

## DELAWARE AUTHORITY ON RADIATION PROTECTION

Certification Committee

Summary of Meeting

June 25, 2019

Jesse Cooper Building

Dover, DE 19901

### Attendees

Terri Hitchens, Committee Chair

F. Fisher-Tyler

J. Wyatt

D. Hill

R. Brinsfield

K. Shaughnessy

### **I. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda**

Committee Chair Terri Hitchens called the meeting to order at 1 pm. The draft agenda was reviewed, and no changes were proposed. T. Hitchens introduced a motion to approve the agenda, J. Wyatt seconded and all voted to approve. The motion passed.

### **II. Old Business**

ORC Administrator F. Fisher-Tyler provided a brief overview of the recent Delaware Radiation Control Regulatory changes as highlighted in a Notice to Practice Community posted to DHSS/DPH/ORC webpage on June 1, 2019. The items in the Notice relevant to Certification Committee were discussed, particularly the proposed American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) State Level Exam for Physician Assistants.

### **III. New Business**

F. Fisher-Tyler provided a brief overview of the 5-year renewable contract that the Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health (DPH) holds with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). The contract includes two long-standing state-level examinations approved by the Authority, the Medical Limited Scope and Bone Densitometry Operator's Exams, and an exam added to the contract in FY2017 in Fluoroscopy for Physician Assistants (PAs). She reported that ARRT has standard contracts for these three exams. The state is responsible for handling the initial application process, determining eligibility of applicant, and scoring the exam results provided by the ARRT. She indicated that the ARRT administers these exams as standard services, and the exam content is their intellectual property. The state determines whether applicants are eligible and sets a cut score (i.e. Medical Limited Scope is 75% to pass, Bone Densitometry Operators is 60% to pass). The group was provided copies of the ARRT agreement for the PA Fluoroscopy exam and expressed interest in receiving additional information about the examination, itself.

**Action Items:** Circulate link to ARRT Handbook for Applicants to the Fluoroscopy Exam for Physician Assistants, **F. Fisher-Tyler**.

Committee Chair Terri Hitchens provided an overview of continuing education process for nationally credentialed ARRT Radiologic Technologists, who completed the two year, accredited college course to become eligible for registry. She noted that individuals who pass the ARRT Medical Limited Scope state level examination do not have any requirements for continuing education. She stated that many students in the two-year program pass this examination and receive certificates to practice in the limited scope areas of head, spine, chest, extremities or podiatry. She also stated that there is potential for individuals who fail to complete their educational program, and therefore do not achieve eligibility for the national credentialing examination with ARRT to continue to practice without continuing education. Others who do not attend any accredited college program likewise would have no continuing education requirements to remain state certified. She also expressed concern that individuals practicing with a Limited Scope certificate in freestanding (especially urgent care) facilities may engage in other imaging procedures, such as abdomen or pelvis, which not appropriate since they are neither educated nor trained to do so.

**Action Item:** Contact American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) to explore which states issue Limited X-Ray Machine Operators (LXMO) certificates, which require continuing education, and how their process works, **David Hill**.

**Action Item:** Provide link to Radiation Technologist/Technician Regulations so all can review the Sanctions Section, **F. Fisher-Tyler**.

Committee Chair Terri Hitchens gave an overview of her experience with instructing Veterinary Technicians (Vet Techs) a 15-week course on radiation safety and x-ray equipment operation. She expressed concern with the degree to which students are able to learn and retain important safety fundamentals, and although Vet Techs do not administer radiation to human patients and are exempt from Authority Certification, they often serve as human holders and are subject to or create radiation exposure while treating animals in the healing arts. Terri indicated that she is not aware of any continuing education requirements for their work as x-ray machine operators. F. Fisher-Tyler shared her program staff observations that many Vet Techs are females of child-bearing potential, so radiation exposure and radiation safety are very important in veterinary facilities. The committee members agreed to prepare a brief to present to the Authority, with possibility of working with the Public Education Committee to reach out to the Veterinary Society to provide some training or materials for Veterinarians and Vet Techs.

**Action Item:** Develop first draft brief for Committee review, **F. Fisher-Tyler**.

#### **IV. Public Comments**

There was nothing to report.

**V. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was introduced by Committee Chair T. Hitchens. The motion was seconded by J. Wyatt, and all voted to approve. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Frieda Fisher-Tyler,  
Administrative Agent,  
Authority on Radiation Protection