Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants
General Membership Meeting Minutes
River Spirit Casino and Resort, Tulsa, OK
September 13, 2023, 12:15 – 2:00 pm

I. Welcome and President's Message – Saura Douglas, PA-C

II. Health Information Exchange - Steven Miller, CHCIO, State Coordinator for HIE and CEO David Kendrick, MD, Board and Committee Liaison MyHealth Access Network

- Discussed HIE information, HIE legislative summary, HIE emergency rule changes, and HIE framework.

III. Committee Reports

a. Governance Committee – Saura Douglas, PA-C, Chair

- Discussed bylaw/policy changes and other organizational changes.
  - Term length for vice-president, secretary, and treasurer to 3-year terms.
  - Increase in employee compensation.
  - OAPA board has voted to change its name to Oklahoma Academy of Physician Associates.
  - The Advocacy and Leadership Liaison position is now open.

b. CME Committee – Saura Douglas, PA-C, Chair

- We will continue to offer three different options for conferences: in-person, live-stream, and on-demand library.
- This year's conference, we had 512 registrations.
- Remember to get your yearly substance abuse.
- The 2024 conference will be in the OKC area.

c. Social Committee – Christy Niehues, PA-C, Chair

- The OAPA will do a Thunder Night again on two different nights. The winners of the tickets will be a lottery drawing.

d. PA Relations Committee – Nicole Mason, PA-C, Committee Member

- This committee is for PAs with difficulties in their professional life, whether it be with substance abuse or practice issues. Members can reach out for resources.

e. Research Committee – Nicole Mason, PA-C, Chair

- Last year, the research committee did research on NP educational programs, state laws, and state rules in comparison to PAs per the board's request.
  - Reviewed some of the results.
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f. Finance Committee – Don Guthrie, PA-C, Chair
- Discussed the budget and the previous year's budget that was given out to the membership as a handout.

g. Public Relations Committee – Natasha Simonson, PA-C, Chair
- We have been focusing on member engagement, helping with progress in legislation, reputation management, and branding/ PA promotion.
    - We are still utilizing the mobile texting service.
    - We are starting up the newsletter again.
    - We have added a PA Spotlight on the OAPA website that highlights PAs in the community.
    - We encourage our members to use the AAPA resources that are linked on the OAPA website to help promote the PA profession.

h. Awards Committee – Natasha Simonson, PA-C, Chair
- We encourage all the members to nominate a fellow PA for an OAPA awards.
- Please attend the OAPA Awards luncheon.

i. Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee – Jeff Burke, PA-C, Chair; Jan Loftis, OAPA Lobbyist, Tyler Powell, OAPA Lobbyist, Matt Latham, OAPA Lobbyist
- The rules process:
    - We are in the 3rd year of the Medical Board not adopting rules that implement the law.
    - The OAPA took legal action against the State Medical Board in 2023.
    - Last fall, the Medical Board adopted rules different from what the PA advisory board had put together and agreed to. The OAPA and its lobby team started working on getting those rules stopped. The OAPA took the Medical Board to the Oklahoma Supreme Court. However, they declined to take the case because the rules process was incomplete, and the legislators had not taken action yet. We then worked on getting those rules stopped by the legislators.
    - The Medical Board cannot readopt the rules that were voted down by the legislators. So, this process will need to start over. We have heard they are trying to discourage the PA Advisory Board from adopting their initial rules that they passed last fall.
    - The Medical Board has to adopt new rules by April 1, 2024. Then, it will go up to the legislators again. We encourage PAs to make public comments on the rules that will come out.
- Bridget Keast, PA is now sitting on the Medical Board and will be the only PA on the board.
- Last session bills:
    - SB 707 was passed – it was regarding the signing of death certificates and PAs were included.
    - SB 292 was passed – it was regarding PAs being included as a delegating authority with syphilis testing.
    - SB 513 was passed– biomarker bill and PAs were included.
- 2024 plan and expectations:
    - Finish efforts with ratios and Sched IIs.
    - Continue to monitor the APRN bill.
    - Continue to play defense.

j. PAPAC – Matt Latham, OAPA Lobbyist
- Discussed the four pillars of legislative success.
    - 1. Legislative access through lobbyists.
    - 2. Grassroot efforts.

