

Newsline



Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc.

Sept./Oct./Nov. 2010

Public Member Initiative Takes Shape at the FSMB Foundation

Work continues at the FSMB Foundation on an initiative to provide support for public members of state medical and osteopathic boards. A new public member resource webpage is expected to launch in November in conjunction with other enhancements to the FSMB website. Resources will include videos and written modules on topics identified in a recent needs assessment survey of public members.

"State boards provide a variety of functions – from enacting regulations to sitting as judges in disciplinary hearings to managing budgets and staff – so that no one comes to the board fully equipped for every role," said Stephen Heretick, J.D., vice president of the FSMB Foundation and the first public member to be president of the Virginia Board of Medicine.

Resources under development

In development for online publication this fall are a video on the role of public members and four written modules covering physician licensing and discipline, pain management and medical malpractice. Beginning in 2011, new modules will be published periodically.

Physicians, lawyers, medical administrators and other experts in medical regulation will author the modules. Topics entailing multiple legal or technical references will be delivered as written

modules. Others will be captured in video interviews.

"We are being very deliberate in the development and roll out of the public member resources because we

want this to be an educational tool that endures," said Cheryl Vaught, J.D., president of the FSMB Foundation.

The Foundation is also working with the Citizen Advocacy Center to develop resources for appointing authorities and governors on the characteristics of individuals being appointed to serve on state medical boards. The goal is to help those making appointments better understand the role of public

members so that qualified individuals are more likely to be selected.

Focus on enhancing the role of public members

Martin Crane, M.D., immediate past chair of the FSMB, created a focus on public members of state medical and osteopathic boards during his tenure. According to Heretick, the Foundation was asked to further examine ways to enhance the role of public members in the oversight of physicians.

"I think there is a growing trust and confidence that public members serve the medical profession well in their oversight role," Heretick said.

However, Heretick also believes that



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– Stephen Heretick, J.D.,
Vice President, FSMB Foundation

FCVS to Launch Major Service Enhancements

To better support state medical and osteopathic boards' ability to make physician licensing decisions quickly and accurately, the FSMB will launch major service enhancements to the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) later this year. The focused enhancements address opportunities identified by state medical boards, licensees and an Administrators in Medicine (AIM) team to achieve faster processing speeds, improved discrepancy resolution, a paperless environment and better communication with state medical and osteopathic boards and applicants.

"This initiative will make FCVS a more effective and efficient means of credentials verification – to better support state boards, physicians and physician assistants in today's health care environment," said Sandra Waters, chief operating officer for the FSMB.

Already established and accepted by a majority of state medical and osteopathic boards, FCVS is well positioned to facilitate efforts by medical regulators to adapt to dynamics in public health. For example, the enhanced FCVS is designed to help state medical and osteopathic boards in their efforts to address the drive for efficiency in health care while maintaining state-based licensure.

Taking FCVS to a new level

The enhancements focus on three core elements: data management, internal verification work processes, and communication vehicles for state medical and osteopathic boards and applicants. Work on data management is focused on developing an efficient means of gathering, storing and retrieving credentials data. Work process involves streamlining and automating the complex processes that historically have been used to verify credentials. Communication vehicles involve creating an intuitive and easy-to-use interface to facilitate FCVS transactions, data transfer and status for both physicians and medical and osteopathic boards.

"The project team engaged multiple stakeholders to determine the scope and priorities within the initiative," said

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Waters. "Input from Administrators in Medicine, surveys of FCVS users and profile recipients along with an analysis of other credentialing services helped shape our approach."

Work on specific enhancements began in Fall 2009. New data storage, internal work verification processes and communication vehicles will be launched later in 2010. Additionally, Galicano Inguito, M.D., of Delaware, a member of the FSMB Board of Directors, is the board's new liaison to the FCVS initiative.

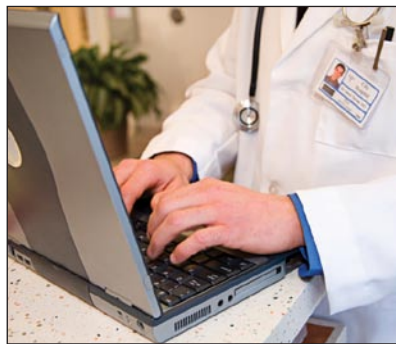
Building on past improvements

Established in 1996, FCVS primary-source verifies and stores core credentials. It is accepted by 63 of the 70 state medical and osteopathic boards that are FSMB member boards. Fourteen boards require applicants for licensure to register with FCVS and nine boards highly recommend the service to applicants. In 2009, FCVS served approximately 23,000 physician applicants and marked the processing of its 100,000th application.

