

**North Carolina Board of Pharmacy
Durable Medical Equipment Committee Meeting
Minutes of November 3, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by Mel Elliott acting as interim chairperson. Present for the meeting were Bill Griffin (new member), Betty Dennis, and Joey McLaughlin (via telephone), committee members. Karen Womack was not present. Board staff present included Karen Matthew, Constance Manion, Wendy Watson, Krystal Brashears and Amy Sykes, and Clint Pinyan (via telephone), Board Counsel. Also present, NC Board of Pharmacy rotation pharmacy intern student Dana Petri.

Mr. Elliott read the ethics statement.

The minutes for the April 28, 2009, were approved by all.

New Business:

On advice of Board counsel, the election of a new committee chairperson was the first item of business. The floor was open for nominations, and Mr. Elliott nominated Karen Womack. No other persons were nominated for the position and the nominations were closed. Mr. Griffin made a motion to close the nominations, and approve Ms. Womack as chairperson, and Ms. Dennis seconded the motion. The nomination was approved by all.

(Note: After Ms. Womack was notified of being elected as the new chairperson, she respectively declined the position, so members will vote again at the next meeting for this position.)

Discussion was held briefly about the DME election process in 2009 which went smoothly. Mr. Griffin mentioned that the election process should be emailed to Beth Bowen at NC AMES for distribution to its members about the election process.

He added that an email about renewals of permits should also be sent out to permit holders through NC AMES.

Ms. Matthew mentioned of summary suspensions of DME permits at a Board meeting earlier in the year. Mr. Elliott stated that manufacturers of devices often notify CMS of alleged bogus actions, and might be possible for the Board of Pharmacy to be notified of such fraud if it involved a company permitted in North Carolina.

Mention was also made of investigations of DME companies in North Carolina which continued to operate even if the permit was not renewed as required.

Ms. Watson talked about the renewal process starting on November 1, 2009. She stated that DME permit holders would no longer receive renewal certificates through the mail, but would be able to print their own permits for display.

Next Meeting:

The next committee meeting will be held at the Board office at 10:30 am, Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on November 3, 2009.

Betty Dennis

Mel Elliott

William (Bill) H. Griffin

Robert (Joey) McLaughlin, Jr., (via telephone)

(Not Present)
Karen Womack