



Sunset Review Committee

Testimony of Austin Lucous, Legislative Director, State Medical Board of Ohio
July 30, 2024

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer, and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the State Medical Board of Ohio. My name is Austin Lucous, and I serve as the Legislative Director of the Board. Today, the committee is examining three entities under the purview of the State Medical Board:

- Respiratory Care Advisory Council
- Dietetics Advisory Council
- Physician Assistant Policy Committee

The Board respectfully requests the reauthorization of all three entities.

Respiratory Care Advisory Council

The Respiratory Care Advisory Council (RCAC) consists of seven members that include: one physician member of the State Medical Board; one physician with clinical experience in pulmonary disease; one consumer member; and four licensed respiratory care professionals, and their mission is to advise the State Medical Board on matters affecting the practice of respiratory care for 9,443 licensed respiratory care professionals in Ohio.

This advisory council was first established in 2018 following the consolidation of the Ohio Board of Respiratory Care. When that board was consolidated, regulatory authority over respiratory care professionals (RCPs) was then transferred to the State Medical Board. The Respiratory Care Advisory Council was created for RCPs to advise the Board on matters pertaining to the safe and effective practice of respiratory care.

Dietetics Advisory Council

The Dietetics Advisory Council (DAC) consists of seven members that include: one educator with a doctoral degree who meets the requirements for licensure to practice dietetics; one consumer member; and a majority, at minimum four members, who are actively engaged in the practice of dietetics.

Similar to the Respiratory Care Advisory Council, the Dietetics Advisory Council was first established in 2018 following the consolidation of the Ohio Board of Dietetics. The consolidation of the Ohio Board of Dietetics transferred all licensed dietitians to the State Medical Board of Ohio. As a result, the Dietetics Advisory Council was created to advise the State Medical Board regarding the practice and regulation of our 5,241 licensed dietitians in Ohio.

Physician Assistant Policy Committee

The Physician Assistant Policy Committee (PAPC) was first established in statute in 2006 in Senate Bill 154, a bill that expanded PAs scope of practice. Our records indicate that the PAPC existed before it was put into statute and as far back as 1998.

The committee consists of seven individuals who are composed of three physician assistants, three physicians and one consumer member. The Physician Assistant Policy Committee is instrumental to the Board for allowing representation of our 6,090 licensed Physician Assistants to advise the Board on matters pertaining to their profession as we develop our rules and legislative actions.

Conclusion

While each of these advisory council serve different licensees regulated by the State Medical Board, they all play a vital role in the State Medical Board's policy making process, and the expertise in each of their professions are valuable in allowing us, as a licensing board, to make informed decisions that may affect all of our licensees. As we draw from each advisory council's expertise in their field, we often ourselves invite employees from different units of the Board to give presentations to the council on matters pertaining to their respective work.

Our advisory councils are currently staffed by the Policy and Public Affairs staff at the State Medical Board. This duty is currently performed by myself, the Legislative Director, and I am responsible for organizing each meeting, drafting minutes, presenting legislative and department updates to the council, managing appointments, and communicating with members of the council and their respective associations.

In FY 2023, the State Medical Board spent \$1,390.59 for travel reimbursements combined for all three entities:

- Respiratory Care Advisory Council: \$864.43
- Dietetics Advisory Council: \$526.16
- Physician Assistant Policy Committee: \$0

The State Medical Board's mission is to protect the public through effective medical regulation, and we believe that the advisory councils and committees that I have outlined are instrumental to ensuring that the Board is effectively accomplishing that mission. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I welcome any questions that you may have.