

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS



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Health Licensing Boards Convene for Third Roundtable Meeting

The health licensing board chairs, administrators and division chiefs gathered for their third roundtable discussion in Harrisburg on Jan. 6.

The roundtable meetings, which had been a regular occurrence in the past, were revived in the summer of 2010. The first two health board meetings, held in July and October, proved to be very successful in raising issues that affected multiple health-related boards.



As a follow up to the previous roundtable meeting, medical board chair Dr. Carol Rose reported on a separate meeting of representatives from the medical, osteopathic, dental, nursing and cosmetology boards to discuss the issue of Botox in dentistry and the increased prevalence of medi-spas. The group came to an understanding of the accepted use of Botox in dental treatments, and agreed to author a joint statement to address some of the key concerns surrounding medi-spas, specifically the standards for establishing a

patient-physician relationship, proper supervision and delegation. The group also defined that the scope of practice for estheticians should not include the use of lasers and other medical grade equipment even under the supervision of a physician, and both the esthetician and physician could be disciplined if the esthetician performs procedures outside of their scope of practice.

The meeting also featured an in-depth overview of the Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation (BEI), its employees and processes. The bureau of 160 employees, many of whom are retired police officers, conducts investigations of licensees, primarily based on complaints. Investigations typically take four months to complete. Although the Philadelphia BEI office is the busiest, the Pittsburgh and Scranton offices also handle a great number of high profile cases.

Other topics of discussion included updates on the use of electronic agendas, improvements to online renewals and renewal notifications, and the policies different boards have for accepting continuing education credits that fall outside of the board's regular standards. It was also impressed upon the group that continuing the progress the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs has made over the past several years, including the continuation of the roundtable meetings, will be a cause for board members to champion in the months ahead.

With a precedent for the roundtable meetings reestablished, the group plans to reconvene in April.

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