



Secretary Carol Aichele

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS



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Policy Changes Strengthen Public Protection Efforts

Protecting the public health and safety is a top priority for the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. During their first week in office, Governor Tom Corbett and Secretary of the Commonwealth Carol Aichele were confronted with a tragic situation that challenged this important premise. This situation involved the Women's Medical Society and Dr. Kermit Gosnell in Philadelphia.

Governor Corbett acted swiftly in charging the Departments of State and Health with implementing new procedures to strengthen public protection efforts.

Following Governor Corbett's direction, Secretary Aichele has implemented several policy changes to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. Specifically, these Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs policy changes are now in place:

- All complaints concerning a person or facility are assigned to the same attorney, a common sense approach to ensure proper management of each case.
- All attorneys now cross-check open and closed files with other staff attorneys, to make sure patterns of misconduct do not go unnoticed. For a prosecutor, pattern identification is a key component in demonstrating consistent wrongdoing. Often, proving a pattern of misconduct provides sufficient evidence for prosecutors to present to the appropriate professional licensure board, which can then take appropriate action.
- Reports on individuals and facilities will be more detailed, including history of any prior complaints or violations. These include checklists, which cover the file cross-checks mentioned above, appropriate data collection and history review.

- Bureau attorneys are receiving formal training on investigative procedures and rules and regulations, including prosecuting complaints.

In addition, the Departments of State and Health are working to strengthen communications and complement administrative and regulatory efforts, including:

- Setting up a means of sharing information between agencies, on a monthly basis, including complaints, serious events, complications, deaths, and investigations. If one of our agencies is looking into a situation, the other agency will know about it and will coordinate information and efforts. To streamline this, each agency has established a point of contact to avoid any confusion.
- We have also established a process for joint investigations.

The vast majority of the approximately 900,000 professionals licensed in 29 areas by the Bureau adhere to the high professional and ethical standards inherent in the granting of their licenses.

BPOA looks forward to continuing its work with these individuals to enhance the status of their professions here in Pennsylvania.

Meet the Board's Newest Members

The State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators welcomes its newest members. On June 29, 2011, the Honorable Carol Aichele, Secretary of the Commonwealth, administered the Oath of Office to Kimberly Cobaugh, Robert DeJesus, M.D., Margaret Matisko and William B. McIlwaine, Ed.D.

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Pictured left to right: Kimberly Cobaugh; Robert DeJesus, M.D.; Margaret Matisko; William B. McIlwaine, Ed.D.; Honorable Carol Aichele, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Kimberly Cobaugh was confirmed by the Senate (nursing home administrator member representing county facilities) on June 6, 2011. Ms. Cobaugh is a Registered Nurse and Licensed Administrator with a Gerontology Certification, as well as a certificate in Alzheimer's Disease Management. She began her career as a Licensed Practical Nurse and obtained a Master's of Science in Nursing Administration from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2006. Kim has held various Board positions with Pennsylvania Association of County Affiliated Homes (PACAH), most recently the role of President, which concludes in October. Her activities include membership in the Indiana County Health Care Careers Consortium as Treasurer/Education Chair, Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of Indiana Hospice Advisory Board, Community Dementia Care training and, Assisting Instructor for Nurse Aide Certification at Westmoreland Community College. Senator Don White of the 41st district, which Indiana is a part of, put forth her nomination to the Board. Ms. Cobaugh has held the Administrator position at Communities at Indian Haven, the county owned nursing facility, for the past 15 years. She is employed by Affinity Health Services.

Robert DeJesus, M.D., was confirmed by the Senate as a Care of the Chronically Ill member of the Board on June 6, 2011. Dr. DeJesus is a graduate of City College of New York and attended University of Pittsburgh Medical School with post graduate training at Mercy Hospital Pittsburgh, PA. He is in active clinical practice as a gastroenterologist in western Pennsylvania.

Margaret Matisko was confirmed by the Senate on June 6, 2011. Ms. Matisko is the mother of two children, Lizabeth Matisko Walker and Scott Matisko, and has one granddaughter, Kayla Matisko. Ms. Matisko earned her master's degree in Governmental Administration from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Wilkes University in Wilkes Barre. Ms. Matisko is the Director of Human Resources at Northeast Counseling Services in Nanticoke and Hazleton. She is a former White House appointee, George H.W. Bush and Deputy Director, U.S. House of Representatives, 11th District, Pennsylvania. In addition to her service on the Board, Ms. Matisko presently serves on the following boards: Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Pittsburgh and Scranton; Past President of the Luzerne Wyoming Counties Area Agency on Aging; Chair of the Greater Wyoming Valley Crime Clinic; U.S. Selective Service President of Luzerne County.

William B. McIlwaine, Ed.D., was reappointed on June 6, 2011. Dr. McIlwaine has served on the Board intermittently since 1981. He has served the Board as an active member as Secretary, Vice Chairman, member of the Education and Continuing Education Committee, and Finance Coordinator. He has represented the Board as a presenter at colleges which offer the 120 hour program required for admission to the licensing examinations. The members of the Board elected Dr. McIlwaine to represent the Board at the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards (NAB). He served NAB for fifteen years, including service as a member of the Education, Continuing Education, Finance and Accreditation Committees, then elected Treasurer, Vice President and President.

Dr. McIlwaine commends the many members of the Board with whom he has served for their sincerity, knowledge of the profession, desire to evaluate carefully then recommend qualified applicants for the examination, and fulfill the requirements of their duties in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth.