NEW MEXICO MEDICAL BOARD

Second Quarterly Meeting May 5, 2005

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the New Mexico Medical Board convened at 8:13 a.m., Thursday, May 5, 2005 at the Board Conference room, 2055 S Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico, *John Romine, M.D.* presiding A quorum was declared, with all members present except for Dr. Haynes who was recently appointed and is excused due to a schedule conflict Dr. Romine introduced Becky Cochran, the new public member from the Farmington area

Members Present:

John S. Romine, M.D., Chairman Paul Kovnat, M.D., Vice-Chair Vivian Giudice, M.D. Prakash Ranka, M.D. Steven Weiner, M.D. Reza Ghadimi, P.A., Dick Heim, Public Member Becky Cochran, Public Member

Members Excused:

Allan Haynes, Jr, M.D.

Also Present:

Charlotte Kinney, Executive Director
Grant La Farge, M D, Medical Director
Corliss Thalley, A A.G.
Jenny Felmley, P I.O
Lynn Tipton, Administrative Assistant
A list of all attendees is attached to these minutes

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Kovnat MOVED the agenda be approved as presented, but noted that if certain information is not received Dr. Walsky may not attend. Dr. Weiner SECONDED the motion, which PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Heim MOVED the minutes of the February 19-20, 2005 regular meeting, the February 24, 2005 special meeting, and March 31, 2005 interim meeting all be approved as presented. Dr. Ranka SECONDED the motion, which PASSED, with all members voting in favor except Ms. Cochran who ABSTAINED.

4. NM MONITORED TREATMENT PROGRAM REPORT

Executive Session: MOTION was made by Mr. Heim and SECONDED by Mr. Ghadimi to go into executive session to discuss matters of licensure. YES: Romine, Kovnat, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED. Jon Thayer and Mary Miesem were present to discuss the status of mandatory participants. The Board returned to open session. Dr. Romine stated for the record that the matters discussed in executive session were limited to only those specified in the motion for closure.

Mr. Thayer reported that activity at the MTP remains stable, however recently they have had more participants completing the program than currently are starting the program. He provided a copy of the Financial and Operation Reports

5. COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION was made by Mr. Heim and seconded by Dr. Weiner to go into executive session to discuss matters of licensure. YES: Romine, Kovnat, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED. The Board returned to open session after a discussion of Licensing Requests and Actions. Dr. Romine stated for the record that the matters discussed in executive session were limited to only those specified in the motion for closure. Dr. La Farge was invited to participate in specific discussions during the executive session.

Complaint Committee A. On behalf of Complaint Committee A, Dr Weiner MOVED that complaint cases 2004-A-050 and 2004-A-167 be closed, as there was no evidence of a violation of the Medical Practice Act or rules. No second was required. YES: Romine, Kovnat, Giudice, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. RECUSED: Weiner MOTION CARRIED.

On behalf of Complaint Committee A, Dr Weiner MOVED that complaint case 2004-A-170 be referred to an Impaired Physician Committee for evaluation of behavioral issues. No second was required YES: Romine, Kovnat, Giudice, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran RECUSED: Weiner MOTION CARRIED.

Complaint Committee B. On behalf of Complaint Committee B, Dr. Giudice MOVED that complaint cases 2002-B-106, 2004-B-052, 2004-B-127, 2004-B-131, and 2004-B-137 be closed, as there was no evidence of a violation of the Medical Practice Act or rules. No second was required. YES: Romine, Kovnat, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, and Cochran. RECUSED: Giudice and Ranka. MOTION CARRIED.

Complaint Committee C. On behalf of Complaint Committee C, Dr. Kovnat MOVED that complaint cases 2003-C-179 and 2004-C-093 be closed, as there was no evidence of a violation of the Medical Practice Act or rules. No second was required. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Ranka, and Cochran. RECUSED: Heim and Kovnat. MOTION CARRIED.

On behalf of Complaint Committee C, Dr. Kovnat MOVED that the stipulations on the medical license of **Brian Hjelle**, MD, case #2002-011, be removed and Dr. Hjelle be granted an unrestricted license. No second was required. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Ranka, and Cochran. RECUSED: Heim and Kovnat. MOTION CARRIED.

On behalf of Complaint Committee C, Dr. Kovnat MOVED that the physician in complaint #2003-C-087 (George R. Schwartz, MD) be issued a Notice of Contemplated Action based on the Physician's possible impairment, failure to provide medical records and other information upon request, failure to maintain complete patient medical records, injudicious prescribing, prescribing narcotic drugs for other than accepted therapeutic purposes, and misrepresentation and fraud in his responses to the Board. No second was required. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Ranka, and Cochran. RECUSED: Heim and Kovnat MOTION CARRIED.

