



# **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**February 23, 2021**

**3127 Smoketree Ct.,  
Raleigh, NC**

**Via Teleconference**

Minutes of the North Carolina Medical Board (NCMB) Special Meeting held February 23, 2021.

A Special Meeting of the North Carolina Medical Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, virtually through MS Teams. Members present were: Venkata R. Jonnalagadda, MD, President, called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were: Venkata R. Jonnalagadda, MD, President; John W. Rusher, M.D., President-Elect; Michaux R. Kilpatrick, MD, Secretary/Treasurer; William "Bill" Brawley; W. Howard Hall, MD; Christine M. Khandelwal, DO; Joshua D. Malcolm, JD; Varnell D. McDonald-Fletcher, EdD, PA-C; Shawn P. Parker, JD; Jerri L. Patterson, NP.; Anuradha Rao-Patel, MD. Damian F. McHugh, MD and Devdutta G. Sangvai, MD were absent.

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Dr. Jonnalagadda reminded the Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest with respects to any matters coming before the Board as required by the State Government Ethics Act. Mr. Shawn Parker recused himself.

### **DRAFT LEGISLATION REGARDING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

The Board reviewed draft legislation that would require the NCMB to revise its rules governing the regulation of physician assistants (PAs). The draft bill changes the requirements for practice as PAs and would allow PAs in team-based settings to forego certain supervisory requirements. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information and collect feedback that might assist staff with requesting any necessary changes to the bill. The discussion included the following comments and concerns:

- There are established regulations for PAs and any changes to that should ensure patient safety.
- Independent practice raises a lot of questions about liability and sets a precedent for other providers.
- Encourage rural access to care but should not compromise the quality of care.
- Consider effects in other areas like corporate practice of medicine, practice ownership, and interstate medical licensure compact.
- Consider what other states are doing.
- Request for clarity on terms and requirements within the bill – hours, pain management, identifying who is under supervision and who is not, responsibility and liability, etc.
- Divides the PA profession (supervised v. unsupervised) and employment concerns.
- Consider evidence of what works and does not work – issues about deliver quality care.
- Burden and impact on Board and Board staff.

Dr. Jonnalagadda reminded everyone of the Board's duty to protect the patients of North Carolina before accepting any final remarks. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



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Michaux R. Kilpatrick, MD; Secretary/Treasurer

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