

Executive Director's Report

(For the February 15-16, 2018, Iowa Board of Medicine meeting)

2017 BOARD ACTIONS: From January 1 through December 31, 2017, the Board reviewed 827 investigative cases and filed charges against 23 licensees. In the same period, the Board issued 100 confidential letters of concern to licensees who have been the subject of investigations for competency or conduct complaints, or who had issues in their applications for licensure. In addition, the Board waived certain requirements for licensure for four applicants and denied two waiver requests.

BOARD COUNSEL: Assistant Attorney General Jordan Esbrook, J.D., has been named the Board's chief counsel from the Attorney General's Office, succeeding Julie Bussanmas, J.D., who has taken a position with the Polk County Attorney's Office. For the past several years Jordan has worked with the Board's Monitoring Committee. Assistant Attorney General Sara Scott, J.D., who serves as counsel for the Iowa Physician Health Committee and Program, will now also work with the Board's Monitoring Committee.

PERSONNEL UPDATE: The Board is seeking authorization to fill two staff vacancies. Cathy McCullough recently retired, capping 22 years as a Board investigator. Crystal Tice, a member of the support staff for the enforcement/compliance unit for the past nine years, recently transferred to the Story County Public Defender's Office.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DIALOGUE: Board staff met with Jerry Greenfield, M.D., on February 1, 2018, to discuss compliance activities. Dr. Greenfield is the health services administrator for the Iowa Department of Corrections. Board staff meets annually with Dr. Greenfield to review, in general, the nature of complaints it has received from offenders in Iowa's corrections system. Over the past three years, there has been a decline in complaints: 7 in 2017, 20 in 2016, and 10 in 2015. Dr. Greenfield reports implementing a quality improvement process in health care services in the system.

PATIENT EDUCATION BROCHURE: The Board is encouraging physicians to hand out a new two-page colorful informational brochure to help educate patients and their families on what opioids are, their side effects, what to know when prescribed opioids, and how to prevent opioid overdose. The brochure was produced by the Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Iowa Dental, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy boards. To order copies of the brochure at no charge, please contact Julie Jones at julie.jones@idph.iowa.gov

BOARD CALENDAR

(February 15-April 30, 2018)

February 15-16 – Board meeting

February 22-23 – Reserved hearing dates

March 1 – Iowa Physician Health Committee meeting

March 8 – Board teleconference

March 15-16 – Reserved hearing dates

April 5-6 – Board meeting

April 19-20 – Reserved hearing dates