On behalf of Complaint Committee C, Dr. Kovnat MOVED that the physician in complaint #2003-C-184 (Miltiadis Leon, MD, applicant) be allowed to withdraw his application for licensure with the understanding that the withdrawal while under investigation will be reported to the appropriate national database No second was required YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Ranka, and Cochran RECUSED: Heim and Kovnat MOTION CARRIED.

On behalf of Complaint Committee C, Dr. Kovnat MOVED that the physician in complaint #2004-C-017 be referred to an Impaired Physician Committee for a substance abuse evaluation. No second was required. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Ranka, and Cochran. RECUSED: Heim and Kovnat. MOTION CARRIED.

Complaint Committee D. On behalf of Complaint Committee D, Mr. Ghadimi MOVED to table complaints 2004-D-171 and 2005-D-035 for further committee review. No second was required. YES: Heim, Weiner, Giudice, Ranka, Kovnat, Cochran and Romine. RECUSED: Ghadimi MOTION CARRIED.

On behalf of Complaint Committee D, Mr. Ghadimi MOVED that the physician in complaint #2004-D-155 (Gregory Uhl, MD), be offered license reinstatement with a stipulation that requires participation in MTP for mental health monitoring, to include continued psychiatric care and quarterly reports. If the

physician is practicing in New Mexico, he will be restricted to a group or hospital practice where he can have a workplace monitor who will promptly report any incidents involving disruptive behavior both to MTP and directly to the Board and quarterly visits with the Board. If the Physician refuses the stipulated license, the Committee recommends an NCA to deny reinstatement. No second was required YES: Heim, Weiner, Giudice, Ranka, Kovnat, Cochran, and Romine RECUSED: Ghadimi MOTION CARRIED

On behalf of Complaint Committee D, Mr. Ghadimi MOVED that the physician in complaint #2005-D-041 (Jane Norton, MD, applicant) be allowed to withdraw their application for licensure with the understanding that the withdrawal while under investigation will be reported to the appropriate national database. No second was required. YES: Heim, Weiner, Giudice, Ranka, Kovnat, and Romine. RECUSED: Ghadimi. MOTION CARRIED.

On behalf of Complaint Committee D, Mr. Ghadimi MOVED that the physicians in Case 2005-002 (Jacobo Rivero, MD) and 2005-003 (David L. Ward, MD) be offered a settlement in the form of a \$500 fine for failure to notify the Board of a current address and failure to respond to a request for information. As part of the settlement the Board offers to withdraw the existing Notices of Contemplated Action with prejudice. This settlement action will not be reportable to a national databank. However if they fail to agree to these terms the Board will proceed with the charges No second was required. YES: Heim, Weiner, Giudice, Ranka, Kovnat, Cochran and Romine. RECUSED: Ghadimi. MOTION CARRIED.

Dr Kovnat MOVED to amend the stipulation of Barry Maron, MD, to allow him to serve as a surgical assistant and provide pre-operative and post-operative care. Dr. Kovnat further stated that Dr. Maron may request annual review of these provisions Dr. Weiner SECONDED the motion. YES: Kovnat, Giudice, Weiner, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. RECUSED: Romine and Ghadimi. MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Romine appointed Dr. Ranka to serve as Hearing Officer for the Donald Rodgers case, if required; Dr. Romine will serve in the George Schwartz case.

6. LICENSING ISSUES

- A. Ravi Bhasker, MD, regarding Settlement Agreement. Raymond Sanchez appeared before the Board representing Dr. Bhasker. He requested the Board reconsider the previously approved agreement and accept less frequent compliance testing that is more consistent with the recommendations of Dr. Gardin. Dr. Romine MOVED to accept the Settlement Agreement offered with the random fluid testing performed no fewer than 8 times and no more than 12 times during the six-month period. Mr. Ghadimi SECONDED. YES: Romine, Ghadimi, Weiner, Giudice, Ranka, and Cochran RECUSED: Kovnat and Heim. MOTION CARRIED
- B. Alian Lenetsky, MD Dr. Weiner MOVED to further amend Dr. Lenetsky's stipulation to state that he shall limit his prescribing of Schedule 2 and 3 medications to hospitalized patients and when he is on-call or alone in the office. Furthermore, each out-patient prescription for Schedule 2 and 3 controlled substances must be written on a duplicate prescription pad and initialed by a practice monitor within a reasonable time. Dr. Ranka SECONDED. YES: Ghadimi, Giudice, Ranka, Heim, Weiner, and Romine. RECUSED: Kovnat. MOTION CARRIED.
- C. Cynthia Lee Fowler, M.D., Dr Romine MOVED that Dr. Fowler be issued a resident license for the purpose of a mini-residency to assure current competence Mr Heim SECONDED the motion. YES: Romine, Kovnat, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran MOTION CARRIED.
- D. Douglas Layman, M.D., Dr. Romine MOVED that Dr. Layman be issued a restricted license to practice in New Mexico, limiting him to administrative medicine with no direct patient care. Dr. Kovnat SECONDED the motion. YES: Romine, Kovnat, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED.

