



Board of Directors
May 15, 2018

Present: Dr. Mark A. Lopatin, presiding; Drs. Sherry Blumenthal, MD; George R. Green, MD; Joseph Grisafi, MD; Walter Klein, MD; Jennifer Lorine, DO; Jay E. Rothkopf, MD; Steven Shapiro, DO; James W. Thomas, MD; Martin Trichtinger, MD;

Called in: Dr. Mark Pyfer, MD

Staff: Michele Boylstein, Executive Director

Call to Order: Dr. Lopatin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Chairman's Remarks: Dr. Lopatin made a few general announcements:

Introduction - Introduced Michele Boylstein as the new Executive Director of the society.

MCIC Immunization – Provided an update on the upcoming event by the Montgomery County Immunization Coalition being held on May 23, 2018 from 5pm – 8pm

Board meeting on November 13th – motion to move board meeting to Nov 6th. Approved.

Consent Calendar: No extractions. All items approved.

Legislative Update: Dr. Trichtinger gave an update on some key legislative initiatives. PAMED continues to look further into the modifier-25 issue but it is currently on hold. House Bill 1293 (the prior auth bill) – we are still seeking cases of prior authorization issues. The cases are resonating with the legislators. SB 895, SB 896, and SB 25 (CRNP bill) are stuck in committee. There is currently a statewide attempt to put a bill forth that would make Fentanyl patches illegal. PAMED needs assistance to combat this, explaining when/how they can be used appropriately. Advocacy Day in Harrisburg and the MCMS Legislative Dinner are on May 22nd in Harrisburg. Several board members will be in attendance at these events.

Action: Dr. Rothkopf is planning on putting together articles in the Bucks/Montgomery Physician magazine to educate the public on the downfalls of bills passing that do not protect patient rights.

MCMS President/Treasurer's Report:

MSMS Lease - Dr. Rothkopf reported that he has been engaged in conversations with the building owners re: termination of lease. Landlord would not agree to release MCMS from the lease. They want 100% occupancy on the building because of renovations scheduled in the near future. They would allow subletting the space and were open to reducing sq ft cost. The board members agreed that the space is conducive for clerical or psychologist space. Discussion on the landlord being willing to a reduction of 5% on the rental fee if MCMS would pay rental fees in annual lump sums until lease end. MCMS still owes a balance around \$50,000 on the lease. Dr. Rothkopf confirmed that the end of the lease does not automatically renew. He will also follow up with landlord on the suggestion brought up by board members for a reduction of fees if paying in advance.

Approval of Dues Rates for 2019 – No changes were made to membership dues. All items approved.

Membership Report – Dr. Blumenthal provided a membership update. Membership: As of May 7, MCMS has 1,250 members. This is up from May 2017 (1,195). It appears that the increase is coming from the residents' membership category.

Women's Caucus – Dr. Blumenthal provided an update and mentioned that it's been discouraging. Women are grossly under represented. She has submitted an amendment to the PAMED Bylaws committee to create a section for women physicians on the PAMED Board. She is hoping that the delegates will support it.

Action: The executive director confirmed with the PAMED, Associate Director, House Operations & Governance that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Bylaws Committee. Should the Bylaws Committee opt NOT to advance the proposed amendment, Dr. Blumenthal will be notified and will have ample time to bypass the Bylaws Committee by submitting the amendment with the requisite 15 signatures directly to the Secretary of the Society, as long as it is done in time for the amendment to be included in the Official Call (August 28, 2018 this year).

Report on Montgomery County Committee Proposal – Dr. Lopatin mentioned the recent PAMED Board meeting had a topic on the agenda regarding the Membership 2020 Task Force. They presented a comprehensive report regarding simplifying PAMED membership categories through a bylaws change and seeking the Will of the House regarding unification between the state and county medical societies. Dr. Lopatin asked the executive director to share that report with the board after the meeting so the board could review the full report.

Action: The executive director shared the report with the board on Thursday, May 17, 2018.

Initiatives:

- HOD: MCMS has two new slots for residents in their delegate numbers. Delegate list is due by July 26, 2018.
 - *Action: The executive director will confirm with the previous list of delegates from 2017 for the 2018 HOD and will inform the Board Chair should any slots need to be filled that are not confirmed.*
 - *Action: Dr. Trichtinger will receive a list of resident members from the executive director to determine the two new resident slots.*

Resolutions are due by September 27th. The PAMED board is putting forth a resolution to the House of Delegates in the fall, coming from the young physicians' section, to separate out county and state dues. Dr. Lopatin has a resolution he is preparing regarding Safe Harbor exemption for groups of GPO's.

- Anatomy of a Lawsuit: Dr. Rothkopf provided an update on the event that took place on April 18, 2018 at Abington Hospital. He said the ratio of doctors versus attorneys was not balanced. 5 doctors attended and the rest were attorneys. It went well but was a small turnout.
- Bucks/Montgomery Physician Magazine: It had its debut issue and has received positive feedback. Information will be going out and has gone out for a Call for Articles for the next issue. Deadline for articles on the next issue is June 1, 2018.
- Annual Dinner: The annual dinner is taking place on June 5, 2018 at the William Penn Inn – Ambler at 6pm. A link will be sent out to the board to register. The board members agreed that the Bucks County Medical Society board and all Presidents of the 2nd district leadership, and the Philadelphia Medical Society should also be invited and attend complimentary.
 - *Action: The executive director and staff reached out to invite the surrounding county Presidents and guests to the annual dinner.*
- MOC Update: Dr. Charles Cutler was selected for the ABMS vision for the future committee. They are tasked with making recommendations on MOC. ABIM has not been receptive and wishes to continue with the high stakes exams.
 - *Action: A link was provided on the Pulse Points eblast for members to write to ABIM to express their opinion on these exams.*

Areas of Discussion:

The board discussed a Facebook site that is focused on patient protection and education. It is called Physicians for Patient Protection – official. It's a grassroots movement and a great way to get involved. The linked FB pages focuses on education, but any physician or medical student can message the page and request access to their private physician-only page.

Physicians Against Drug Shortages – This site is in reference to the safe harbor law for drug rebates. This has resulted in shortages. Physicians against drug shortages are working towards affordable medicine and against corruption.

A suggestion was made to consider incorporating patient's as members in the medical society by Dr. Grisafi.

Dr. Thomas spoke of CVS and corporate interest in promoting SB 895.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Note from board meeting on 9/11/2018:

Extraction of minutes from May 15, 2018 was made by Dr. Steven Shapiro. No documentation in the request to support Dr. Shapiro for VP of PAMED candidacy was mentioned in the 5/15/18 minutes. No letter was listed in the minutes, but it was actually written and signed by Walter Klein & Mark Lopatin. The information should have been included in the minutes but was missed as an oversight. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept a change to the board minutes of 5/15/18.