

From Where I Sit

By Jacqueline A. Watson, DO, MBA
Executive Director, DC Board of Medicine



2014

Spring has Sprung!
The cherry blossoms have

bloomed and things have been buzzing at the Board of Medicine since our last publication in Summer 2013.

NOTABLE MENTIONS:

WELCOME

• Dr. Joxel Garcia was formally appointed as the Director of DOH in February after serving in an interim capacity since July 2013. Dr. Garcia, an OB/GYN physician, formerly served as the Commissioner of Public Health for the state of Connecticut from 1999-2003. (Meet him on page 7.)

• In January, we welcomed Rikin Mehta, PharmD, JD, LLM, as the new Sr. Deputy Director for the Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA). Dr. Mehta joins us from the US Food and Drug Administration where he served as the Deputy Director for the Division of Medical Policy Programs. (Meet him on page 7.)

• In November 2013, the Board welcomed Terrence Straub as its new consumer member. Mr. Straub is a former US Steel executive and served in the Carter White House as a special assistant for Congressional Affairs. In April 2014, the Board welcomed new consumer member Treasure R. Johnson, Esq. (Meet them on pages 8-9.)

• New Staff - I am delighted to report that we welcomed three new staff members to our team, Marvin Romero, LaJuan Jeffries-Johnson and Mary Harris, as well as new intern Rahwana Amare. (Meet them on page 9.)

FAREWELL

• In October 2013, we bid Feseha Woldu, PhD, farewell and good luck. Dr. Woldu served as the Sr. Deputy Director of the HRLA for fourteen years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Woldu for his support and his dedication to HRLA and the public. (See page 10.)

• In March we said goodbye and a big thank you to Health Licensing Specialist, Aisha Williams. Aisha served as a HLS for the past five years and was an integral member of our team. We will miss her and we wish her well in her new position.

NEW HIV/AIDS REQUIREMENT AND RENEWAL 2014

• All physicians and physician assistants will be required to provide 3 hours of HIV/AIDS CME with this renewal cycle that begins on October 1, 2014. (See page 6 for topic areas that must be covered.)

BOMED BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM

• In September 2013, we hosted our 2nd biennial symposium where we shared the summary of our findings from the 2012 physician and physician assistant workforce survey. Hot topics discussed included presentations from key note speakers on the healthcare workforce challenges in an evolving healthcare system, changes on the horizon for regulating the physician in the new health care market place and improving access to healthcare in the District. The symposium was very well attended and we received very positive feedback with requests for the Board to do an annual event. This request is being seriously considered by the Board with a likely activity to occur in September.

PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE CAPACITY

• During this 2014 renewal period we will once again conduct our workforce survey. This is the last phase of our 3 phased initiative aimed at accurately

capturing the workforce capacity of physicians and physician assistants in the District. A third report will be published in 2015. The previous 2 reports are available on our website www.doh.dc.gov/bomed.

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE WORK

• The Board has established several subcommittees. These subcommittees have been tasked to develop and recommend guidelines to the full Board on important areas impacting best-practices in standard of care for licensure and discipline. Learn more about some of the subcommittee work, in topic areas such as minimum criteria for licensure; pain management; and international physician preceptorship criteria, in this issue of the Chair's Letter.

• Collaborative Practice, another recently formed Board subcommittee, will be working with the Board of Pharmacy subcommittee members to draft best-practice regulations around this area of practice. The regulations will outline the rules that will govern the relationship between a physician and a pharmacist in caring for patients.

GRANTED

The Board was recently awarded two grants:

• Extended Release and Long-Acting (ER/LA) Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) opioid educational grant in the amount of \$10,000. The grant award will be used to host a **3 hour CME** live (face to face) educational activity for healthcare professionals, targeting those with DEA registrations. This award is very timely and will serve to support the work already underway by the pain management subcommittee. (Learn more on page 19).

• Workforce Capacity Minimal Data Set (MDS) grant in the amount of \$5,000. This grant will be used to support the work being done to implement the 3rd phase of the workforce capacity survey by the Board. The

survey will once again be issued during the renewal cycle which begins in October.

GRAND ROUNDS

• The Board attorney and I have been making the rounds at area hospitals and associations in the area bringing licensees up to date on current regulatory changes in the District. To date presentations have been made to Sibley Hospital, MedStar Hospital and CNMC. We will complete our rounds in early June and hope to reach a wide cross section of physicians in our effort to increase our outreach to providers.

2014 FSMB ANNUAL MEETING

• Board member Dr. Jeffery Smith, Health Licensing Specialist Deniz Soyer, MBA, and I represented the Board by attending the 102nd annual Federation meeting in Denver, Colorado. This year's theme was **From Policy to Action: Resources for Medical Regulators**. We heard from keynote speakers and influential leaders on up to date regulatory trends and topics such as **Interstate Medical Compact Licensure; Expedited Licensure; Collateral Consequences of Board Actions; Telemedicine; and Continuous Professional Development** that will help to keep the District ahead of the curve with implementing best-practices in medical regulation.

That's all for now. My staff and I continue to work closely with the Board and stakeholders to fulfill our mission to protect and enhance the health, safety, and well-being of District of Columbia residents by promoting evidence-based best practices in health regulation, high standards of quality care and implementing policies that prevent adverse events.

Physicians and Physician Assistants, please remember to do your CME's and make sure that 3 are in HIV/AIDS. Our next issue will be in fall 2014, right before we embark upon our 2014 renewal cycle.

Until then, Do Good & Be Well!