8. REPORTS

A. Assistant Attorney General. Ms. Thalley discussed the status on Dr. Roy and Dr. Guttman. As background she explained that the license of each physician has been revoked, but they continue to work towards reinstatement. Dr. Guttman has exhausted his appeals in the courts. Dr. Roy's attorney sent a letter with a proposal for limited licensure, but it has not yet been reviewed

- **B.** Chair. Dr. Romine discussed the role of Dr. La Farge's position as Medical Director, including the potential assistance Dr. La Farge can provide. Dr. Kovnat suggested the members do a review in one year to analyze the position and the duties that are performed. Ms. Kinney concurred this will be consistent with the timing for contract renewal next year.
- **C.** Medical Director. Dr La Farge reported that he has been working with the committee to reevaluate Part 13 of the Rules. He has also been working with a Federation committee to develop the Report of the Special Committee on Scope of Practice, which formulates recommendations to boards and legislatures as to how to evaluate applications for increased scope of practice of non-physician practitioners
- **D.** Budget Report. Ms. Brandle gave a brief overview of the current year revenues, which she anticipates will be slightly higher than projected. She also discussed the FY06 Operating Budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, 2005 and ends June 30, 2006.
- **E. Executive Director.** Ms Kinney discussed the continuing increase in the number of applications processed and the status of 2005 renewals. She asked the Board for direction on what kind of data they would like to have and with what frequency The newsletters are being printed and should be mailed next week. She expects to take some extended vacation time during the next few months, particularly June and July, but will be in the office to develop next years budget request and for the August meeting.
- F. Compliance. Ms. Felmley answered several questions on the Compliance Report and the status of compliance of various physicians and PAs

THE BOARD RECESSED FOR LUNCH AT 12:00 and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Joint Statement on Pain Management. Ms Felmley presented an amended Statement that clarifies that it is intended to address the treatment of chronic pain. The Board worked on the language and Mr. Heim MOVED to accept the Joint Statement on Pain Management as amended and send it to the Osteopathic, Nursing, and Pharmacy boards for concurrence Mr. Ghadimi SECONDED the motion. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, and Cochran ABSTAIN: Kovnat. ABSENT: Ranka MOTION CARRIED.
- B. List of IPC Volunteers for Board Review. In response to a request at the February meeting Ms. Felmley presented a list of all volunteers to serve on Impaired Physician Committees Several physicians responded to the request in the last newsletter and have been added to the list. The Board members had no objection to any of the names on the list.
- C. Update on Psychologist Prescribing. Dr. La Farge reported that to date only 2 individuals have applied for prescriptive authority. Approximately twenty additional applications are expected in the next year. He has been serving as a member of the application review committee, but expects that Dr. Joel Yager, a psychiatrist, will be recommended for appointment in the near future. There was some discussion on the appropriate process to approve physician members to serve on the application review committee since the rule requires the appointment to be made in collaboration with the Medical Board. Dr. Kovnat MOVED the NM Medical Board approved the appointment of Dr. Yager to serve on the application review committee consistent with the NMBOPE rules and asked that Dr. Yager report to NMMB and NMBOPE on a quarterly basis. Mr. Heim SECONDED the motion. YES: Romine, Kovnat, Ranka, Weiner, Heim, and Cochran ABSTAIN: Giudice and Ghadimi. MOTION CARRIED

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Election of Officers. Dr. Romine explained that officers are elected at the May meeting to serve for the year beginning July 1 through June 30 of the following year. He asked for volunteers.
- Dr. Ranka MOVED to elect Paul Kovnat to serve as Board Chair by ACCLAMATION Dr. Weiner SECONDED the motion. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. ABSTAIN: Kovnat. MOTION CARRIED.
- Mr. Ghadimi MOVED to elect Prakash Ranka to serve as Board Vice-Chair by ACCLAMATION. Dr Giudice SECONDED the motion YES: Romine, Kovnat, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, and Cochran.