There are now more than 120,000 physicians and physician assistants that have used FCVS.

Throughout its 14-year history, FCVS has implemented numerous improvements designed to reduce processing times and make the service easier to use for both applicants and state medical and osteopathic boards. In 2009, major improvements reduced processing times by 10 percent within six months after being introduced. Major improvements included:

- GMEConnect™, which enables graduate medical education (GME) program directors to submit participant information via a secure, Web-based environment. Eliminating the need to mail forms has reduced average processing times by 12 percent for institutions using the service. This will



be extended to medical educational institutions with the new FCVS initiative.

- An enhanced FCVS application, which auto-populates certain data elements and performs data-validation functions to prevent data entry errors.
- iPickup, which enables state boards to retrieve completed FCVS packages electronically and stores

information for future reference or retrieval. Currently 33 boards use iPickup.

Other incremental improvements launched in late 2009 include a new summary cover sheet, an improved discrepancy report and a medical education review form.

"The FCVS team is committed to continuous improvement," said Waters. "While we will continue to improve incrementally, the current initiative enables us to make a step-change improvement to FCVS."

FSMB Awards, Resolutions and Leadership Opportunities

Medical and Osteopathic Boards Encouraged to Identify Issues for House of Delegates' Consideration

FSMB member boards are encouraged to submit resolutions on issues of importance to state medical boards and the FSMB for consideration by the House of Delegates in April 2011. Issues identified by state boards in recent years have led to the development of new policies and programs beneficial to medical regulation.

Nominations for FSMB Service, Leadership Awards

FSMB member boards are invited to nominate individuals for the FSMB's highest awards, the Distinguished Service Award and the John H. Clark, M.D. Leadership Award. The awards will be presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Seattle in April. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding service and leadership to the FSMB and to the field of medical licensure and discipline. The John H. Clark, M.D. Leadership Award recognizes leadership in the

field of medical licensure and discipline and commitment to advancing the public good.

Submission due dates:

- **Board of Directors and Nominating Committee: Jan. 7, 2011**
- **Award nominations: Jan. 15, 2011**
- **Board of Directors Associate Member nominations: Jan. 15, 2011**
- **House of Delegates resolutions: Feb. 21, 2011**

For more information on any of these issues, please contact Pat McCarty, director of FSMB Leadership Services, at pmccarty@fsmb.org or (817) 868-4067.

Nominations for Elected Leadership Positions

One of the most rewarding experiences for members of state medical and osteopathic boards is the opportunity to serve in a leadership role with the FSMB, helping guide the organization's

vision and mission. Service in a leadership position brings many benefits, notably the opportunity to make a real impact in the direction and policy of a national organization with a vital role in health care.

FSMB Board of Directors and Nominating Committee: The FSMB is seeking capable and committed individuals for consideration as candidates to serve on FSMB's Board of Directors or the Nominating Committee. The board is responsible for the governance and administration of the FSMB between annual meetings of the House of Delegates.

Associate Member for Board of Directors: The FSMB is seeking nominations from member boards for an Associate Member to the FSMB Board of Directors. The new member, who will be elected at the board's February 2011 meeting, will serve a two-year term and will join the board immediately after the 2011 Annual Meeting.

IAMRA 2010 Conference Attendees Find Productive Common Ground

At the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) 9th Biennial Conference on Medical Regulation, 226 registered attendees representing 90 organizations from 32 countries worked together in interactive, small-group sessions to identify issues and principles related to global best practices in medical regulation.



"IAMRA members face quite different challenges in medical regulation," said John Hillery, MB, FRCPsych, FRCPI, immediate past chair of IAMRA. "As a resource for all members, IAMRA must focus on core aspects of regulation that can be implemented anywhere in the world."

The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, the National Board of Medical Examiners and the FSMB were co-hosts of the IAMRA 2010 Conference, which was held in Philadelphia, Pa., from Sept. 26–29. The conference and the progress made on identifying best practices is the direct result of 1,875 person-hours of effort by attendees and staff.

Emerging best practices

Initial small-group sessions allowed participants to share their own experiences and stories related to specific issues in the areas of registration and licensure, complaints and resolutions, and quality assurance or maintenance of licensure.



In total, 223 stories were shared across the three content areas. Subsequently, participants used defined parameters to identify 153 principles that emerged from the shared stories.

The IAMRA Management Committee will now review the principles and eliminate areas of redundancy. Work groups will then be assigned to further develop key principles. The goal is to present results for review and adoption by IAMRA at the 2012 conference on best practices.

