

Executive Director's Report

(Prepared December 13, 2013, for the December 19-20, 2013, Board meeting)

DATABASE: The Board's new licensure database was launched on November 19, capping a thorough installation process that ensured the new system will meet needs of licensees, the public and the administration of the agency. First-time applicants for medical or acupuncturist licensure are able to apply online and monitor the progress of their applications. (Online licensure renewal has been available for several years.) In addition, the public can find more information on licensees and the Board is able to produce more reports on licensure and disciplinary activities. The database is a joint project with the Iowa Board of Nursing and the Iowa Dental Board.

CHANGE IN BOARD FEES – Effective January 1, 2014, several fees collected by the Board for licensure, public records, and discipline will be change. The fee changes are in ARC 1187C, which are Board-approved amendments to Iowa Administrative Code 653 Chapters 8, 9, and 10. The Board's new fee schedule is available at www.medicalboard.iowa.gov. Among the changes: A criminal background check for a license application will decrease from \$55 to \$45, a physician residency license will decrease from \$150 to \$100; the cap on a disciplinary monitoring fee will increase from \$100 to \$300 per quarter; and some fees for public records will be eliminated.

ONLINE CME FOR OPIOID PRESCRIBING – The Category 1 accredited continuing medical education class that complements Scott Fishman's "Responsible Opioid Prescribing" book will expire May 1, 2014. The Board is offering the book free-of-charge to all Iowa-licensed physicians, who are required to complete 2 hours of CMEs every five years on chronic pain management. The online course, which qualifies for the Board's CME requirement, is offered free-of-charge through the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Contact the Board, (515) 242-6039 or ibm@iowa.gov, to request a copy of the book.

FSMB NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS: The Federation of State Medical Boards is seeking nominations for elective positions on the FSMB Board of Directors and recommendations for appointment to FSMB committees on Audit, Bylaws, Editorial, Education, Ethics and Professionalism, and Finance. The deadline for nominations and appointment recommendations is Jan.6, 2013. The Board of Directors' election will be at the annual FSMB meeting April 24-26, 2014, in Denver.

CALENDAR: December 19, 2013, through January 31, 2014

Hearings

January 9-10

Meetings

December 19-20 – Board meeting

January 17 – Iowa Physician Health Committee meeting

January 23-24 – Board meeting

Office holiday closings

December 25, Wednesday – Christmas

January 1, 2014, Wednesday – New Year's Day

January 20 – Martin L. King Day