



## **North Carolina Respiratory Care Board**

### **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY 11, 2018**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Short reported that as of December 31, 2017, there was \$399,355.09 in the checking and savings accounts which is a net positive change of \$97,421.76 from December 31, 2016. Total current liabilities are \$35,001.82 compared to \$29,298.14 as of December 31, 2016. The Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual shows the income from renewal license fees as \$206,700.00 and \$222,900.00 was budgeted. This is since money was transferred from the PayPal account in June, so it showed up in the last fiscal year. Total expenses were down in 2017 mainly due to a decrease in legal fees.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Croft reported on the events that have occurred since the last Board meeting. The Practice, Education, Adhoc, Rules, and Ethics committees did not meet due to conflicts in scheduling and lack of agenda items. As of December 31, 2017, Board seats remain filled. Dr. Curseen's and Mr. Nobles' terms both expired on October 31, 2017. The Governor's office and the ONSMS have been contacted about the need for reappointments. During the past quarter, additional website updates were made to improve the efficiency of the Board. We are headed toward auto-renewals, but the Legislature has enacted a new law which requires a disclosure statement for misclassification. It is unclear at this point if the disclosure statement is required each year at renewal or if it is only required at the time of initial licensure. Dr. Croft visited Stanly, Robeson, Rockingham, and Durham Community Colleges, as well as, UNCC as a guest speaker. He also attended the NCSRC Board meeting on December 8, 2017 to provide the rule changes submitted to the RRC. On October 13 he presented a topic, "Advanced Practice", at the Wake Forest Baptist Hospital Conference. On November 17 he attended the online meeting for the UNCC BSRT and MSRC program. He will serve as Vice Chair with Floyd Boyer serving as Chair of the advisory committee for UNCC. On January 4, 2018, a Rules Hearing for the new and amended rules was held. Due to weather issues, the meeting was suspended and was continued on January 10, 2018. On January 9, 2018, Dr. Croft attended a meeting with DHHS-DMA to discuss reimbursement issues for RCP's.

Since July 1, 2016, the Board's Investigators have opened 71 investigations and completed 50 investigations. Since July 1, 2017, the Board staff has enrolled five licensees in the Intervention Program. There are currently five ongoing investigations. Seven individuals

were scheduled for interviews with the Board's Investigation and Informal Settlement Committee on December 5, 2017.

As of December 31, 2017: there have been 8975 Respiratory Care Practitioner Licenses applied for. Current totals: 4692 Active and 64 Inactive. There are 40 pending applicants, 3626 expired licenses, 326 failed to complete applications, 66 practitioners deceased, 68 withdrawn applications, 18 voluntarily surrendered licenses, 31 revoked licenses, 15 retired, and 16 denied applications.

### **Investigation and Informal Settlement Committee**

Ms. Short reported that the committee met on December 5, 2017. The committee was scheduled to interview seven individuals. The committee interviewed four individuals. Any disciplinary actions are pending and awaiting the closed session of today's meeting.

### **Rules Committee Report**

Dr. Croft reported that the committee did not meet but a hearing was conducted on January 4, 2018 and was continued on January 10, 2018 for the following rules:

21 NCAC 61 .0104: Code of Ethics

21 NCAC 61 .0103: Definitions

21 NCAC 61 .0307: Grounds for License Denial or Discipline

21 NCAC 61 .0801: Disciplinary Process

There were no members of the public present so there were no comments or concerns recorded.

### **New Business**

Dr. Croft reported that he was contacted by the Public regarding the fact that respiratory therapists were not mentioned in Proposed Medicaid and NC Health Choice Policies for Clinical Coverage Policy No: 5A-2. The policy lists the requirements for re-imbusement for the delivery of equipment in the home as well as the codes. Dr. Croft met with DHHS and they want the Board to go through the policy and indicate where the Board thinks respiratory therapists should be involved based on the codes. Following a discussion by the Board, it was decided that the Practice Committee should look at this request.

Dr. Croft presented the next issue which concerned a rule change that was going before the Rules Commission. The NC Medical Commission was striking "respiratory therapists" out of the rules but it was still defined. They're rewriting the rules to read "health care practitioner" to make the language simpler. Dr. Croft email a letter expressing concern. He received an email response stating that the NC Medical Commission would defer to the NCRCB regarding anything in clinical respiratory care services.

Mr. Simpson announced that the next Board meeting will be on April 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Board office. The next IISC meeting will be on March 6, 2018. All other committees will meet on March 9, 2018. The Rules and Ethics Committees will not meet unless notified.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM.