

Date: September 1, 2022

Title: Joint Meetings – Professional Licensing Boards

Abstract/Description: Pursuant to **37-1-107 MCA** this report details out the instances and circumstances for the joint meeting of licensing boards in the period FY 21 through FY 22.

Report:

There were 5 instances where boards or board members combined for a specific purpose:

Instance	Boards Involved
Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR) Advisory Group	Pharmacy Board, Medical Board, Dentistry Board, Nursing Board, and Alternative Health Board
Montana Professional Assistance Program Advisory Panel	Nursing Board, Medical Board, Dentistry Board, and Pharmacy Board
SB 39 Sexual Offender Evaluator Task Force	Medical Board, Behavioral Health Board, Nursing Board, and Psychology Board
HB 495 Health Care Provider Task Force	Medical Board and Nursing Board
Building Codes Council	Plumbing Board and Electrical Board

The **Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR) Advisory Group** met twice in 2021. The MPDR Advisory Group is comprised of representatives from the boards and associations for pharmacy, medical examiners, dentistry, nursing, and naturopathic physicians, as required in [37-7-1510, MCA](#). Additional stakeholders that participate include the Montana Department of Public Health

and Human Services, Montana Department of Justice, Veteran's Affairs, and Indian Health Service.

The first meeting was held on February 2, 2021, and the group discussed the upcoming MPDR vendor transition and implementation in March 2021, received an overview and demonstration of the new system, and discussed options for clinical alert. The group met again December 9, 2021, and discussed MPDR data integrations efforts and implementation of additional functionality, provided feedback on clinical information and alerts in the new system, and provided feedback on the MPDR website.

The **Medical Assistance Program (MAP) Advisory Panel** met three times in the reporting period. Meetings took place on 3/28/2022, 4/1/2022, and 5/12/2022. These three meetings were focused on the formulation of a Request for Information (RFI) to be placed in front of the public soliciting interest from qualified stakeholders for a replacement contractor to the Medical Assistance Program authorized under Montana statute for the 4 licensing boards involved.

These joint meetings successfully delivered a RFI which was administered by the State of Montana. The successful RFI led to the State of Montana posting a Request for Proposal for the services required for the Medical Assistance Program. Currently, under the direct supervision of the Department of Administration the RFP is currently being evaluated with the goal of awarding a suitable contractor for this program.

The **SB 39 Sexual Offender Evaluator Task Force** met four times in the reporting period. Meetings took place on 8/25/2021, 9/30/2021, 10/13/2021, and 12/7/2021. These four meetings were focused on rulemaking for the new license endorsement for Sexual Offender Evaluator resulting from SB 39 of the 2021 legislative session. Four boards combined resources and information to write rules for each board. In addition to the deliverable of administrative rules for this license endorsement, the

department sought advice from the boards on the administration of these endorsements. Currently, all four boards offer the sexual offender evaluator endorsement to those that qualify under the requirements set forth in the administrative rules.

The **HB 495 Health Care Provider Task Force** met five times in the reporting period. Meetings took place on 9/15/2021, 10/28/2021, 11/18/2021, 2/17/2022, and 5/12/2022. These five meetings focused on the work described for the task force in HB 495, specifically, that the task force shall identify definitions and areas in which the Montana Code Annotated:

- (a) duplicates federal regulations;
- (b) duplicates or contradicts state statutes, rules, or policies established for health care providers by other departments;
- (c) applies inconsistently across the regions or by the state;
- (d) creates the potential for the waste of resources;
- (e) causes access issues; or
- (f) increases cost.

Additionally, the task force developed a plan that:

- (a) outlines the process and deadline for completing the initial review of the rules, policies, and procedures; and
- (b) establishes a process and timeline for an ongoing review, in conjunction with providers, that will continue to identify and correct areas of duplication, inconsistency, or waste.

The task force delivered its plan (report) to the required Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee on June 27, 2022

The **Building Codes Advisory Council** met three times in the reporting period. Meetings took place on 3/28/2022, 4/1/2022, and 5/12/2022. These three meetings focused on the adoption of various state building and related codes including the state electrical code and the state plumbing code. The State Electrical Board and the Montana Board of Plumbers both appoint members (one each) to this council and receive reports from their activity on the council. Council meetings automatically bring the plumbing board and the electrical board members together for this meeting.

This report compiled by:

Eric Strauss, Division Administrator