John Olds, M.D. Deb Anglin, coordinator of the Iowa Physician Health Program, and Amy Van Maanen, IPHP project manager, are scheduled to attend the annual meeting of the Federation of State Physician Health Programs, which meets concurrently with the FSMB in Denver.

CALENDAR

(April 16-June 6)

April 17-18 – Board meeting

April 30 – Orientation day for new Board members

May 8 – Board teleconference

May 23 – Iowa Physician Health Committee

May 26 – Memorial Day (office closed)

June 5-6 – Board meeting