

The Georgia Lactation Consultant Advisory Group met May 1, 2018 in Conference Room 324, Georgia Secretary of State, located at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leah S. Aldridge
Chrysta B. Andrews
Merrilee Aynes Gober
Teresa McCullen
Arlene Toole

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Jim Cleghorn, Executive Director
Kirsten Daughdril, Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS PRESENT

Kimarie Bugg Wesley Bugg Eugene Curry Mary Jackson Sandra Garcia
Andrea Serano

Cleghorn called the meeting to order at 10:00am on Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Daughdril provided information regarding the Attorney General's role in supporting the regulation of professional licensure. She discussed the process for promulgation of rules and provided information regarding compliance with the Open Records Act.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Attorney General's memo regarding the proposed rule to define a perinatal educator. Daughdril noted the broad language of the statute and provided information regarding how the practice act worked with licensure requirements and exceptions. If an individual is practicing lactation consulting as defined by O.C.G.A. § 43-22A they must be covered by one of the exceptions or licensed as provided in O.C.G.A. § 43-22A.

The Advisory Group unanimously approved the following language for a proposed rule to define the term "perinatal educator."

As set forth in O.C.G.A. § 43-22A-13(2), the term "perinatal educator" shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Certified Lactation Counselors, Community Transformers, Certified Lactation Educators, Certified Lactation Specialist/Breastfeeding Specialists, Lactation Educator Counselors, Breastfeeding Counselors, Lactation Educators, Community Breastfeeding Educators, Baby Café Breastfeeding Educators, when those individuals are providing perinatal education.

Cleghorn explained that the proposed language would be forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office for review.

The Advisory Group reviewed the official opinion from the Attorney General's Office regarding whether the Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act (O.C.G.A. § 43-22A) will allow certified lactation counselors, who are not certified by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners and who are "not otherwise exempt" under the Act to continue their current practice after July 1, 2018.

Members of the Advisory Group discussed the official opinion in light of the statutory exceptions to licensure. Gober requested that the page three, paragraph two of the official opinion be amended to include specific language from the statute.

Daughdril reviewed a memo regarding a Frequently Asked Questions document proposed by the Advisory Group. Cleghorn noted that he would update the document using the information contained in the memo and distribute to the Advisory Group for review and comment. Once the comments had been received the proposed document would be forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office for review.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Cleghorn provided an overview of the application process and the criminal background check process for applicants. The Advisory Group discussed the application requiring applicants to disclose any previous arrests. Cleghorn provided information regarding the history of the question and the simplicity of its current iteration. The Advisory Group delayed any request for revision to the application and will review the application at its next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned May 1, 2018 at 11:32am.