

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
STATE BOARD FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPY**

October 13, 2022

New York State Education Department
1411 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10018

Present: Kathleen Beney, Chairperson
Rebecca Albright
Barbara Deluca (video)
Cassandra Germinal
Cynthia Gottlieb (video)
Thomas Harvie
Peter Papadakos (video)
Russell Rozensky (video)

Excused: Kevin Brinson; Thomas McManus.

Extended Members: Stanley John; Alphonse Quinones; Steven Smith; Iva Westbrooke.

Staff:	Suzanne Sullivan	Executive Secretary, presiding
	Eileen Avery	Board office staff
	Diane Martin (telephone)	Board office staff
	Paul Thompson	Executive Secretary
	Keith Westerling	Board office staff

Observers: Chad Pezzano and Chris Slocum (NYS Society for Respiratory Care)

Meeting Convened

Ms. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve minutes of the April 14, 2022, board meeting, with minor correction (Harvie; second: Sullivan)

Vote: Unanimous approval

Resolved: Minutes from April 14, 2022, approved with a minor change.

Board Vice Chair

The Chair asked the group to consider candidates for the Vice Chair position. Those interested should contact Mr. Thompson.

Announcements and Updates

- Ms. Sullivan reported personnel changes at the State Education Department. Paul Thompson was appointed as Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Massage Therapy, Applied Behavior Analysis, and Respiratory Therapy, effective September 15.

- Ms. Sullivan updated RT Board Members on the status of emergency executive orders to address health care workforce shortages. It is unclear if the orders will be extended past October 27. Board members noted the potential for disruptions in care.
- Board members remembered the leadership and contributions of RT colleagues who recently passed away.

Discussions

- Board members inquired about delays in license processing. Ms. Sullivan noted the volume of work and staffing challenges. Delays for individual applicants may be attributed to applicant-specific issues.
- Challenges in recruiting and retaining professionals remain. Board members added that licensing delays can exacerbate workforce shortages. Members discussed that under the law qualified nurses can practice immediately upon graduation, pending issuance of a limited permit. The RT law does not provide a similar authorization.
- Proposed legislation would establish a baccalaureate requirement for respiratory therapists. Most of the existing licensure-qualifying programs are at the associate degree level.
- The Chair provided background on how paramedics are being utilized to manage ventilators in and outside the hospital. Board members discussed what respiratory services may fall within the paramedic's scope of services, including changing modes, settings, and oxygen levels. Ms. Sullivan noted that Public Health Law governs EMS services, which are overseen by a qualified physician under established protocols.
- The Chair described concerns about how facilities are handling and reporting adverse events. Ms. Sullivan described requirements for reporting such events to the Department of Health. Site managers and human resources operations have reporting responsibilities.

Call for Board Members

Ms. Sullivan highlighted the need for a public member (consumer of services) as well as additional members to succeed members who are completing their second terms.

Close and Adjournment

The tentative date for the next meeting is January 12, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m. by unanimous vote.