

MINUTES
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF PHARMACY
RULES COMMITTEE

July 11, 2014

Conference Meet Me # 888-670-3525

Conference Code: 513 489 6685

Committee Members:

Jeffrey Mesaros, PharmD, Tampa, Chair
Debra Glass, BPharm, Tallahassee
Mark Mikhael, PharmD, Orlando
Jeenu Philip, BPharm, Jacksonville
Michele Weizer, PharmD, Boca Raton

Board Staff:

Patrick Kennedy, Executive Director
Jay Cumbie, Regulatory Specialist II

Board Counsel:

David Flynn, Assistant Attorney General

Friday July 11, 2014 – 2:00p.m.

Dr. Mesaros called the meeting to order and thanked the committee members for their attendance as well as the other various participants including Mr. Fritz Hayes, Dr. Goar Alvarez, and Dr. Lee Fallon.

Mr. Flynn stated that the goal of this meeting will be to create a structure or frame for what kind of rule we are looking to develop regarding the registered pharmacy technician staffing ratios.

Dr. Mesaros opened up the floor and requested input from the various committee members.

Mrs. Glass stated that she believes the different types of practice settings need to be considered when creating guidelines for this potential rule.

Dr. Mesaros and Mr. Cumbie confirmed minutes from this meeting will be available after the meeting.

Mr. Philip stated that training of pharmacy technicians needs to be added to the potential rule.

Dr. Mikhael suggested that a cap of pharmacy technicians that the board will allow needs to be addressed.

Dr. Mesaros requested input from the additional participants.

Dr. Alvarez reminded the board of the opposition from the profession as a whole in regards to limiting the amount of technicians a pharmacist can supervise.

Dr. Fallon suggested that the amount of technicians allowed be a part of the inspection forms.

Dr. Weizer reiterated the idea presented by Mr. Philip regarding the importance of the training for technicians. Dr. Weizer then went on to state that employer-based training programs are not standardized.

Mr. Flynn spoke about how the technician training rule may need to be addressed separately due to the fact that the scope of what a technician is able to do will never change.

Mr. Flynn suggested we obtain a total number of licensed pharmacist and pharmacies in the state of Florida and take that into consideration to the rule making process.

Dr. Mikhael stated his belief that the ratio stay tied to the facility as opposed to the pharmacist.

Dr. Mesaros discussed the possibility of changing around the normal schedule of committee meetings at the upcoming August Board of Pharmacy meeting to allow the most amount of time to discuss this topic.

Dr. Mikhael requested input from the various association leaders on the topic.

Dr. Fallon stated that the issue of raising the technician ratio was brought up and tabled by the House of Delegates at their most recent meeting.

Mr. Philip suggested using the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) as a standard for licensure as well as the current registration requirements.

The call was postponed at 2:48pm and resumed at 3:03pm due to technical difficulties.

Larry Gonzalez (Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists) stated he will have additional input on this topic at the next meeting.

Dr. Mesaros then requested input from a representative of the Florida Pharmacy Association (FPA).

Wynn Adams stated that from an engineering stand point, the steps it takes to fill a prescription as well as the facility layout need to be considered when deciding to raise the technician ratios.

Chris Wallace (Walgreens) reiterated the importance of the differences amongst the various practice settings and how said pharmacy technicians are utilized amongst those various settings. Mr. Wallace suggested looking at the rule being used in Texas regarding tech ratios.

Martin Dix suggested separate rules for each of the various practice settings.

Mr. Flynn stated that he is going to get with Board staff to create a packet of the current version of rules to be thoroughly reviewed by the board members.

Dr. Weizer reiterated her points on increased training for pharmacy technicians and seconded the comments made by Mr. Dix regarding each permit having different guidelines in regards to technician ratio.

Mr. Philip stated his support for separate guidelines for each of the various permits and echoed some of the sentiments expressed by the rest of the committee members.

Dr. Mesaros thanked everyone for their attendance and requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: by Dr. Weizer, seconded by Mr. Philip, to adjourn the meeting at 3:38pm. Motion carried.