



Texas Board of Orthotics & Prosthetics

September 30, 1999 Regular Meeting Minutes

(The Texas Board of Orthotics & Prosthetics met on September 30, 1999, at 9:00 A.M., at the Texas Department of Health Exchange Building, 8407 Wall Street, Room N-218, Austin, Texas. This was the Board's seventeenth regular meeting.)

Members Present: Wanda Furgason, Kenneth (Randy) Hart, Thomas Lunsford, Stanley Thomas
Members Absent: Scott Atha, Lupe Young
TDH Staff Present: Donna Flippin, Steven Lowenstein, Debbie Peterson, David Richards
Others Present: Tony Denson, Ruben Tamez, Jr., Sixto Vargas

ITEM #1: Call to Order - Introduction of Members and Staff (Stanley Thomas)

Mr. Thomas called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M. Members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

ITEM #2: Approval of Minutes from the August 23, 1999, Meeting (Stanley Thomas)

The August 23, 1999, meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM #3: Presiding Officer's Report

None.

ITEM #4: Executive Director's Report (Donna Flippin)

Ms. Flippin covered Board office activities since the last meeting. After the computer system was set up, license and registration certificates were issued to approximately 375 practitioners, assistants, technicians, and students. Ms. Flippin reminded the Board of the possible funding problem this fiscal year since most monies came in during fiscal year 1999. She reviewed the items in the pre-meeting packet mailed to the Board. The Board clarified the rule concerning copying licenses in response to a letter from a facility. Employers may copy an employee's license/registration certificate for hospitals and insurance purposes. The Board also addressed out-of-state practitioners applying for a Texas license. Out-of-state applicants may apply for Texas licensure without being a Texas resident. The Board will review the application and if the applicant meets all requirements except Texas residency, the Board would approve a license pending the applicant moving to Texas, establishing residency, and submitting proof of residency to the Board.

Motion: It was moved to allow out-of-state applicants to apply for licensure before becoming a Texas resident. After the applicant meets all other requirements, the Board would approve the applicant for licensure contingent on the applicant establishing Texas residency and sending proof to the Board. Afterwards, a license can be issued. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM #5: Election of Board Officers (Stanley Thomas)

Motion: It was moved to table the election until the next meeting. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM #6: Discussion and Possible Action on the Development of a State Examination

(Debbie Peterson)

Ms. Peterson presented the information on the final budget report that will be sent to the Governor's Office in October and how it affects the Board developing its own examination. The process of developing a Board examination was discussed. Inviting the Lieutenant Governor and his aide to visit an O&P facility was discussed.

ITEM #7: Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Approve or Disapprove Pending Licensure Applications (Stanley Thomas)

The Board reviewed 17 license applications.

ITEM #8: Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Approve or Disapprove Pending Facility Accreditation Applications (Stanley Thomas)

Tabled until next meeting.

-
- ITEM #9** **Discussion and Possible Action on Rules Committee, Education & Facility Standards Committee, and Consumer Information Committee Assignments.** (Stanley Thomas)
 Tabled until the next meeting.
- ITEM #10** **Other Business Not Requiring Board Action** (Stanley Thomas)
 None
- ITEM #11** **Public Comment** (Stanley Thomas)
 Ruben Tamez addressed the Board concerning his application under §821.15 of the Board's rules (Acquiring Licensure as a Uniquely Qualified Person).
 Tony Denson, LO, expressed his appreciation for the Board, volunteered to assist the Board in any area, and encouraged the Board to assure that practitioners and other O&P professionals who report violations in good faith would not be penalized.
 Mr. Denson's comments caused the Board to discuss adding verbiage to the rules concerning affirmative duty/requirements and canons of ethical conduct. Ms. Flippin and Ms. Peterson explained the complaint system to the Board.
 Sixto Vargas addressed the Board concerning his application for licensed orthotist.
- ITEM #12** **Future Meeting Dates** (Stanley Thomas)
 Monday, November 1, 1999, Education & Facility Standards Committee Meeting, 9:00 A.M., in the Houston area.
 Monday, November 1, 1999, Regular Meeting, 10:30 A.M., in the Houston area.
- ITEM #13** **Future Agenda Items** (Stanley Thomas)
 Board Officer Elections
 Clinical Residency Evaluation Packet
 Committee Assignments
 Continuing Education
 Reciprocity
- ITEM #14** **Adjournment** (Stanley Thomas)
 Mr. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 12:55 P.M.
-

Presiding Officer

Executive Director

Scott Asha

Donna S. Flippin