ABSTAIN: Ranka MOTION CARRIED

Dr Kovnat MOVED to elect Steve Weiner to serve as Board Secretary-Treasurer by ACCLAMATION. Dr Ranka SECONDED the motion. YES: Romine, Kovnat, Giudice, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. ABSTAIN: Weiner MOTION CARRIED.

- B. Adopt Open Meetings Resolution. Mr Heim MOVED to adopt the Open Meetings Resolution as presented. Ms. Cochran SECONDED the motion, which PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- C. Schedule Meeting Dates for 2006. Following review of the proposed dates Dr. Romine stated if there was no objection the Meeting schedule for 2006 as presented (February 16-17, May 18-19, August 24-25, and November 16-17) is hereby adopted. An Interim meeting was also scheduled for January 12, 2006 Additional Interim meetings will be scheduled in November.
- **D. Review Draft Rule Changes**. Ms. Kinney reviewed the proposed changes to the rules, which were discussed in some detail by the Board. The changes to Part 16.10.2, Physicians, Licensure Requirements, will make the rule consistent with the recent changes to the Medical Practice Act and add additional requirements for postgraduate training licenses

The changes to Part 16.10.3, Examinations, will add provisions for licensure of applicants who took more than seven years to pass the examination series

Dr. La Farge discussed the recommendations of the Committee that was appointed to develop changes to Part 16.10.13, Use of Devices and Procedures by Unlicensed Personnel. The scope of the rule is being changed from being specifically directed at laser hair removal to cover a wider range of procedures and devices used by unlicensed assistants. In addition, the Immunization Protocol is being incorporated into this rule. Board members suggested some clarification.

Mr. Tom White of the UNM PA training program was present to discuss some of his concerns with trying to get a PA Locum Tenens program operational. Mr. Ghadimi and Ms. Kinney reviewed the proposed changes to Part 16 10.15, Physician Assistants: Licensure and Practice Requirements. Mr. Ghadimi discussed how some of the existing requirements make it burdensome for physicians to employ physician assistants. A recommended is included to simplify licensing "by endorsement" for physician assistants currently licensed by the NM Board of Osteopathic Examiners. Dr. Kovnat and Ms. Kinney were requested to meet with representatives of the Osteopathic Board to urge them to make similar changes

Dr. Giudice and Ms. Felmley discussed the new rule proposed on Medical Records. Members expressed concern about regulating the disposition of records when the licensee is no longer available. It was suggested the Board have guidelines for closing a practice on the death of a physician. Furthermore, when a physician leaves a practice someone within that practice needs to be designated to provide continuity of care

Dr. Weiner MOVED to approve the proposed rules as amended during the discussion. Mr. Ghadimi SECONDED. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. ABSTAIN: Kovnat. MOTION CARRIED. Dr. Kovnat left the meeting because of prior commitments.

- E. Approve Award of RFP for Physician Health Services. Dr. Ranka MOVED to approve the award of the RFP for a Physician Health Services to the New Mexico Monitored Treatment Program for a total of \$150,000 the first year with a 5% increase the second year, or an equivalent amount for the two-year contract. Ms. Cochran SECONDED. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED.
- F. Suggestion to Include Osteopathic Physicians and PAs in NMMB Roster. Dr. Kovnat and Ms Kinney were asked to include this in their discussions with the Osteopathic Board.
- G. Consider CME Approval for Teaching CNPs. Dr. Giudice MOVED to grant the request of Dr. Bloedel-Clark and approve 30 hours of CME for teaching Certified Nurse Practitioner students Dr. Ranka SECONDED. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED.
 - H. Correspondence.
- 1. Letter from PMS re. Supervision of Past or Current Employees. The Medical Director, Dr. La Farge, was requested to gather more information and the subject will be discussed at the June Interim Meeting -

The Board reviewed the following documents that required no action

2. Letter of Resignation from Dr. Romine

- 3. Public Citizen's Ranking of State Medical Boards
- 4. Washington Post Articles
- 5. Article from Dr. Call re. Gary Hall, MD
- 6. FSMB, Examination Costs and Legislative Services Report
- 7. Professional Renewal Center Letter
- 8 Letter from DEA
- 9. Alabama Sexual Boundary Course Dr. Giudice and Mr. Ghadimi discussed interest in attending.

