

Executive Director's Report

(Prepared December 9, 2016, for the December 15-16 2016, Board meeting)

NPDB COMPLIANCE REVIEW: The Board of Medicine is fully compliant with its obligation to report adverse actions against licensees to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), according to a recent review of the Board's actions between January 2013 and December 2014. The Board's reports in the NPDB are records of public actions taken against licensees who do not meet professional standards. All states are reviewed for compliance every two years. The NPDB is a confidential information clearinghouse created by Congress with the primary goals of improving health care quality, protecting the public, and reducing health care fraud and abuse in the United States. Acting primarily as a national flagging system, the NPDB provides information that permits authorized entities to perform comprehensive reviews of the credentials of health care practitioners, entities, providers, and suppliers.

ASSISTING VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL: The Board of Medicine has expedited the medical licensure of 148 active military personnel and veterans over the past two years, according to the Board's report to the Governor and General Assembly of Iowa. Legislation signed into law in 2014 provides that licensed professions and occupations boards are to provide special assistance to applicants who are active military personnel or veterans as a part of the Home Base Iowa initiative that encourages veterans to look for career opportunities in Iowa. The report covers licensing actions from January 1, 2015, through December 15, 2016. In addition, the Board waives renewal fees for licensees who are on active military service.

LICENSURE DATABASE ENHANCEMENT: The Board of Medicine's database of physician and acupuncturist licensees has been modified so that the public can more easily learn if a licensee has been publicly disciplined by the Board. The database, available at the Board's website (www.medicalboard.iowa.gov) has always included public disciplinary information. With the most recent enhancement, a notation of public discipline is present in the licensee's nameline of the abstract that comes up on an initial search. Users are able to open the abstract to gain access to more information about the licensee and to read any public Board document on adverse public action.

BOARD CALENDAR: December 15, 2016-February 28, 2017

December 15-16 – Board meeting

December 26 – Office closed (Christmas)

January 2 – Office closed (New Year's Day)

January 12-13 – Hearing dates

January 16 – Office closed (Martin Luther King Day)

January 19 – Board teleconference

February 2 – Physician Health Committee meeting

February 16-17 – Board meeting