

Report to the 2015 Iowa General Assembly

Collaboration and Teambuilding

Prepared by

Iowa Board of Physician Assistants - Iowa Board of Medicine

Pursuant to

Iowa Code Chapter 148C

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Joint Report to the 2015 Iowa General Assembly

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and the Iowa Board of Medicine share a common purpose to protect the public. Board members are appointed by the Governor to license applicants, impose licensee discipline as authorized by law and promulgate appropriate administrative rules to protect the public and to provide guidance to licensees.

Board powers are conferred by the Legislature. In 2007, the Legislature amended Iowa Code Chapter 148C to require the Board of Physician Assistants and the Board of Medicine to provide a joint report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 31 of each year detailing the Boards' collaborative efforts and teambuilding practices. This report highlights primary activities undertaken in 2014 to achieve this purpose.

The Board of Physician Assistants and Board of Medicine routinely route agendas, rules and other material that might be of interest to each other to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information between the two Boards.

Both Boards routinely place proposed changes to each other's Board rules and regulations on their agenda for discussion. As issues of interest are identified each Board sends representatives to the other Board meeting to facilitate discussion and understanding of each Board's position. In addition, both Boards share their respective Board member contact information with each other to facilitate communication. In 2014, the executive director of the Board of Medicine attended meetings of the Board of Physician Assistants. The executive director provided information on proposed rule changes by the Board of Medicine and provided recommendations to the Board of Physician Assistants on their proposed rules revisions. In addition, representatives of the Board of Physician Assistants met with a subcommittee of the Board of Medicine to review proposed rules revisions by the Board of Physician Assistants.

The Board of Physician Assistants and Board of Medicine investigators coordinate interview schedules in cases where complaints received involve licensee interests of both Boards. In addition both Boards share investigative records and findings in such cases as appropriate and allowed by law.

The Board of Physician Assistants and the Board of Medicine hold regularly scheduled public meetings in accord with their mission to protect the public through licensing, compliance and rulemaking. Meeting agendas are posted on the Internet in accord with Iowa's Open Meetings Law as set forth in Iowa Code Chapter 21. This practice assures that the public, licensees and other stakeholders are informed about current and emerging issues affecting physicians and physician assistants.

The Board of Medicine has referred reports of competence/conduct to the Board of Physician Assistants. Board staff collaborates to address emerging issues affecting both Boards as needed.

Each year, the Board of Physician Assistants and Board of Medicine review pending legislation that could affect medical practices by physicians and physician assistants and work collaboratively, when appropriate, to prepare legislative assessments.

In 2015, the Boards will seek additional opportunities to promote public protection through collaborative activities and teambuilding practices.

The Board of Physician Assistants and Board of Medicine continue to work closely together on issues of mutual interest. Since 2007 both Boards have been required to produce a joint annual report summarizing collaborative efforts. Since that time, the report has been annually published with no requests for additional information.