Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants
2020 General Membership Meeting
September 15, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

I. Welcome and Presidents Message – Gavin Christie, PA-C

- Thank you to Allison, Tara, and our Lobby Team for all the amazing work they accomplished this past year.
- There is still lots to come this year on the legislative side. We will be cleaning up some language and fixing board policies and procedures.

II. Remarks and Q&A with Key Legislators

- Representative John Pfeiffer discussed SB 1915 and the legislative process with the Covid crisis. Rep. Pfeiffer discussed how health care in rural Oklahoma is changing and that PAs are such a huge part of providing care to his part of the state. He stated that SB 1915 was going to help those PAs, and he wanted to be a part of this first step.

III. Committee Reports:

a. Governance Committee – Gavin Christie, Chair
   - The Governance Committee met and discussed the board evaluation. This year one of the main goals is to look at the policies and bylaws when it comes to virtual meetings and voting.

b. CME Committee – Saura Douglas, PA-C, Chair
   - Discussed the 47th Annual OAPA Conference changing to a virtual format and the On-Demand Library option available until December 31, 2020. AAPA now requires an evaluation for each CME session attended in order to get CME credit. OAPA will still automatically log CME hours with the Oklahoma State Medical Board and continue participating in the NCCPA logging system. The OAPA is looking at venue locations for next year's conference.

c. Public Relations Committee – Natasha Simonson, PA-C, Chair
   - I want to thank the previous Chair and committee for the changes to the new website. The CME module is being updated and will have the capability for certificates to be uploaded. OAPA receipts will be stored on the new website as well. We are always looking to find new ways to rebrand and educate our state on PAs and what we can bring to them as providers.

d. Social Committee – Erin O'Donnell, PA-C, Chair
    - Discussed the social events that will be held during the virtual conference. It will iinvolve trivia questions, social media contests, and prizes. There were several social events planned this year, but because of Covid, we had to postpone. One of our biggest goals is to continue to engage our members. We hope to see more involvement with more engagement.
e. Mentoring Committee – Erin O'Donnell, PA-C, Chair
    - The Mentoring Committee is here to help current PAs. PA students, or those who are wanting to become PAs. We are looking for ways to help mentor, so please reach out to us.
f. PA Relations Committee – Jeanine Smith, PA-C, Chair
    - The purpose of the PA Relations Committee is to help PAs that may be suffering from a debilitating illness like a stroke, drug or alcohol addiction, or mental illness. OAPA works with the Oklahoma Health Professional Program to offer peer support, and also with the Medical Board. The OAPA gives a yearly donation to the Oklahoma Health Professionals Program. The OHPP has recently supported three PAs.
g. Research Committee – Gavin Christie, PA-C
    - The Chair of this committee, Alex Garica, PA-C, was unable to attend.
    - The committee is planning on sending out a new survey to the members. We will be adding a question at the end of the OAPA Conference evaluation to help the OAPA determine what the members want from the OAPA.
h. Finance Committee – Paula Montgomery, PA-C, Chair
    - Reviewed and discussed the June Financial Report and the new 2020/21 fiscal budget.
i. Awards Committee – Crystal Fredrickson, PA-C, Chair
    - Thank you for submitting nominations for this years OAPA awards. The award winners will be announced on Thursday during the virtual conference awards luncheon break.

j. Student Committee Reports

i. Jalyssa Valencia, OU-Tulsa PA Program

- The class of 2020 is in its final rotations and will be graduating in December. The class of 2022 has just completed their first class of the didactic curriculum. Class elections have been completed.

ii. Doug Dewindt, OCU PA Program

- The PA program at OCU has had its continued accreditation status approved. We have moved forward with the restructuring of the clinical and didactic years. We extend the didactic year from 12 months to 14 months. The clinical phase was shortened from 16 months to 14 months. New applicant interviews will be taking place via zoom. The class of 2022 returned to campus in July of 2020 with Covid procedures in place and classroom restructuring.

iii. Elizabeth DiSalvatore, OU-OKC PA Program

- The class of 2022 just started in June and finished their first summer semester, and are jumping directly into fall. The class of 2021 is officially done with their didactic year and have two weeks of clinical orientations before they head off to their first

clinical rotation. The class of 2020 is on their last clinical rotation. The application cycle for 2023 is coming to a close.

k. Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee – Tara Watson, PA-C, Chair, Allison Garrison, OAPA Leadership and Advocacy Liaison, Jan Loftis, Matt Latham, and Tyler Powell, OAPA Lobbyists

- Tara Watson, PA-C – The committee had one meeting by zoom in July after this board year started. We plan to develop a five-year plan. The committee submitted a motion to the board, and we have approved to move forward with Schedule 2 legislation. We will continue working with the same lobby team. We will be working on cleaning up language and the rules.
- Allison Garrison, PA-C – Discussed how SB 1915 was meant to modernize the language of our practice act. The licensure process has changed if you are starting a new position. There will no longer be an approval process from the Medical Board that you have to wait on. If the supervising physician passed away, is reprimanded by the medical board, or moved away, that would have left a PA without a job. With this new bill, you do not have to wait for the medical board to meet to continue practicing. We were able to fix many reimbursement issues. We met with multiple stakeholders throughout the session and will continue to meet with them. We have also met and will continue to meet with the DO and MD medical boards. The medical board made some emergency rules and removed PA from supervising ratios because of SB1915.
- The legislative team discussed the OAPA's relationship with OSMA and OOA during the legislative session. Discussed the process and hurdles that the OAPA Lobbyist Team went through to get SB 1915 passed.
- The final version of SB1915 is on the OAPA website under the Legislation tab. A fact sheet regarding SB1915 is on the website for you to share with your physician.

l. PAPAC – Matt Latham, OAPA Lobbyist, Paige Kruckenberg, PA-C, PAPAC Chair

- Paige Krukenburg, PA-C – Reviewed the current balance of the PAPAC account and discussed last year's donations made during the conference.
- Matt Latham, OAPA Lobbyist – Discussed that PAPAC donations are there to help keep representatives that support PAs to return to the capital, and that donations will help get your legislative agenda going at the capitol. He discussed other organization's donations to their PACs and how that has helped them. New this year, if you donate to the PAPAC, you will be part of a monthly stakeholder's meeting. This will allow you to speak with stakeholders directly.

IV. New Business

a. AAPA House of Delegates Report – Gavin Christie, PA-C

- AAPA House of Delegates did not meet due to Covid. The plan is to meet in November virtually. After the House meets, we will have a report.

V. Oklahoma PA Program Updates

a. Melody Yozzo, DHEd, PA-C, Program Director, OU Health Sciences Center

- We were challenged to switch to a virtual program mid-March, and we did that without having to skip any didactic programs or having to pause it. We are operating

on a hybrid module. New students start on an all-virtual program before starting the hybrid module. Graduation will stay on time and will be virtual.

b. Shannon Ijams, MPAS, PA-C, Program Director, OU School of Community Medicine
    - The program worked a lot with the OU-OKC program to discuss ways to keep students, patients, and preceptors safe during Covid. We graduated from our 10th class this past December. We have been learning to balance the Covid crisis with our schedule. At the beginning of June, we were able to get students back on clinical sites. We are on schedule and also using a hybrid module.

c. Troy Bender, MS, PA-C, Program Director, Northeastern State University
    - We are the fourth PA program to join the state. We received our accreditation and are moving forward with our very first class. The first class will start on October 1st. We will be in session face to face and have made all the accommodations for social distancing. We will also take the Covid situation daily but have made back up plans if needed.

d. Amy Harrison, PA-C, Program Director, OSU Center for Health Sciences
    - Our program has applied for accreditation. We are gearing up for our site visit. The site visit will be virtual, so that will be interesting. We will be accepting students, contingent upon accreditation in March 2021, and will start classes in July of 2021.

e. Sally Roark, PA-C, Clinical Associate Professor, Oklahoma City University
    - Our program was granted continued accreditation. The next site visit will be in 10 years. The program would like to thank Dr. Dan O'Donoghue for his service as our Program Director as he moves into a new position. We are currently looking for a new Program Director. We are looking for preceptors and mentors. The 2020 application cycle has ended and will start interviewing next week via zoom. We have had 499 applicants this year and will plan on interviewing 140 of those applicants.

VI. Closing Remarks – Gavin Christie, PA-C, President

- Thank you, everyone, for the information in today's meeting and those that attended tonight.

VII. Motion to Adjourn; approved at 8:33 pm.