

Meeting of
THE STATE COMMITTEE
FOR PERFUSION
Thursday, January 18, 2024
1411 Broadway and NYSED Remote Conferencing Sites

Mr. Boese called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: James Beck, Public Member Dr. Richard Chan, Dr. Frank Manetta, and Bruce Searles.

Committee Members Absent: Karl Bocchieri, William DeBois, Julie Ann Luczak, public member Keith Senko, Kathleen Rezler, and Medicine Board liaison Dr. Arash Salemi.

NYSED Staff Present: Stephen Boese, Executive Secretary for the State Committee; Michelle Pawlowski, Education Credentials Specialist 2; Carla Wells, Education Program Assistant 2; and Lee Fitzgerald, Education Program Assistant 2

Guests Present: Stephanie Maes, and Kelly Murphy from the NYSED Professions Connections Unit.

Unfortunately, with only 4 committee members present, there is no quorum. The committee is unable to vote to approve the September 2022 minutes, and no other decisions can be made or approved at today's meeting.

Executive Secretary Report:

The committee is in immediate need of 2 Perfusionists and 1 Physician committee member. Later this year, 3 additional committee members will also be ending their member terms. -- Need Stephen's pre-approval before publishing minutes.

The committee members serve as experts on licensure and scope of practice questions that the Office of the Professions receives. There have not been many recent inquiries pertaining to Perfusion. With few issues to discuss, there has not been a Perfusion committee meeting since 2022. At this time, the committee is tasked with the issue of what a future Perfusion committee in NYS would look like.

Presentation: Paths to the Professions:

Kelly Murphy and Stephanie Maes visit from the NYSED Professions Connections Unit to give a presentation on the Paths to the Professions website. The Professions Connections Unit serves as a liaison between NYSED and licensed professionals, working together with students, educators, and other agencies. Paths to the Professions is intended to raise awareness on the career paths within licensed professions. They are looking for feedback from the committee members to ensure that the information on their website is accurate.

The “Explore Careers” page lists all the professions with links to individual pages. Each page has a general description of the profession, an informational video, salary information, job locations, interests/abilities the profession would appeal to, and professional skills needed to succeed in said profession. Each profession also has a “Print Profile” which is an informational flyer that can be displayed on a wall in a school. Each Print Profile has a QR code that leads directly to the Office of Professions website.

Review of Regulations:

The committee cannot review any regulation without a quorum and will need to re-visit this at a future meeting.

Discussion—Information from the field:

Public member Keith Senko has created a list of questions for discussion by the committee:

1. “Are today’s graduation, licensure and employment rates sufficient to cover the attrition rates in Perfusion?”

The committee believes the answer is Yes, with Dr. Manetta adding that these rates are ultimately market-driven.

2. “How has the corporatization of the individual surgeon’s practices affected hiring, employment and utilization of staff and OR facilities? Feedback I receive from medical practitioners is negative regarding the workload expected of them once employed by hospital corporations. Is this corporatization and socialization of medicine negatively impacting patient care from the standpoint of scheduling and/or successfully performing surgeries (i.e. an inability to staff ORs properly and in a timely manner, quality of care).” ”

Corporatization has not had a profound negative impact; however it has led to more contractors and per-diem Perfusionists.

3. “Regarding transparency of staffing as I brought up at the last meeting, what impact will the changing employment policies of the Healthcare Corporations have regarding perfusion (i.e. hiring, liability, moves by corporations to not require licensed perfusionists but instead use technicians supervised by 1 perfusionist, as in pharmacies and the attempts to change regulations in my profession amongst others)”

Committee members have not noticed a trend of perfusion tasks being delegated to mid-level professionals or unlicensed staff. There is a title of “Perfusion Assistant” but this is not a licensed profession, and they cannot perform any tasks that fall under the scope of practice of a licensed Perfusionist.

4. “AI’s effect on perfusion? Robotics, etc.”

Perfusion technology that is guided by AI can be compared to the “autopilot” feature in a car or airplane. The technology is not there yet, but there is less concern that AI would replace Perfusionists compared to other professions. AI would serve more as a tool to assist these professionals, and the main benefit to the technology is consistency of care. Perfusionists can easily re-gain control over the “autopilot” feature when needed.

5. “Have there been any reports nationally regarding negligent behavior on the part of perfusionists?”

There have not been many documented cases of negligence in Perfusion nationally. Only one Perfusionist in NYS has received an enforcement action. An incident in Arizona from 15 years ago where a patient was accidentally drained of blood is still referenced in the media today.

Other Issues:

Mr. Boese uses this time to clarify committee members’ questions on the disciplinary process for licensees. Public complaints against a licensee are referred to the Office of Professional Discipline (OPD). For issues of professional misconduct, OPD may consult with one committee member before proceeding with charges. Mr. Boese and the rest of the committee members are not privy to ongoing investigations in order to remain objective and eliminate any conflict of interest. If there is a disciplinary hearing, 3 committee members who are not familiar with the case would be selected to serve on a panel.

Selection of Next Meeting Date: No meeting will be scheduled until the current vacancies in membership are addressed.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Fitzgerald
Education Program Assistant 2