"Our 2010 working conference was highly productive and generated a lot of good commentary," said Fleur-Ange Lefebvre, executive director and CEO of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada and the new chair of IAMRA. "The number of principles identified is indicative of the level of engagement reached at the conference."

Elections for the IAMRA Management Committee



In the Members General Assembly on the last day of the conference, elections were held for the IAMRA Management Committee. Mr. Philip Pigou, chief executive officer of the Medical Council of New Zealand, was elected to a two-year term as chair-elect to be followed by a two-year term as chair.

Dr. Eli Kwasi Atikpui, registrar of the Medical and Dental Council, Ghana, and

Mrs. Josephine Mwakutuya, registrar of the Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe, were both elected to four-year terms as a Member-at-Large on the IAMRA Management Committee. In total, the committee has five Member-



at-Large positions. At the close of the Members General Assembly, Fleur-Ange Lefebvre began her two-year term as IAMRA chair, succeeding Dr. Hillery. "With the increasing number of global interconnections in health, it's more important than ever for medical regulators around the world to regularly communicate with each other and share ideas and learning," said Lefebvre. "It's an exciting time to be part of IAMRA."

More information on IAMRA and the results of the 2010 IAMRA Conference can be found online at www.iamra.com or by contacting IAMRA Secretariat Roxanne Huff at (817) 868-4006 or secretariat@iamra.com.



Defining Principles of Best Practices

IAMRA 2010 Conference attendees identified principles of best practices in medical regulation using 14 parameters, which were developed with input from delegates and the IAMRA Management Committee. The IAMRA Management Committee will start with these parameters as they review principles identified in the conference, but are likely to further refine the list.

As the parameters are currently defined, principles of best practices in medical regulation must be:

- Feasible; realistic

- Acceptable to sovereign authorities
- Accountable to the public, physicians and fellow regulators
- Affordable
- Fair
- Evidence-based
- Portable
- Transparent in their processes
- Open relative to the public
- Relevant
- Collaborative
- Innovative and leading edge
- Put safety first; excellence later
- Proactive

the biggest fear of most public members is that they won't know what physicians and other medical professionals are talking about in board discussions. The public member initiative at the FSMB Foundation is designed to address these concerns.

Online distribution allows medical boards to take the initiative

State medical and osteopathic boards will be notified through the *FSMB eNews* newsletter as new public member resources are published online. Individual public members or boards will then be able to download specific modules that best fit their needs.


"Each state board is so different that it didn't make sense to print one booklet for public members," Vaught said. "An online resource is much more flexible and enables boards to customize tools for their own needs."

With content expected to launch periodically, the public member webpage will consistently offer new

resources to further support and enhance public member participation. The Foundation welcomes input from public members on specific issues to address in upcoming modules.

The FSMB Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the FSMB. The Foundation promotes research and education initiatives to assist the nation's 70 state medical and osteopathic boards in their

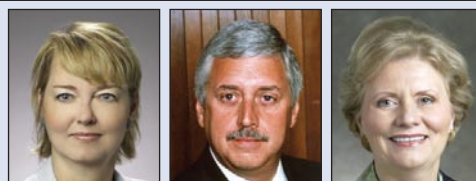
work and raise awareness of the role medical and osteopathic boards play in protecting the public and strengthening the medical profession.

For more information about the FSMB Foundation, please visit www.fsmbfoundation.org or contact Charlene DeLoach Oliver, J.D., at cdeloach@fsmb.org or (817) 868-4046. 

New Foundation Officers Elected

The Board of Directors of the FSMB Foundation recently elected Cheryl Vaught, J.D. (left) of the Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners and a member of the FSMB Board of Directors, as president; Stephen Heretick, J.D. (center) of the Virginia Board of Medicine, as vice president; and Susan Rose, D.O. (right) of the Michigan Bureau of Health Professions, Health Investigation Division, as treasurer; for one-year terms.

Other Foundation board members include Secretary Humayun Chaudhry, D.O., FACP, FSMB president and CEO; Director Freda Bush, M.D., FACOG, FSMB chair; Director Steve Altchuler, M.D., Ph.D., previously of the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice; Director Hedy Chang, of the Medical Board of California and a member of the FSMB Board of Directors; and Director Timothy Turner, of the Texas Medical Board.



Please send your questions, comments and article ideas to: Drew Carlson, *FSMB Newsliner*, 400 Fuller Wiser Rd., Suite 300, Euless, TX, 76039, dcarlson@fsmb.org, (817) 868-4043. Visit the FSMB's website at www.fsmb.org.



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