



Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
MARK BOWDEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director's Report

(Updated August 19, 2009, for the September 2-3, 2009 Board meeting)

HIRING AUTHORIZATION -- The Iowa Department of Management has approved two Board requests to fill staff vacancies. The Board will hire a Secretary 1 for the Licensure Division and a health professions investigator for Compliance. The Secretary 1 position is expected to be filled by August 31; the investigator by September 30. Amy Van Maanen, director of licensure and administration, and Russell Bardin, chief investigator, continue to evaluate staffing needs. With these hires, the Board still has several open positions Licensure and Compliance.

MEETING OF BOARD CHAIRS -- Board chairpersons (or vice chairs) and executive directors of the Boards of Medicine, Dental, Nursing and Pharmacy met for about two hours on August 4 to discuss items and issues of common interest. There was universal concern expressed about the restraints on expenditures, especially limitations on travel, hiring and the renewal of memberships in national coalitions of health professions regulatory agencies. Board representatives reviewed collaborative efforts among the agencies and discussed ways to share more information.

WEBSITE REDESIGN UNDER WAY -- Board staff is working with Iowa Interactive, LLC, Des Moines, to redesign the Board's Website this fall. The overarching goal is to organize the site to increase the Board's interaction with the public and licensees. Iowa Interactive has redesigned sites for many state agencies. The company will create the template and framework for the Board's site, www.medicalboard.iowa.gov Board staff will continue to manage text and content on the site.

DEATH CERTIFICATE ADVISORY -- The Board is working with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner to heighten Iowa physicians' awareness of their responsibilities to complete death certificates in a timely manner. A brochure prepared by the Medical Examiner's Office and the Iowa Department of Public Health's Bureau of Health Statistics, is posted on the

Board's Website and is being distributed to physicians when they receive their Iowa license or renewal it.

COMPLIANCE STATISTICS -- Statistics on physician complaints and how the Board handles them have been updated on the Board's Website. Worth noting: hearings are down, but settlements are up. Also, the caseload per investigator is up because of fewer investigators. The Board closed fewer cases in calendar year 2008 than in CY2007. However, the Board closed more cases in fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009) than in FY2008 (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008). This could be due to increased efforts over the past 12 months to review aging cases.

LICENSE PORTABILITY PROJECT FUNDED -- The Federation of State Medical Boards has received a grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to support state medical boards in enhancing their licensure processes. The three-year grant, with funding for the first year set at \$350,000, becomes effective in September 2009. The FSMB and two regional groups of medical boards, including the Iowa Board of Medicine, have pursued several initiatives to improve license portability, including the development of the Uniform Application for Physician State Licensure and mechanisms to expedite the licensure application process.

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BOARD CALENDAR (September, October)

Hearings

(Subject to delays or continuances)

September 10 - Leonard D. Lomax, M.D., Winthrop S. Risk, M.D.

Meetings

September 2-3 – Regular Board meeting

October 1 – Teleconference, 7:30 a.m.

October 16 – Iowa Physician Health Program Committee, 8:30 a.m.

October 21-22 – Regular Board meeting

Holiday closing

The Board's office will be closed Monday, September 7, in recognition of the Labor Day holiday. The Board will resume regular office hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8.