

November, 2016

Dear North Carolina Physician Assistant:

We are glad that you are considering applying for a position on the North Carolina Medical Board (NCMB). We welcome your interest.

The NCMB was established in 1859, and has the distinction of being the oldest continually operating medical board in the country. By statute, the Board's mandate is: "to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery for the benefit and protection of the people of North Carolina." The NCMB's main responsibilities are licensing and regulating the practice of more than 50,000 physicians, physician assistants, and several other healthcare professionals.

Recent statutory changes have increased the size of the Board to 13 members, consisting of eight physicians, one physician assistant, one nurse practitioner, and three public members. This affords licensees the privilege of regulating their own profession - something which is not the case in every state.

Serving on the Board is both a responsibility and an honor. Many former Board members recall the importance of the work, the pride they felt in being part of it, and how serving on the Board made them better practitioners. While most Board members come to it as leaders of their profession, many NCMB members have gone on to leadership at the national level of medical regulation. With the ever-changing face of medicine in this country, it is good for our state to be represented in the national discussion on health care.

Here are some of specifics of serving on the North Carolina Medical Board.

Time commitment:

The Board meets in Raleigh six times per year in the odd-numbered months. Depending on the month, these meetings begin on a Wednesday morning or afternoon and usually end at 1:00 on Friday.

An eight-member panel of the Board holds two-day disciplinary hearings six times per year, in Raleigh, during the even-numbered months. The Board retains an independent counsel (a former trial judge) to participate in hearings and assist with procedural matters. A Board member typically serves on a hearing panel four times per year.

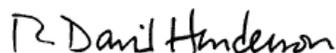
In addition, Board members work at other times, off site. Those tasks include reviewing meeting materials (15-20 hours per meeting or hearing), reviewing license applications, conducting licensing interviews, and participating in task forces, committees and legislative efforts. Some Board members write articles for The Forum or speak to outside groups such as civic and medical organizations.

In order to be productive, it is essential that Board members be proficient users of computer hardware and software. While Board staff is available to provide some training and assistance, each Board member must be able to use a laptop and keyboard, use basic Microsoft software products, and be willing and able to check Board e-mail regularly. The Board provides each member with a laptop computer for use while on the Board.

Licensing and discipline are the two main functions of the Board, but many other issues present themselves. With increased specialization, the Board has added several new categories of health care providers to its purview. Administrative rules are constantly in flux. Health care policy issues are endless: the opioid crisis, physician wellness, and new modes of healthcare delivery are examples of the current topics which confront the NCMB. You are encouraged to go to the Board's website www.ncmedboard.org to learn more about the Board's work.

Please feel free to contact me or one of the current or former Board members to ask them about their experience. I can be reached at 919-326-1109, ext. 218 or david.henderson@ncmedboard.org. You can find the list of current Board members on our website, <http://www.ncmedboard.org/about-the-board/board-members>

Sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer
North Carolina Medical Board
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