

**Minutes to the Meeting of the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy
Durable Medical Equipment Committee
October 23, 2007**

Chairman Marcia Ladd called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. at the Board of Pharmacy office. Present for the meeting were Robert (Joey) McLaughlin, Jr., J. Parker Chesson, Jr. and Karen Womack (via conference call), committee members. Also present were staff Karen Matthew, Krystal Brashears, Amy Cook, Rachel Paris, Wendy Watson, and Board Counsel Sarah Phillips. Also present were Randy Brown and Chris Noble.

Chairman Ladd read the ethics statement.

Minutes of the July 24, 2007, meeting was approved by all.

Persons present for the meeting were recognized.

Old Business:

Karen Matthew passed around a plaque that had been obtained for Wayne Link, past member of the DME committee, in recognition of his service for approximately ten years. Mr. Link intended to accept the plaque in person but he was not able to be present at the meeting. Ms. Matthew informed the committee she would send the plaque to Mr. Link.

Krystal Brashears provided an update on American Respiratory Care. Ms. Brashears reported that the firm relocated its operations to a commercial business office. American Respiratory Care had been investigated by the Board of Pharmacy for locating their North Carolina sites at storage facilities. The investigation has been closed and no action was taken against American Respiratory Care.

Ms. Matthew reported that the recommendation of a Letter of Warning to Apria Healthcare from the DME Committee resulting from a pre-hearing conference before Board member Chesson was approved by the full Board at its meeting September 2007.

Chairman Ladd stated that the Respiratory Care Board was working on drafting a new statement concerning the fitting of CPAPs on patients. Chairman Ladd stated that a committee was scheduled to meet in November 2007 to draft the statement.

Ms. Phillips asked about the research being conducted by Ms. Matthew on sellers of CPAPS on EBay and Craig's List over the internet. Ms. Matthew indicated she had discovered equipment for sale but had not been able to determine the identity of sellers, but will continue researching the matter.

New Business:

The Committee reviewed a letter from US Representative Robin Hayes concerning House Bill 621 and a letter from Senator Elizabeth Dole concerning Senate Bill 1484. The Committee had no comment on the letters.

The Committee considered a proposal for the DME Committee to hold biannual meetings instead of quarterly meetings. Ms. Phillips advised a resolution would have to be adopted by the Committee.

Chairman Ladd made a motion with a second by Mr. McLaughlin to adopt a resolution to meet twice a year, and otherwise hold meetings as needed, either in person or by conference call. The resolution passed unanimously.

The meetings for 2008 were set for April 22, 2008, and October 28, 2008, starting at 10 a.m.

The Committee asked Amy Cook and Krystal Brashears to report on pending DME inspections. Ms. Cook stated she had found few major violations in her inspections. Ms. Brashears stated she had conducted several inspections and found no violations.

Ms. Watson stated there had been no calls to about DME companies with major violations.

Ms. Paris stated that GPS coordinates would be requested from each DME business that renewed their permits for 2008, and on new application forms.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The committee set the next date for a meeting on Tuesday, 10 a.m., April 22, 2008.

Marcia Ladd, Chairperson

Karen Womack (Via Conference Call)

Robert (Joey) McLaughlin, Jr.

J. Parker Chesson, Jr.

Not Present
Mel Elliott