

# 2021 BOARD MOTIONS

## 2021-BOD 1. INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

**Background/Rationale:** PAEA position policy #6, Interprofessional Education, is scheduled to sunset in 2021. The Board recommends reaffirming the Association's position policy on interprofessional education.

**Motion:** Be it resolved that PAEA position policy #6, Interprofessional Education, be reaffirmed.

### INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

PAEA endorses interprofessional education for PAs and encourages efforts to promote and encourage interprofessional education and practice.

## 2021-BOD 2. PATIENT CENTERED MEDICAL HOME POSITION POLICY

**Background/Rationale:** PAEA position policy #11, Patient Centered Home Medical Care, is scheduled to sunset in 2021. The Board recommends reaffirming the Association's position policy on the patient centered medical home.

**Motion:** Be it resolved that PAEA position policy #11, Patient Centered Home Medical Care, be reaffirmed.

### PATIENT CENTERED MEDICAL HOME

PAEA is supportive of the patient centered medical home (PCMH) which incorporates all primary care providers (PCPs), as an approach for providing comprehensive team-based primary care.

## 2021-BOD 3. BYLAWS AMENDMENT ARTICLE 2.01

**Background/Rationale:** In 2021, the Board of Directors began developing a new strategic plan to guide the Association for the coming years. Throughout its conversations, the Board agreed that the mission statement should be revised to be inclusive of the Association's values and its commitment to equity and inclusion. The Board feels this proposed mission statement best positions the Association as it moves forward with a new strategy.

**Motion:** Be it resolved that the following amendment be made to the PAEA Bylaws.

### ARTICLE 2.01 MISSION

The Physician Assistant Education Association is an organization in the United States representing physician assistant ("PA") educational programs.

PAEA's mission is ~~leadership, innovation, and excellence in PA education.~~ **advancing excellence in PA education through leadership, scholarship, equity, and inclusion.**

## **2021-BOD 4. PA PROFESSION TITLE CHANGE**

**Background/Rationale:** As a member-led association, PAEA's Board of Directors is committed to representing and assisting our diverse member programs that have unique perspectives, environments, and needs.

PAEA has been closely following the title change process since 2018 when John Burns, PA-C, represented the Association on the HOD title change advisory council. Before the HOD vote took place, PAEA considered the title change concept during two Board meetings and reviewed AAPA's research from the perspective of students and faculty. We also reached out to institutional leaders and deans and hosted a listening session to inform program directors and hear their perspectives. PAEA President Michel Statler testified during the AAPA reference committee that our member programs believed their priority should be creating a diverse PA workforce. After the vote passed supporting physician associate as the profession's new title, PAEA conducted a poll to determine members' stance on the title change and shared an estimate of the Association's costs to assist our members and advocate federally for the title change. The PAEA Board recognizes concerns raised that "physician assistant" does not accurately describe for patients and other stakeholders the full scope of what the profession does and does not convey the value of our profession within the healthcare team and healthcare delivery system.

In crafting this position policy, the PAEA Board of Directors were guided by PAEA's priorities and guiding principles:

### **Mission**

PAEA's mission is at the heart and soul of all we do and every decision we make. We meet our mission by always listening to our members. On June 3, PAEA sent program directors a poll asking about their stance on the title change. The response rate was robust (54%), and the results indicate that 58% of our respondents favor the title change, and 42% do not. While there is no clear consensus among our members regarding the title change, our members expressed the need for continued information and guidance on title change updates.

### **Collaboration**

Partnership is a foundational part of being a PA. At PAEA, we deeply value our relationships with physician partners. The founder of the PA profession was a physician, and physicians have always played a vital role in developing the PA profession and training and supporting PAs. PAEA leadership believes that trust between a patient and their medical care team begins with understanding each provider's role on the team. We believe it is vital for PAs to continue partnering with physicians and their broader healthcare teams to offer collaborative, compassionate care.

### **Codification of Physician Associate**

Although associations and PA programs may change their titles and names, codifying language enacted through state and federal legislation is where the change is operationalized and put into practice. It is critical that as these efforts move forward, allowances are made for a transition from the title "physician assistant" to assure that all past and current graduates are able to seek licensure and credentials without restriction.

**Engaging Students**

Students are the future of our profession. Aligning with our vision of “Health for All” in communities across the nation, we recognize the vital role that students will play in the PA profession for decades to come. Through outreach to programs and monitoring social media, we have found that students seem to support the title change. Throughout this process, we have considered their interests and needs and believe that this resolution reflects their perspective as the future of the PA profession.

Based on these guiding principles and input from multiple stakeholders, including our members and institutional leaders, the PAEA Title Change position policy is as follows.

**Motion:** Be it resolved that PAEA adopts the following position policy #18, PA Profession Title Change:

**PA Profession Title Change**

PAEA will support and help guide all member programs through the name change process as state legislatures and accreditors codify the new title of “physician associate” during the transition.