

Vermont Academy of Family Physicians Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2013
Vermont Medical Society Offices, Montpelier, VT

Present: Allyson Bolduc, Fay Homan, Rob Penney, Mark Lichtenstein, Carol Blackwood (by phone), Andrea Regan (by phone), Mike Sirois (by phone), Tom Peterson (by phone), Vanessa Patten (medical student), Stephanie Winters, and Jon Porter (by phone)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Allyson Bolduc, M.D.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of January 24, 2013. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Reports

a. Updates from UVM – Tom Peterson

UVM had an outstanding group of medical students (16) match in family medicine. This was a great showing and the second largest match group at the COM (Peds had 18). They also had an excellent match of 6 students into UVM – they received very high caliber resumes and interviewed 88 students out of several hundred applicants. Nationally Tom foresees a shortage of residency slots (all specialties) relative to the production of US medical students.

UVM is working to develop their health services research capacity in the department of family medicine and are continuing to apply a great deal of energy in to the development of mature patient centered medical homes at the offices in Milton, South Burlington, Colchester, Berlin, and Hinesburg.

b. Treasurers Report/Budget – Mike Sirois

As of the end of February we have a balance of \$51,957.37 in the checking account and \$42741.00 in the Fidelity account (a \$2,000 increase since January).

UVM has asked us for our donation to Vermont Day for this year, but instead of \$1,000, which we normally donate, they are asking for \$2,000. Tom wasn't aware of this, but the board voted to support the request.

c. VDH Report – Allyson Bolduc

Allyson reported that since the last board meeting topics covered at the VDH meeting have been immunizations, the Rutland Asthma program, and legislation including pharmacists giving immunizations to children ages 7 & up. The health department, VMS, AAPVT Chapter and the VTAFP opposed this citing the following issues: medical home concept and fostering a long-term relationship, VFC policy, follow-up, etc.

d. Vermont Medical Society Update – Allyson Bolduc

Allyson reported on the VMS council meeting held in February. Allan Ramsay and Al Gobeille attended and spoke about what the GMCB needs from physicians. Anya Rader Wallack is stepping down and word is that Al Gobeille will become the chair. That means there will be an open position on the board.

4. **New/Old Initiatives**

a. **Medical Student/Resident Involvement**

The board welcomed Vanessa Patten to the meeting. She is part of the FMIG and is trying to get resident involvement.

b. **Resident Advocacy**

Unfortunately the FM residents couldn't participate with the Peds residents in their advocacy day (happening tomorrow). Hopefully they can coordinate next year.

c. **IZ NCCI Edits**

There have been changes in the way offices need to go for immunizations. Starting January 1st, when administering a vaccine at any office visit offices need to use a modifier 25. Stephanie, along with the VDH have been in discussions with DVHA as CMS has left it to the discretion of state Medicaid offices to delay this action. If a modifier is not used only the immunization is paid for, not the office visit.

d. **Family Physician Bargaining Group Application**

Stephanie and Stuart met and drafted the language for the Family Physician Bargaining Group application. Upon motion made and seconded, the application was unanimously supported as written. Stephanie will submit.

e. **Key Contact Program**

Allyson asked Mary Dill to spearhead the program to link members with legislators. Mary has agreed, so will work with Stephanie to get the program up and running.

f. **Advocacy/Legislative Update**

Stephanie gave an update on the legislative session and bills of importance. The House passed legislation requiring prescribers to register with and use the VPMS – this includes the first time a practitioner prescribes an opioid controlled substance for a patient with chronic pain; annually following the initial prescription of an opioid; when starting a patient on a controlled substance for long-term opioid therapy of 90 days or more; prior to writing a replacement prescription; when a patient requests a prescription renewal for an opioid prescribed to treat acute pain; and as otherwise required by the Commissioner of Health by rule after consulting with the Unified Pain Management System Advisory Committee. Of particular concern is the requirement to check the database for a renewal of a prescription to treat acute pain.

Another proposal under consideration would effectively equate APRNs as equal to physicians. Senator Jeanette White has circulated proposed legislation that would greatly expand the scope of practice of APRNs by adding the words “and advanced practice registered nurses” to all Vermont statutes where there is a reference to physicians or doctors. VMS staff has met with Senator White and expressed numerous objections to this legislation. It is believed that the legislation will be delayed until next year after a study committee is formed and makes recommendations.

5. **Vermont Board of Medical Practice – Jon Porter**

Dr. Porter reported to the VTAFP board members on his experience with the Vermont Board of Medical Practice and his concerns with his own personal encounter with the Board.

6. **Adjourn**

This meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.