

Physician Assistant Committee
TELECONFERENCE MEETING
Program Accreditation Task Force

November 16, 2009

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS

2005 Evergreen Ste. 1120 Sacramento, CA 95815	8400 Mineral King #308 Visalia, CA 92705	1520 San Pablo St. #4300 Los Angeles, CA 90033
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1000 S. Fremont, #6423
Alhambra, CA 91803

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Roslynn Byous called the teleconference to order at 1:00 p.m. In attendance were task force members Robert Sachs and Les Howard. Also participating were (Claire Yazigi, Staff Counsel Department of Consumer Affairs was present), Ann Davis, AAPA, Miguel Medina, CAPA and member of the public, Janice Trammel.

2. Review of accreditation regarding two year programs

The task force members discussed that currently there are five approved PA programs that do not award a master's degree. Three of the five programs are in community colleges: Stanford University School of Medicine, Riverside Community College and San Joaquin Valley College. The remaining two programs are in public and private universities: UC Davis and Charles Drew. Concerns were raised whether the Physician Assistant Education Association's (PAEA) stance was that all PA programs must be able to award a master's degree.

It was stated by counsel that the PA Committee's highest priority is to protect the public and the question was raised, "Do these programs provide adequate minimum levels of competency for licensure as a PA in California?"

3. Discussion of Physician Assistant Programs changing to Master's Degree Programs

There is much discussion within the physician assistant education community as to the appropriate degree to be awarded to graduating students. Currently, physician assistant training programs award students certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees upon graduation.

Task force members stated their understanding that the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) and the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) have determined that the entry-level degree for physician assistant education should be a master's degree level.

It is the understanding of the members of the task force that policies and procedures are currently being developed to implement the new standards to ensure that programs have sufficient time to comply with the new accrediting standards.

4. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Miguel Medina commented that during the CAPA Board Meeting, the members voted against approval of the change to master's degree entry-level programs.

5. Meeting Adjournment

The teleconference was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.