REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

B of T Report 15-A-18

Subject: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

Presented by: Gerald E. Harmon, MD, Chair

Referred to: Reference Committee B
(R. Dale Blasier, MD, Chair)

This report is submitted for the information of the House of Delegates. So as to not expose sensitive advocacy strategies and potential future resources, a fuller accounting of the Scope of Practice Summit (“Summit”) described herein will take place through AMA meetings dedicated to advocacy and scope of practice, as well as the confines of the Scope of Practice Partnership (SOPP).

Policy adopted at the 2017 Interim Meeting called on the American Medical Association to convene an in-person meeting of relevant physician stakeholders to initiate creation of a consistent national strategy to effectively oppose efforts to grant independent practice to non-physician practitioners. (Policy H-35.988, “Independent Practice of Medicine by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses”).

The resultant Summit was held March 20, 2018 at AMA headquarters in Chicago. The SOPP provided funding to support the Summit. In addition, the SOPP awarded 14 scholarships to state medical associations that otherwise would have been unable to attend.

Attendance included 81 physicians, executive staff, and government affairs staff from 32 state medical associations, 16 national medical specialty societies, and the American Osteopathic Association. Representatives of the AMA Board of Trustees and Council on Legislation, and AMA staff from Advocacy, Office of General Counsel, Physician Engagement, and Enterprise Communications and Marketing also attended the Summit.

William E. Kobler, MD, member, AMA Board of Trustees and chair of the SOPP, served as chair of the Summit. Dr. Kobler led a planning committee composed of executive staff of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Psychiatric Association, American Society of Anesthesiologists, California Medical Association, Medical Association of Georgia, New Mexico Medical Society, Ohio State Medical Association, and Medical Society of Virginia. This planning committee was instrumental in shaping the Summit agenda, and the Board of Trustees thanks them for their time and effort.

With the assistance of a strategic research firm prior to the Summit, the AMA Advocacy Resource Center conducted a survey of all associations invited to the Summit. Feedback from 60 respondents about scope of practice advocacy and trends was synthesized in a presentation to kick-off the Summit. This valuable insight was also utilized throughout the Summit’s strategic planning session.
Meeting attendees heard presentations about the considerable scope of practice advocacy resources of the AMA Advocacy Resource Center and SOPP, including the Health Workforce Mapper, Geographic Mapping Initiative, Scope of Practice Data Series Modules, model bills, state law charts, issue briefs, talking points, public opinion research, and comprehensive state legislative campaigns including the Physician-Led Team Campaign and Truth in Advertising Campaign, and grant funding. Attendees also heard a case study from a state medical association that heavily utilized SOPP resources and a SOPP grant to fight a nurse practitioner independence bill; and a panel of national medical specialty society representatives discussing scope priorities and trends.

The afternoon was dedicated to a strategy session, in which facilitated small and large group discussions identified strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and threats related to scope of practice advocacy. The strategy session also identified ways in which to amplify strengths and opportunities within organized medicine while addressing weaknesses and internal and external threats. A professional facilitator with government affairs expertise moderated the discussion.

Results of a meeting evaluation were positive. Of the responses, 98 percent reported that the conference fully or partially fulfilled their reason for attending, and 85 percent would recommend the meeting to colleagues. 95 percent of attendees were pleased with the quality of the presentation and the scope of the information presented. 88 percent of respondents left with a somewhat or much better view of the AMA; the remainder reported that their opinion of the AMA was unchanged.

The Board of Trustees recommends that Policy H-35.988(2) be rescinded, having been accomplished through the Scope of Practice Summit and this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Trustees recommends that Policy H-35.988(2), “Independent Practice of Medicine by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses,” be rescinded and that the remainder of this report be filed.

(Rescind HOD Policy)