

TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD INVITES PHYSICIANS, OTHERS TO SHARE INPUT AT TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Physicians Urged To Exercise Caution In Deciding Information To Share & How To Share It

June 16, 2008

Texas physicians with questions or concerns about the Texas Medical Board (TSB), its rules and enforcement actions may wish to consider participation in one or more of a series of "Town Hall" meetings that the TSB is scheduled to host in various cities in Texas over the next few weeks.

Over the past few years, the regulatory and disciplinary activities of the Texas Medical Board (TMB) has been a subject of widespread discussion and concern among certain physicians. In an apparent effort to expand physician awareness and understanding about TMB rules and activities and to provide physicians with an opportunity to share input about its activities, the TSB is hosting a series of Town Hall meetings in communities around Texas over the next few weeks to meet with medical professionals and the public to gather input and feedback about regulation of the medical profession. In conjunction with the Town Hall meetings, TMB also will offer in-depth seminars for entities that recruit or credential physicians to assist those entities in streamlining the application process for their applicants and to minimize application errors.

The scheduled Town Hall Meeting in each of these locations will consist of two parts over two days. The Town Hall meeting will be conducted first, at 7 p.m. on the evening of the first day and the three-hour licensing seminar will be offered on the morning of the second day.

Scheduled upcoming Town Hall meetings and their locations are as follows:

- **June 17 and 18, Midland, Texas.** Both sessions will take place at the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification, 1400 N. FM 1788. The Town Hall meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on June 17 and the licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on June 18.
- **June 23 and 24, Austin, Texas.** The Town Hall meeting will be at 7 p.m. on June 23rd in the Thompson Auditorium at the Texas Medical Association offices, 401 W. 15th St. The licensing seminar will begin at 11 a.m. on June 24 in Room 100 in the lobby area of the William P. Hobby Jr. State Office Building, 333 Guadalupe Street.
- **July 1 and 2, Fort Worth, Texas.** Both sessions will be conducted at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard. The sessions will be conducted in Luibel Hall on the second floor of the EAD building, which is at the corner of Montgomery and Camp Bowie. The Town Hall meeting will begin at 7 p.m. July 1. The licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on July 2.
- **July 8 and 9, Bryan/College Station.** Both sessions will be conducted in Lecture Hall 1 on the first floor of the Joe Reynolds Medical Building at Texas A&M University, at the southwest corner of University Drive and Olsen Boulevard. The Town Hall meeting will be at 7 p.m. on July 8 and the licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on July 9.

While the Town Hall Meetings provide an opportunity to hear from the TMB about its expectations and practices, physicians and others affected by its regulatory activities should exercise care in deciding what and how to share any desired input with the TMB during the Town Hall Meetings. Because of the public and unprotected nature of these meetings, statements and other communications or materials shared at Town Hall Meetings generally will not qualify for the generally applicable confidentiality protections that might ordinarily apply to communications made to the TMB in connection with the report or response to a TMB investigation of a claim of misconduct under the Medical Practices Act. Inappropriate sharing of information therefore may compromise otherwise available peer review, quality, attorney-client or other privileges against disclosure or discovery, may create discoverable evidence that can create difficulties for physicians in defending against malpractice physicians, or create undesirable or unanticipated repercussions on matters pending before the TMB, peer review committees or in other ongoing litigation or controversies. As a result, physicians or others planning to attend the meetings should consult with qualified legal counsel about any concerns or issues that they may be considering discussing at or in connection with the meetings.

Cynthia Marcotte Stamer regularly advises, defends and conducts training for physicians and other health care providers about licensing, peer review, credentialing and other health care regulatory and operational matters. For help in responding to or otherwise handling a licensing board, peer review, credentialing, or other professional performance or disciplinary matter, addressing other health care licensing, regulatory or operational matters, arranging training, obtaining copies of past Client Alerts or other educational materials, or in addressing other compliance or health care concerns, please contact Cynthia Marcotte Stamer at cstamer@solutionslawyer.net, 972-419-7188.

About Cynthia Marcotte Stamer

Cynthia Marcotte Stamer, P.C., a member of the law firm of Glast, Phillips & Murray, P.C, has extensive experience advising, and representing health care providers and other health industry clients about health care operations, reimbursement, regulatory and public policy, risk management, human resources, credentialing and peer review, technology, privacy, licensing, compliance, contracting, and other concerns. Her clients include hospitals, physicians, clinics, IPAs, PHOs, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living and home health, rehabilitation, imaging and other diagnostic services providers, DME, physician practice management companies and other management services organizations, health care technology, payers, employers, public health, school and other health involved governmental entities, and other health industry clients. Recognized in the International Who's Who of Professionals and bearing the Martindale Hubble AV-Rating, Ms. Stamer is a highly regarded legal advisor and consultant, author and speaker, who regularly conducts management and other training on health care reimbursement and other health industry operational, regulatory, and public policy matters.

Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Health Law Section Managed Care & Insurance Interest Group and known for her practical, direct problem-solving approach, Ms. Stamer also applies her extensive industry experience in numerous professional and industry leadership roles. In addition to her ABA Health Law Section involvement, Ms. Stamer serves on the editorial advisory boards of and is a contributing author for the Bureau of National Affairs and other publications, served as the Compliance Committee Chair and a member of the Board of the National Kidney Foundation of North Texas Board of Directors, serves on the continuing education and conference planning committees of the ABA Joint Committee On Employee Benefits (JCEB), the HFMA Lone Star Chapter, TAHFA, the IRS TEGE Advisory Council, and numerous other health industry groups. She also is the past-president of the Alliance for Health Care Excellence, and founder of its Health Care Heroes and Patient Empowerment Programs. She also is active in numerous other industry organizations including the American Health Lawyers Association, the Medical Group Management Association, the Alliance for Healthcare Excellence, the Dallas Bar Association Health Law Section,

Ms. Stamer is a widely published author and highly sought-after speaker nationally and internationally sought out for her strategic knowledge and insights on operational and technical health care risk management and operational concerns. A columnist for MD News and recurring author for various other health industry publications, Ms. Stamer's insights have been quoted by the Wall Street Journal, the Bureau of National Affairs (BNA), HIPAA Comply, Private Payer News, Modern Health Care, Managed Healthcare Executive, Health Leaders, Caring for The Elderly Magazine, For The Record, the Dallas Morning News, Spencer Publications, the Dallas Business Journal, the Houston Business Journal, and a various other national and local publications. Ms Stamer is the author of 100s of publications on health industry matters including numerous highly regarded works published by the American Bar Association, Aspen Publishers, BNA, the American Health Lawyers Association, the Medical Group Management Association, Government Institutes, Inc., Decision Health and others.

For more information about Ms. Stamer, a listing of selected publications and other health industry links, information about workshops and other training and other health industry information and resources or other details about Cynthia Marcotte Stamer, P.C. and Glast, Phillips & Murray, P.C., see CynthiaStamer.com or contact Ms. Stamer.

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