

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Athletic Trainers
July 27, 2021
Briarwood Christian School, Birmingham, Alabama**

Members Present

Stephen Guthrie
Clarke Jackson
Chris King
Eric Law, MD
Wes Richardson
James Robinson, MD
Kyle Southall
Ciara Taylor
Lydia Thurston

Members Absent

Robert Agee, MD

Others Present

R. T. Floyd
Leah Taylor, Executive Secretary

Chairman King declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., apologizing for the late start due to the previous meeting running longer than expected. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He then wished Ciara Taylor a happy birthday, and the Board serenaded her with their best rendition of Happy Birthday.

Chairman King then called for consideration of the minutes of the May 29, 2021, Board Meeting contained in the meeting folder and called for discussion or corrections. (Attachment 1) *A motion was made by Lydia Thurston to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2021, meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Ciara Taylor and was unanimously approved.*

Chairman King called on Leah Taylor to present the Financial Report. (Attachment 2) *A motion was made by Lydia Thurston and seconded by Dr. James Robinson to accept the Financial Report as submitted. Motion approved unanimously.*

Chairman King then reported on the status of the emergency contract for Board Services expiring January 31, 2022, and the lack of direction available at the present time regarding the proper procedures for securing contract bids. It will be necessary to have a Board representative willing to interface with the Purchasing Department along with Matt Bledsoe to determine the next and most appropriate steps to get the process underway in order to award a contract at the Board's December meeting and avoid an interruption in Board services.

A motion was made by Dr. Eric Law to designate Chris King as the Board's additional representative to work with the Purchasing Department in understanding the procedures and coordinating the activities necessary to secure bids and award a contract at the December meeting. Wes Richardson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Chairman King then discussed the bid specifications (Attachment 3) and other aspects of the bidding process noting that the bid specs might require some changes based on State Purchasing requirements. Discussion followed. ***Dr. Eric Law moved that the Board authorize bidding of a contract utilizing a like or similar version of the bid specifications as furnished and by the method deemed appropriate, adhering to a timeline to allow for a bid opening and contract award during the December, 2021, Board Meeting. Wes Richardson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***

Chairman King provided a verbal report on the July 1, 2021, and July 27, 2021, meetings of the ABAT-ABME Advisory Council. He asked the members to review the minutes from the July 1, 2021, meeting (Attachment 4) contained in the meeting folder. Her stated the minutes has been approved by the ABAT-ABME Advisory Council during their earlier meeting. Discussion followed. ***Dr. Eric Law moved that the minutes be accepted as written, and Clarke Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Chairman King then reported that a new General Protocol (Attachment 5) as approved and recommended by the ABAT-ABME Advisory Council has now been approved by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners. Discussion followed. ***A motion was made by Kyle Southall and seconded by Dr. Eric Law to accept and approve the new General Protocol as furnished.*** There was further discussing regarding the implementation of the new General Protocol as well as the development of specific protocols in the future. ***Stephen Guthrie moved that the new general protocol become effective immediately and be implemented as soon as feasible through an updated Physician Consent Form being incorporated into the Board's initial Application for Licensure and Renewal Application. Dr. Eric Law seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***

Chairman King stated that he had spoken recently with a Blue Cross representative who was inquiring about the scope of practice for athletic trainers. Mr. King brought him up-to-date on the recent changes to the law, the formation of the ABAT-ABME Advisory Council, and the development of a general protocol and setting-specific protocols. Mr. King reported that the representative made favorable comments regarding the path the Board was taking and the coordination between the two Boards. A discussion regarding scope of practice followed. The Board agreed that in the absence of specific protocols, only an opinion can be offered at this time, and also agreeing that certain routine clinical procedures fall outside the traditional scope of practice of athletic training but fall into the scope of a medical assistant and would not be supported by his/her athletic training license. If an Athletic Trainer is working outside of scope in such capacities, the Athletic Trainer moves out of the Athletic Trainer role and into the role of a Medical Assistant. This can happen if and when he/she falls under the direct supervision of a licensed on-site physician (not necessarily the AT's licensing physician) who is accepting the responsibility for the training and actions of the Athletic Trainer who moved into the Medical Assistant role.

