

Executive Director's Report

(Prepared July 20, 2012, for the July 26-27, 2012, Board meeting)

NEW BOARD MEMBER: Ann M. Gales, Bode, an attorney who practices in Algona, has been appointed by Governor Branstad to complete the unexpired term (one year) of public member Tom Drew, who resigned April 30. Gales will serve on the Board's Licensure and Screening committees.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES: A new file server to distribute the voluminous confidential public records to the Board members should improve the timeliness and access to these materials. The new distribution system should be operational for materials for the September 20-21 Board meeting. The system is the final phase of a project to expedite the distribution and strengthen the protection for confidential materials. Materials for Board meetings have been distributed in hard copy, by disks and flash drives, and secure file transfers. The new system uses a virtual desktop that can be accessed remotely and securely. Board members will be issued new laptops that complement the distribution system.

Work continues on programming and the creation of specialized reports for the new licensure database, which is expected to go live later this year. The new database allows applicants to manage their applications and it will improve public access to the public records in the system. The database is a collaborative project with the Nursing and Dental boards.

FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS: The FSMB has been awarded a three-year licensure portability grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will enable the FSMB and state medical boards to continue initiatives to streamline the licensure process and reduce statutory and regulatory barriers to telemedicine. The Iowa Board wrote a letter in support of the grant, which funded the development and implementation of a uniform medical application for physician state licensure. Iowa is one of the more aggressive users of the uniform application.

STAFF UPDATE: Brandi Allen is in training this week to earn her certification as a medical board investigator. With her certification, all of the Board's investigators will have completed this training, which is provided by the Administrators in Medicine and the FSMB.

JULY 26-SEPTEMBER 30 CALENDAR

Hearings

(Updated 07/20/2012. Subject to change.)

August 16 – Richard M. Fleming, M.D.

August 16 – Lafayette J. Twyner, M.D.

August 30-31 – Frank Butera, D.O.

September 6-7 – Kimberly A. VerSteeg, D.O.

Meetings

July 26-27 – Board meeting, Mid-America Center, 1 Arena Way, Council Bluffs.

August 23 – Board teleconference meeting.

August 24 – Iowa Physician Health Committee meeting.

August 24 – Iowa Physician Health Program orientation for new Board members, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

September 20-21 – Board meeting

Office holiday closing

The Board's office will be closed Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day.