10. INFORMAL INTERVIEWS

Executive Session: MOTION was made by Dr. Guidice and seconded by Ms. Cochran to go into executive session to discuss matters of licensure. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED.

Sandy Herrin, MD, Edward McKenzie, MD, Cliff Brashar, MD, Paul Walsky, MD, Rolando Tong, MD, Kathy Jutila, MD and Kevin Holbrook, MD, were interviewed in executive session. Johnny Vigil, MD, did not appear for his scheduled appointment.

The Board returned to open session. Dr. Romine stated for the record that the matters discussed in executive session were limited to only those specified in the motion for closure

ACTIONS RELATED TO INTERVIEWS & LICENSING ISSUES

Dr. Romine MOVED the Board issue Paul Walsky, M.D. an unrestricted license. Ms. Cochran SECONDED. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED.

Dr Romine MOVED the Board issue James Holbrook, M.D. a stipulated license that includes standard stipulations for substance abuse and an additional requirement that the Board approve his practice prior to accepting any position other than his existing resident position. Ms. Cochran SECONDED. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Weiner MOVED the Board issue Edward McKenzie, M.D. an unrestricted license. Mr. Ghadimi SECONDED. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Weiner MOVED the Board issue Kathy Jutila, M.D. an unrestricted license, but requested she report back to the Board in six months. Mr. Heim SECONDED. YES: Romine, Giudice, Weiner, Ghadimi, Heim, Ranka, and Cochran. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURN: Prior to adjournment, Mr. Ghadimi reported that Senator Komadina recently visited his office to share some concerns about Board policies. He further stated he had invited Dr. Komadina to attend the next Board meeting to share his concerns with the entire Board Dr. Romine suggested it would be more effective for Dr. Komadina to meet with the Executive Committee, since time at Board meetings is at a premium.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

SUBMITTED:	Thantotte Kenney	Date: ///o/05
	Charlotte Kinney, Executive Director	_ , , ,
APPROVED:	Paul Kovnat, M.D., President	Date: \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
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APPROVED: Steve Weiner, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer Date: 100.10, 2005

May 2005 MEETING SUMMARY

Licensing Actions, in alpha order:

Bhasker, Ravi, MD - accepted Settlement Agreement with random fluid testing performed no fewer than 8 times and no more than 12 times during the six-month period.

Fowler, Cynthia Lee, MD - approved resident license

Hjelle, Brian, MD - removed stipulations and granted an unrestricted license

Holbrook, James, MD - approved a stipulated license that includes standard stipulations for substance abuse and an additional requirement that the Board approve his practice prior to accepting any position, other than his existing resident position.

Jutila, Charlotte (Kathy), MD - removed all stipulations and issued unrestricted license.

Layman, Douglas, MD – issue a restricted license to practice in New Mexico, limiting him to administrative medicine with no direct patient care

Leon, Miltiadis, MD - accepted withdrawal of application while under investigation

Lenetsky, Allan, MD – amended stipulation to state that he shall limit his prescribing of Schedule 2 and 3 medications to hospitalized patients and when he is on-call or alone in the office; each out-patient prescription for Schedule 2 and 3 controlled substances must be written on a duplicate prescription pad and initialed by a practice monitor within a reasonable time.

Maron, Barry, MD - amended current stipulation to allow him to serve as a surgical assistant and provide pre-operative and post-operative care

McKenzie, Edward, MD - removed all stipulations and issued unrestricted license

Norton, Jane, MD – accepted withdrawal of application while under investigation

Rivero, Jacobo, MD - offered a settlement in the form of a \$500 fine for failure to notify the Board of a current address and failure to respond to a request for information.

Schwartz, George R, MD - issued a Notice of Contemplated Action based on the Physician's possible impairment, failure to provide medical records and other information upon request, failure to maintain complete patient medical records, injudicious prescribing, prescribing narcotic drugs for other than accepted therapeutic purposes, and misrepresentation and fraud in his responses to the Board.

Uhl, Gregory, MD - offered license reinstatement with a stipulation that requires participation in MTP for mental health monitoring, to include continued psychiatric care and quarterly reports; if he is practicing in NM, he will be restricted to a group or hospital practice where he can have a workplace monitor

Walsky, Paul, MD - removed all stipulations and issued unrestricted license.

Ward, David L, MD - offered a settlement in the form of a \$500 fine for failure to notify the Board of a current address and failure to respond to a request for information