

FINAL MINUTES

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MEETING OF:

**PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ONE HAAC DRIVE
WILDWOOD CONFERENCE CENTER
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

TIME: 10:47 A.M.

DATE: March 7, 2005

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Patient Safety Authority

March 7, 2005

Board Members

Robert S. Muscalus, D.O., Chairperson, Pennsylvania
Physician General
Joan M. Garzarelli, RN, MSN
Roosevelt H. Hairston
Gary A. Merica, R.Ph.
Cliff Rieders, Esquire
Nathaniel J. Zuckerman, M.D. (Via teleconference)

Authority Personnel

Alan B.K. Rabinowitz, Board Administrator
Sharon L. Hutton, Administrative Assistant
Joan Plump, Esquire
Laurene Baker, Communications Director

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PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Patient Safety Authority was held on Monday, March 7, 2005. Robert S. Muscalus, D.O., Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:47 a.m.

[Dr. Robert Muscalus noted due to a quorum not being present the Board would need to defer voting on the minutes of February 7, 2005, until its next meeting. Dr. Muscalus also advised the public in attendance that no official business would be conducted in the form of a vote during the meeting due to a quorum not being present, but various issues would be discussed to provide direction to the staff with regard to ongoing projects.]

Report of Board Chair
[Dr. Muscalus addressed the Board at 10:51 a.m. concerning his acceptance of a position with Highmark, after which he expressed his appreciation to all the members and staff for their support during his tenure

1 as Chair of the Authority. He again reiterated that
2 Pennsylvania continues to be a leader in patient
3 safety, not just within the state or the country, but
4 has also been recognized throughout the world. Dr.
5 Muscalus commended the Board for its efforts, noting
6 that everyone should be proud of what has been
7 accomplished in the past few years. Attorney Cliff
8 Rieders voiced an unofficial motion/resolution
9 congratulating Dr. Muscalus with respect to his new
10 position at Highmark and to also express his deep
11 appreciation for both Dr. Muscalus' determination and
12 competency in directing the growth and development of
13 the Authority. Dr. Zuckerman voiced an unofficial
14 second to Attorney Rieders' motion.]

15

16 Report of Board Administrator

17 [Alan B.K. Rabinowitz reminded the Board that Patient
18 Safety Awareness Week was being observed this week,
19 noting that this is the Authority's third year and the
20 National Patient Safety Foundation's fourth year for
21 setting this week aside in recognition of patient
22 safety. It was also reported that the Authority
23 issued a press release concerning this event. Mr.

1 Rabinowitz next reviewed the items in the Board
2 members' binders. With regard to the letters of
3 assessments, Mr. Rabinowitz reported he very recently
4 received an email from the Department of Health
5 advising him, "They're awaiting final review and
6 approval and the notice will be published and invoices
7 sent." Discussion was held concerning the ongoing
8 delay in the Department's failure to send out the
9 assessment letters and whether this impairs the
10 Authority's operations, the reason behind the delay
11 and whether the Board should pursue additional steps
12 beyond just communicating/inquiring of the Department
13 of Health to determine when the facilities will be
14 assessed. Chairman Muscalus suggested waiting another
15 month and if the letters have not gone out by that
16 point to readdress the issue at that time. The Board
17 concurred with the recommendation. Mr. Rabinowitz
18 noted that he continues to work on setting up a time
19 for representatives from the Institute for Healthcare
20 Improvement (IHI) to provide more details about the
21 "100,000 Lives Campaign" that the Board voted to
22 recommend as a program that facilities could adopt to
23 apply for the Patient Safety Discount Program. Mr.

1 Rabinowitz advised the Board that, as of the previous
2 week, PA-PSRS received more than 100,000 reports of
3 Incidents and Serious Events. Dr. Muscalus pointed
4 out that the number of reports "speaks well" to both
5 the fact that there is mandatory reporting and that
6 facilities understand the law and the requirement to
7 report. Mr. Rabinowitz concluded his report to note
8 that the onsite investigation of the Anonymous Report
9 by clinical and legal staff has been rescheduled until
10 the week of March 14, 2005, due to the snowstorm on
11 the day of the scheduled visit. Mr. Rabinowitz will
12 update the Board concerning the findings at its next
13 meeting.]

14 ***

15 Old Business

16 [Chairman Muscalus addressed the Board to
17 review/highlight the activities and priorities of the
18 Long-Term Planning Committee and the education work
19 group.]

20 ***

21 [Roosevelt Hairston entered the meeting at 11:11 a.m.]

