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MARK BOWDEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public hearing May 25 on rules for physician health program

DES MOINES, IA – The Iowa Board of Medicine will hold a hearing at 11 a.m. Tuesday (May 25) for the public to comment on proposed amendments to the administrative rules for a state program that offers support and monitoring for physicians with alcohol or drug problems, mental health issues or physical disabilities.

The proposed amendments update language in 653 Chapter 14, and provide for the sharing of information with the Board if a participant in the Iowa Physician Health Program poses a significant risk to the public.

The program is administered by the Iowa Physician Health Committee, which is tasked to ensure that impaired physicians are safe to practice medicine. More than 300 physicians have participated since the program was established in 1996.

The Board initiated the proposed amendments on April 9 and is scheduled to adopt them on June 11. The proposed amendments would become effective after August 4.

The hearing will be in the Board's office at RiverPoint Business Park, Suite C, 400 SW Eighth Street, Des Moines. The public may present written comments on the amendments not later than 4:30 p.m. Tuesday (May 25).

The proposed amendments can be read on in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/ACODOCS/DOCS/05-05-2010.Bulletin.pdf>