

Highlights from the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board Meeting

July 13, 2017

Treasures Report

- Ms Short reported that as of June 30, 2017, there was \$244,807.45 in the savings account and \$85,890.09 in the operating account making a total of \$330,697.54. Ms Short reported that the July 2016 - June 2017 budget showed increases in CE approval fees and the number of renewals over what was budgeted, as well as, a decrease in legal fees. The proposed budget for July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 shows an increase for insurance due to additional cyber security coverage, an increase in miscellaneous to cover new computers, an increase in total payroll to cover the cost of uploading paper files to electronic ones, and an increase in legal fees due to anticipation of all the rules changes.

Executive Director's Report

- Dr. Croft reported on the events that had occurred since the last Board meeting.
- As of December 31, 2016 all Board seats have been filled. Dr. Curseen's seat will be vacated after October 31. The Old North State Medical Society has been notified.
- During last year, website updates were made to improve the efficiency of the Board, which included expiration dates on the CE courses, CE certificate credential, and education uploads directly into licensee electronic files. During the last quarter, the online payment system was updated to combine licensing fees and background fees. Additional enhancements are being added to provide a checklist for applicants to reduce licensing time.
- Dr. Croft met with Representative Justin Burr and he agreed to discuss HB358 with Senator Bill Rabon who is the chair of the Rules and Operations of the Senate.
- As of June 16, 2017, there were 965 licensees registered for the CE Broker program. The audits were moved to the NCRCB website for efficiency purposes. All others can use either system at this time.
- Since July 1, 2016, the Board's Investigators have opened 56 investigations and completed 34 investigations. The Board staff issued five Letters of Concern for CE issues. There are currently eight ongoing investigations. Eight individuals were scheduled for interviews with the Board's Investigation and Informal Settlement Committee on June 6. One practitioner surrendered his license prior to June 6 due to a felony conviction.

- As of June 30, 2017: there have been 8875 Respiratory Care Practitioner Licenses applied for since 2002. Current totals: 4802 Active and 68 Inactive. There are 49 pending applicants, 3445 expired licenses, 308 failed to complete applications, 64 practitioners deceased, 65 withdrawn applications, 17 voluntarily surrendered licenses, 31 revoked licenses, 10 retired and 16 denied applications.
- Dr. Croft reported that 66% of the therapists have the RRT credential. Therapists are now updating the information regarding their credentials and educational degrees. There are currently 14 RCP's that are not degreed due to being grandfathered in 2002 and 402 RCPS have certificates. The statistics by demographics show that the adjudication of discipline is in a fair manner.

Committee Reports

- The Education and Adhoc Committees met on June 9, 2017 and the Rules Committee met on June 8, 2017. All recommendations from the committees were discussed during the committee reports. The Practice and Ethics Committees did not meet.

Investigative Committee

- The Board approved two policies presented by Ms. Short regarding drug intervention and chemical dependency. The program is intended to have more immediate intervention when RCPs have substance use issues. The policy can be found on the website under [forms](#).

Adhoc Committee

- Ms. Ross reported that the committee reviewed roles, practice settings, educational, and credentialing requirements for Advanced Practice Endorsement. The scope of practice was the emphasis of the meeting, which is based on the physical therapy model. The declaratory ruling will be discussed and reviewed at the next meeting.

Education Committee Report

- Ms. Ross reported that the committee met on June 9 to consider a request by Myra Stearns, MHA, RRT, RPFT, RCP, who is the Assistant Vice President for Respiratory Care and Pulmonary Rehab Services – Metro Group for Carolinas HealthCare System. Ms Stearns wanted to start the discussion about Respiratory Care Assistants for their hospital. She and her management team withdrew the request after a lengthy discussion to move towards a college based internship program. The committee also discussed the UNCC MSRC and BSRT

program. The MSRC program was approved with a start for the fall 2017. The BSRT program has 235 students enrolled for this fall.

Rules Committee

Ms Short presented the following rules for changes:

- Changes to 21 NCAC 61 .0307. Add “care including but not limited to convictions related to substance abuse.” to (24). Add “Performing co-treatment, concurrent, group, or individual therapy that is not in accordance with protocols established by the hospital or other employing health care provider.”
- Changes to 21 NCAC 61 .0103. Add “plans using evidenced based protocols established in accordance with acceptable standards of practice promoted by nationally recognized professional organizations including but not limited to the American Association for Respiratory Care, American Medical Association, and American Thoracic Society.” to (i). Add definitions for Individual therapy, Concurrent therapy, Group therapy, and Co-treatment therapy.
- Add a rule entitled “Receiving and Processing Complaints.” The committee recommended the above changes. The recommendation was seconded and carried unanimously.
- 21 NCAC 61 .0301 Display of License. The Board is moving toward a web-based online verification only.
- 21 NCAC 61 .0305 Inactive and Retired Status. This would add Retired Status to the rule. There was a discussion by the Board to correct the lettering by changing (f) to (e), (g) to (f), and (i) to (g).

The Board carried all changes unanimously. All rules are subject to the Rules Review Process before final implementation. Here is the [link](#) to the full text of the rules.

New Business

- The Board approved an Interpretative Letter request from Heather Anthony, RRT, RCP. The Board approved that RCP's may act as medication technicians within the RHS Health Services Facility provided they meet all other applicable state laws.
- Mr. Simpson announced that Dr. Croft's contract will be extended.
- Mr. Simpson also reminded the Board that the next Board Meeting will be on October 12, 2017 at 10:00 in the Board office.
- The next IISC meeting will be on September 12, 2017.
- The committee meetings will be on September 22, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM

