

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 28, 2016**  
**CONTACT: Mark Bowden, (515) 242-3268 or [mark.bowden@iowa.gov](mailto:mark.bowden@iowa.gov)**

## Public meeting scheduled August 12 on sexual orientation change efforts

DES MOINES, IA - An ad hoc committee of the Iowa Board of Medicine will hold a public meeting on August 12 to receive information and comments on a physician's practice of sexual orientation change efforts involving individuals less than 18 years old. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Holiday Inn, 1050 Sixth Street, Des Moines.

The committee is collecting information regarding sexual orientation change practices by Iowa-licensed physicians, since that is the jurisdiction of the Board. The meeting will not review practice activity by other mental health providers, such as psychologists, counselors and therapists who are not licensed by the Board.

Persons who would like to comment at the meeting must register in advance by calling the Board's office, (515) 242-6039 by August 8. Individual comments will be limited, depending upon the number of persons wanting to speak. Time allotment for comments will be announced by the committee at the start of the meeting.

Written comments can be sent to Mark Bowden, the Board's executive director, at [mark.bowden@iowa.gov](mailto:mark.bowden@iowa.gov) or 400 SW Eighth Street, Suite C, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4686.

On February 23, the Board received a petition requesting an administrative rule to prohibit Iowa-licensed physicians from engaging in practices to change the sexual orientation of individuals less than 18 years old. April 8, the Board determined that it did not have sufficient facts to initiate rulemaking at that time, and on April 22, the Board issued a formal order denying the petition for rulemaking.

In May, Board Chair Diane Clark announced the appointment of an ad hoc committee of the Board to study the issue presented in the petition and to make a recommendation to the Board regarding rulemaking. Members of the subcommittee are Ronald Cheney, D.O., chairman, Diane Clark, Nicole Gilg Gachiani, M.D., and Mary Jo Romano.