

State Medical Board of Ohio

30 E. Broad Street, 3rd Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6127

(614) 466-3934

med.ohio.gov



July 18, 2014

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
2014 JUL 18 AM 8:56

Mr. Randall J. Meyer
Ohio Inspector General
30 E. Broad Street, Suite 2940
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: 2012 – CA00106

Dear Inspector General Meyer:

The State Medical Board of Ohio has completed its review of your office's recommendations contained in report 2012 – CA00106. I respectfully submit the State Medical Board's responses regarding the recommendations outlined in that report.

Recommendation Number One: The State Medical Board of Ohio should review the conduct of Lance Talmage and consider whether administrative action is warranted.

Response: Lance Talmage, M.D., is no longer a member of the State Medical Board of Ohio. The Board is in the process of reviewing the conduct as outlined in the Report of Investigation and making a determination regarding any administrative action.

Recommendation Number Two: The State Medical Board of Ohio should develop and implement a policy regarding per diem payments to board members to include when per diem payments are appropriate, the proper process to request such payments, and establish who reviews and approves the per diem requests.

Response: The State Medical Board of Ohio has revised its per diem policy to provide clearer direction to Board members and staff regarding when claims for per diem amounts should be made. A copy of the revised per diem policy is attached to this response. The Board will continue to examine and amend its per diem policy as appropriate.

Recommendation Number Three: The State Medical Board of Ohio should contact the Ohio Ethics Commission to schedule ethics training for board members and employees.

Response: State Medical Board staff has been in contact with Ethics Commission staff to discuss possible dates for trainings to occur.

www.med.ohio.gov/

Fax: (614) 728-5946

To protect and enhance the health and safety of the public through effective medical regulation

July 18, 2014
Inspector General Randall J. Meyer
Page Two

Recommendation Number Four: The State Medical Board of Ohio should seek guidance from the Ohio Ethics Commission to assist in developing and implementing policies related to the State Medical Board of Ohio's relationship to the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), and include guidance to board members and employees serving on the FSMB board of directors.

Response: The State Medical Board of Ohio has revised its per diem policy to provide clearer direction to Board members and staff regarding when claims for per diem amounts should be made. The revised policy was reviewed by the Ohio Ethics Commission prior to being adopted and speaks directly to work performed for outside associations, such as the Federation of State Medical Boards.

Recommendation Number Five: Once a policy is developed and implemented regarding the State Medical Board of Ohio's relationship with the FSMB, the board should provide routine training on the policy to board members and employees.

Response: The Ohio Ethics Commission has agreed to conduct trainings on relevant ethical issues for State Medical Board members and staff. This training will specifically address issues relating to staff and member relationships with outside groups, such as the Federation of State Medical Boards. Going forward, the State Medical Board will conduct yearly ethics trainings for Board members and staff.

Thank you and please feel free to contact Jonathan Blanton or me at 614-728-4601 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Krishnamurthi Ramprasad, M.D.
President

Attachment



State Medical Board of Ohio

30 E. Broad Street, 3rd Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6127

(614) 466-3934

med.ohio.gov

STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO

DATE OF POLICY: July 9, 2014 (Revised)

DISTRIBUTION: Medical Board Members
Executive Director
HR/Payroll/Fiscal Staff

STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO BOARD MEMBER PER DIEM POLICY

PURPOSE

To establish uniform procedures to compensate Members of the State Medical Board of Ohio (Board) for time spent performing Board business.

GENERAL

Ohio Revised Code Section 4731.03 provides for the compensation of Medical Board members for each day employed in the discharge of official duties.

It is the policy of the Medical Board to consistently apply this statute to its Board members as follows:

POLICY

- A. Upon initial appointment, Board members pay shall be set at the minimum hourly pay rate designated in the pay range set by the Director of Administrative Services for Board/Commission Members 2.
- B. Upon reappointment, Board members may receive an increase from the minimum hourly rate as determined by a majority of the Board.
- C. For all regularly scheduled meetings of the Board set in accordance with RC 4731.06, Board members shall be paid a per diem equal to eight hours for each day attended.
- D. For activities other than regularly scheduled meetings of the Board described in paragraph C, Board members shall be paid a per diem equal to up to eight hours for each day, or any portion thereof in 60 minute increments, whichever is less, upon which:

www.med.ohio.gov/

Fax: (614) 728-5946

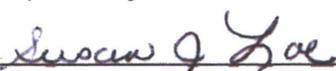
To protect and enhance the health and safety of the public through effective medical regulation

1. they are present at the Board offices for purposes of conducting Board business, or
 2. they attend meetings, conduct hearings or conferences (including telephone conference calls) related to Board business, regardless of location
 3. they travel to/from out-of-state meeting or conference related to Board business.
- E.** Due to the number of hours necessary for the Secretary and Supervising Member to effectively review the volume of complaints received and other Board-related responsibilities specifically designated to those positions, they will be compensated as follows: Members serving as Secretary and Supervising Member shall document their time on an hourly basis and shall be paid a per diem for every 8 hours spent performing these duties regardless of location. A Board member who is acting in the place of the Secretary or Supervising Member shall also be compensated for work in the same manner.
- F.** Board members shall submit signed per diem form(s) (as designated by the Board) to the Board payroll office for each day spent conducting board business as described in paragraphs B, C and D above, listing (1) the date(s) on which work was performed and (2) general nature of the work performed for each date. Whenever possible the per diem form(s) should be submitted by the end of the week in which the work was performed, to allow for timely reporting to PERS.
- G.** Per diem payments are not permitted when a Board member is receiving compensation from an association for performance of duties as an official of that association or on behalf of that association, (e.g., serving as a board member of the FSMB).
- H.** At least once a month the payroll office will submit all per diem forms received to the Board President or designee for review and approval.

An annual report of total per diem payments for the Board members for the preceding calendar year will be prepared and presented at the January meeting of the Board.

Authority and References: ORC 124.15(J)
ORC 4731.03

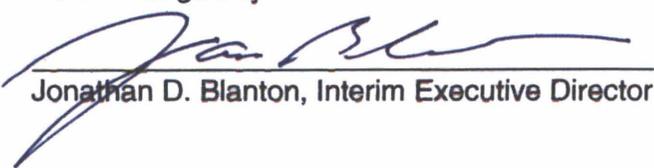
Prepared by:



Susan J. Loe, Asst. Exec. Director,
Fiscal & Human Resources

7-9-14
Date

Acknowledged by:



Jonathan D. Blanton, Interim Executive Director

7-09-2014
Date