- 3. Strong legislative leadership from OAPA.
- 4. A strong Political Action Committee.

IV. Student Affairs Committee Reports

a. Dylan Johnston, OSU PA Program
- We have a new anatomy lab on campus. The first graduating class is finishing up their last rotations. First-year students are in the middle of their anatomy course.

b. Addison Roark, Northeastern PA Program
- Class of 2023 reported back to campus last week for an end-of-rotation exam. They will be graduating in December.
- Class of 2024 started the last semester of their didactic year.
- Class of 2025 will arrive on campus in a few weeks.

c. Kaelyn Davis, OU/OKC PA Program
- Class of 2023 is finishing their final rotation and will graduate Oct 3rd.
- Class of 2024 are getting ready to start their clinical rotations.
- Class of 2025 is just getting started.

d. Emma Williams, OU/Tulsa PA Program
- Class of 2023 is finishing up their clinical rotations. They will be graduating in December.
- Class of 2024 is starting their clinical rotations and are volunteering in the Bedlam Clinic to help the uninsured.
- Class of 2025 just finished their first semester in anatomy.

e. Keeley Cunningham, OCU PA Program – Unable to attend. The below written report was provided to the membership electronically.
- The students in the Class of 2024 are currently on their sixth clinical rotation. They are studying for EOR exams and PANCE. They just got back from summer break where they got some much-needed rest. They always have fun and interesting stories from clinical rotations. We are all excited to see them succeed!
- The Class of 2024 just finished our summer semester classes. We have been busy with standardized patient learning and just finished practicing for the neuro exam! We are looking forward to the OAPA conference, we have developed some fun OK PA merchandise.
- We are also working on our Philanthropic Golf Tournament benefiting Positive Tomorrow's that will take place on September 23. We still have a few golfing spots open and are accepting donations for a raffle if anyone is interested! We are looking forward to the start of our fall courses and this semesters extracurricular events.

V. Faculty Affairs Committee Reports

a. Shannon Ijams, MPAS, PA-C, Program Director, OU School of Community Medicine
- The program has not had any major changes this year. We hired a new faculty member, Josh Mowan. OU is finishing the building of a culinary medicine kitchen. The class of 2022 had a 100% pass rate on the PANCE.

b. Bobby Bosse, PA-C, MHS, Program Director, Oklahoma City University
- We do not have any major revisions to our program. The OCU successfully graduated the 6th class in 2023. We have 208 practicing PAs from the OCU program. We surveyed our alumni, and around 90% are practicing within Oklahoma and neighboring states and around 70% of them are practicing in Oklahoma. The new class of 2025 has students from all over the United States. We have a new lab space that is being built.

c. Gary Pérez, DMSc, PA-C, Program Director, OU Health Sciences Center
- Our program is now directly under the College of Medicine. The College of Medicine hired a learning specialist to help our medical learners who may be struggling.

d. Northeastern State University PA Program - Not able to attend.

e. Courtney Abernathy, PA-C, MHS, Faculty, OSU Center for Health Sciences
- We are going to be graduating our first class this year. We are working on getting our graduates into the rural medicine setting. We are leaning toward system-based learning.

VI. New Business

a. AAPA House of Delegates – Saura Douglas, PA-C, Chief Delegate
- The delegates meet in May every year at the AAPA conference. Some of the items discussed at the AAPA conference:
  - Currently, the AAPA recognizes the master's degree as the terminal degree for PAs.
  - Preceptors can earn up to 2 Category 1 CME hours per week for precepting. There is no max CME earned anymore.

VII. Membership Questions and Closing Remarks – Saura Douglas, PA-C

- None

VIII. Adjourn – 1:41 pm