



State Medical Board of Ohio

**RESPIRATORY CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 9, 2021**

via live-streamed video conference

<b>Members:</b> Harish Kakarala, MD Karen May, BSOM, RRT, CRT, L-RT Robert Pelfrey, DHSc, MSHS, RRT-ACCS, NPS, RPFT, AE-C Amy Rodenhausen, M.Ed, RRT Sanja Keller, MS, RRT, RCP	<b>Staff:</b> Jill Reardon, Deputy Director of External Affairs Chelsea Wonski, Director of Legislative Affairs Julie Williams, Public Information Officer Benton Taylor, Board Parliamentarian
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The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m.

### Minutes Review

**Dr. Kakarala moved to approve the draft minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting of the Respiratory Care Advisory Council as corrected. Ms. May seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### Legislative Update

**House Bill 110:** Ms. Wonski reported that the Board's initial budget request, which included a 14% increase, was granted in the Executive version of House Bill 110. The Board had submitted an aggressive package to add staff, particularly in response to the Strauss Working Group report. If the Governor's proposal remains, we will be able to add six new staff members to help with the workload and to dedicate resources to handling sexual misconduct complaints. The legislative team will continue to advocate for that request as the process moves forward. Ms. Wonski noted that the Board's budget is funded by licensing fees instead of general revenue tax dollars.

Ms. Wonski stated that Ms. Loucka testified last month for the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. The next step is for the House version of the bill to be passed and sent to the Senate for its committee process.

**House Bill 122:** Ms. Wonski stated that this bill would permit specific health care professionals to provide telehealth services according to specified conditions and standards. Respiratory care professionals are not currently included in this bill. The Ohio Society for Respiratory Care is in discussions to propose an amendment to include those professionals.

### Advanced Practice Respiratory Care License

Ms. Wonski stated that the Board's policy team has been having conversations with the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care, Ohio State University, and Dr. Kakarala regarding the new advanced practice respiratory care license. Those conversations are ongoing. The Council will be kept up-to-date on those discussions.

### **Respiratory Care Professional Recruiting Plan**

Ms. Reardon stated that Ms. Keller and Sue Ciarlariello of the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care (OSCR) have been working with state workforce officials regarding future recruiting and training of respiratory professionals. Ms. Keller had a brief presentation prepared for the Council.

Ms. Keller gave a presentation on the subject of recruiting students into respiratory care education programs. Ms. Keller discussed the role of respiratory care professionals and qualifications to sit for the national board examinations and licensure eligibility. Ms. Keller noted that in Ohio, students are eligible for a limited permit to practice respiratory care after completing two semesters, though that differs between institutions. This allows the students to enter the workforce after a relatively short time. The majority of respiratory therapists practice in hospitals, but many work in free-standing emergency centers and various other settings.

Ms. Keller stated that OSCR is currently working with the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Ohio Hospital Association, the State Medical Board of Ohio, the Greater Ohio Workforce Board, Ohio Means Jobs Centers, and the American Association for Respiratory Care. Ms. Keller reported that respiratory care now qualifies as a top job in demand with Ohio Means Jobs. Ms. Keller and Ms. Ciarlariello have met the Montgomery County Workforce to provide enough information to recommend respiratory care as a profession to those looking to return to school and interested in health care. OSCR is also working with the Ohio Hospital Association to discuss strategies for recruitment. Ms. Keller noted that one of best strategies is promoting from within.

Ms. Keller continued that she has worked heavily with OSCR marketing to create videos and commercials to promote respiratory care, and there is collaboration with the Health Care Workforce Preparation to integrate the respiratory care curriculum into any health care vocational curriculum in middle schools and high schools throughout the state. Ms. Keller encouraged other educational institutions to work with their counties to education their communities on this profession.

Mr. Pelfrey thanked Ms. Keller for the great presentation and noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for respiratory therapists in Ohio and nationwide. Mr. Pelfrey reiterated that respiratory care students can enter the workforce quickly and hospitals are hiring students. Ms. Rodenhausen agreed and stated that it is important to contact high schools.

### **One-Bite Program**

Ms. Reardon stated that she previously provided the Council members with a memorandum from Ms. Dorcy asking the Medical Board to approve updated evaluation and treatment requirements for some of the Board's licensees, including respiratory care professionals. If approved, these licenses will no longer be required to attend a 72-hour inpatient evaluation costing about \$3,500 if they are ordered to an evaluation. Rather, these licensees would be able to attend an outpatient evaluation which costs \$800.

Ms. Reardon explained that in the One-Bite program, eligible licensees who are impaired due to substance use disorder can avoid formal disciplinary action by board. The program involved

confidential monitoring and treatment. Board members had expressed concern that the high cost of the 72-hour evaluation discourages licensees from entering treatment and puts their license at risk. If the Board approves moving forward with this new proposed rule at this week's meeting, it will go to interested parties for comment.

### **Ohio Department of Health order**

Ms. Reardon stated that she provided the Council members with an order from the Department of Health adding respiratory care professionals to the groups who are able to volunteer to give COVID-19 vaccinations. At this week's meeting, the Medical Board will discuss protocols and competencies that licensees would have to meet to be able to give the vaccine.

### **Council Member Terms**

Ms. Reardon noted that the terms of some Council members are expiring in April 2021. Ms. Reardon is working with the Ohio Society of Respiratory Care on new appointments.

### **Adjourn**

**Dr. Kakarala moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rodenhausen seconded the motion.** All Council members voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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