Moving into New Business, Chairman King reported that our renewal period begins October 15, 2021. He reminded the members that we had relaxed our CPR requirement for the last renewal period due to COVID-related complications. Discussion followed and it was agreed that, due to the recent rise in COVID cases, we are likely to encounter the same difficulties in finding live CPR classes and should extend the relaxed requirement through the 2022 renewal period. ***A motion was made by Dr. Eric Law and seconded by Dr. James Robinson to amend the Board's Emergency Cardiac Care standard for the 2022 renewal period beginning October 15, 2021, by allowing and accepting any completely online (or non-contact) certification with no requirement of voice-activated mannequin or skills demonstration. The motion was approved unanimously.***

Anticipating more information being required in the future regarding supervisory physician ratios of athletic trainers, Chairman King suggested that we make the Physician NPI Number a required entry as part of the Physician Consent process in both the renewal applications and initial applications, explaining that NPI Number is the most accurate way to identify and track physician registrations. ***A motion was made by Wes Richardson to make the physician NPI Number a required entry as part of the Physician Consent registration process by incorporating a mandatory entry into the online process as well as the paper Physician Consent Form. Clarke Jackson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***

Following further discussion regarding different, outdated versions of the Physician Consent Form being available to applicants, it was recommended that the ability to upload a paper Physician Consent Form be removed from the online platform so that we can collect the same information from each applicant. This will not eliminate the ability to execute a paper form, but the form will have to be requested from the Board Office. ***Dr. James Robinson moved that the ability to upload a paper Physician Consent Form be removed from the online application platform. Lydia Thurston provided the second, and the motion passed unanimously.***

Chairman King called the Board's attention to two seals in the meeting folder. (Attachment 6) He explained that the Board has never adopted a seal and would like consideration given to the seal samples. Discussion followed, and the members favored the seal without the year. ***Dr. Eric Law moved that the Board approve and adopt for use the board seal without the year of establishment. Kyle Southall provided the second to the motion, and it passed unanimously.*** Ms Taylor will have the artwork done and begin to incorporate the new seal into the Board's documents.

Recognizing Ciara Taylor, Chairman King asked her to deliver a report from the PP&D Committee. She verbally reported that the PP&D Committee had been convened and met on July 16th to review two complaints. It was determined that Matt Bledsoe would conduct a further investigation to determine more facts. Through his investigation and conversations with the licensee, Mr. Bledsoe was informed by the licensee that he had surrendered his license on July 12, 2021, via email to the Board. His language in the email was vague and not apparent to Ms. Taylor that he was surrendering his license. She corresponded through email with the

licensee to seek confirmation of his intention to surrender his license on July 12, 2021. He confirmed that this is what he was doing; therefore, the Board's records were changed to reflect his license surrender effective July 12, 2021.

Due to the date of the license surrender and the receipt of the first complaint on July 13, 2021, the complaints could not be pursued due to the Board's lack of jurisdiction. The complainants will be notified of this determination regarding their complaints.

A great deal of discussion followed over the Board's lack of jurisdiction and concern over the inability to take action against the now-former licensee. Both Ciara Taylor and Leah Taylor were limited with the details they could provide, so only very general information regarding the nature of the complaints was reported. Leah Taylor was asked to follow-up with Matt Bledsoe to see if he could provide more details for the Board regarding the Board's legal and ethical responsibility in such matters.

Chairman King stated that the recent complaint process pointed out that the current Complaint Form was confusing regarding the requirement for a notarized signature and asked that they review the revised Complaint Form (Attachment 7) contained in the meeting folder. He directed them to the signature statement and notary requirement now appear on Page 3 of the Complaint Form. Discussion followed. ***A motion was offered by Dr. James Robinson to accept the modified Complaint Form as presented. Dr. Eric Law provided the second to the motion, and it passed unanimously.***

Chairman King then presented the names of 54 new licensees for license confirmation/ratification, a list of whom is attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Attachment 8) ***Dr. James Robinson moved that the Board ratify the licenses of all 54 licensees presented. Clarke Jackson provided the second to the motion, and it carried unanimously.***

Chairman King recognized Kyle Southall to bring the ALATA report. He verbally reported on membership growth and new committees being formed. ALATA is encouraging its membership to participate on the committees and get more involved with the various activities of the Association. Mr. King complimented the ALATA Executive Council and congratulated them for all the phenomenal work they've done and their success in getting young people involved.

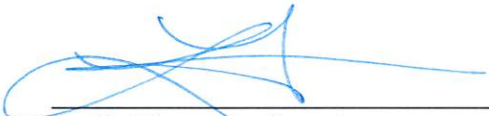
Chairman King called for any other business. There being none, he set the next meeting date as December 7, at 6:30 p.m, at Briarwood Christian School in Birmingham.

There being no further business *Dr. James Robinson moved and Kyle Southall seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris King, Chairman



Lydia Thurston, Secretary