22 ***

23 [Chairman Muscalus continued his review of the

1 activities and priorities of the Legislative
2 Committee, to provide updates concerning the
3 activities of the annual report work group, the
4 internal and external communications work group and
5 the bylaws work group. Dr. Muscalus next recommended
6 that requests by other states/entities seeking access
7 to data for purposes of research, requests for the
8 taxonomy reporting system would best be addressed by
9 the full Board as opposed to a committee or work
10 group. There was a brief discussion concerning
11 whether the Advisory should be issued more often than
12 quarterly. Chairman Muscalus suggested that the Long-
13 Term Planning Committee review this matter. Mr.
14 Rabinowitz noted that he would be mailing out a
15 package to each Board member containing previous
16 Advisories for them to refer to and display in their
17 offices.]

18 ***
19 New Business - Review of Current Bills before the
20 General Assembly
21 [The Board engaged in a substantive discussion
22 concerning Senate Bill 45 and House Bill 96, but did
23 not take any formal positions. Attorney Rieders

1 offered to draft general language pertaining to the
2 fact that the Authority is open to the concept of more
3 effective/more direct whistleblower protections for
4 healthcare workers.]

5 ***

6 New Business - Board Recommendation for New
7 Legislation

8 [Attorney Rieders led a discussion concerning the
9 Authority suggesting to the legislature through its
10 annual report that it consider more clearly defined,
11 expanded whistleblower protections for healthcare
12 workers. Mr. Rieders suggested that the whistleblower
13 protections in Act 13 were adopted from similar
14 protections for state employees but that state
15 employees have other protections, such as collective
16 bargaining agreements, that healthcare workers do not
17 generally have and, therefore, need further
18 protections.]

19 ***

20 New Business - Public Release of Taxonomy

21 [Chairman Muscalus noted that Counsel Plump will be
22 updating the Board at its next meeting concerning
23 intellectual property protective issues regarding the

1 extent to which the Authority can and cannot share the
2 taxonomy of its reporting system with other interested
3 states/entities. Attorney Plump pointed out that
4 other states may have difficulty using the taxonomy
5 due to the fact that it is statute-specific to
6 Pennsylvania. The Board will discuss the protocols
7 for the release/request of information by other
8 states/entities at its next meeting. Mr. Hairston
9 suggested that, with matters such as these, the Board
10 may want to consider seeking input from the facilities
11 in an effort to create a "partnership." Chairman
12 Muscalus noted that utilizing a survey and/or working
13 through the various associations would most likely be
14 the more expeditious means of seeking input. Mr.
15 Rabinowitz noted that he would include this on a
16 future agenda for discussion.]

17 ***

18 New Business - Potential Patient Safety Discount
19 Programs.

20 [Mr. Rabinowitz reported on his receipt of an email
21 from the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council requesting
22 that the Board consider recommending its medication
23 safety initiative for the Patient Safety Discount.

1 Chairman Muscalus noted that this would be forwarded
2 to the educational work group for its review. Mr.
3 Rabinowitz then cited the U.S. Veterans Administration
4 Hand Hygiene Initiative. He has several emails from
5 the Veterans Administration concerning a consolidated,
6 major initiative pertaining to hand washing, noting
7 that this was tested by the VA in Lexington which
8 experienced some "good results." Chairman Muscalus
9 noted that this matter would be forwarded to the
10 education workgroup for review and recommendation.]

11 ***

12 Other

13 [The Board engaged in a substantive discussion
14 concerning what its authority is when it questions the
15 the accuracy with which reports are coded.

16 Chairman Muscalus noted that he has requested Dr.
17 Clarke to address the Board at its next meeting and
18 provide guidance regarding this matter. There was
19 brief discussion concerning HAP's desire to join with
20 the Authority and other healthcare organizations to
21 help facilitate the Institute for Healthcare
22 Improvement (IHI) "100,000 Lives Campaign" statewide.
23 Mr. Rabinowitz noted that he would gather additional

1 details concerning this and would report back with his
2 findings at the Board's next meeting.]

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4 Adjournment

5 [The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.]

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17 John Spence,
18 Minute Clerk,
19 York Stenographic Services

		COUNTER	
	TIME	NUMBER	AGENDA
1			PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY
2			BOARD OF DIRECTORS
3			REFERENCE INDEX
4			MARCH 7, 2005
5			
6			
7			
8			
9	10:47	0028	Call to Order, Robert
10			S. Muscalus, D.O.
11			
12	10:49	0100	Report of Chairman Dr. Robert S.
13			Muscalus
14			
15	10:52	0480	Report of Board Administrator Alan
16			B.K. Rabinowitz
17			
18	11:07	1170	Old Business
19			
20	11:30	2840	New Business
21		Tape #2	
22	12:20	0280	Other
23			
24	12:51		Adjournment
25			
26			