



T A P A
 TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF
 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

PA Pulse

The heartbeat of TAPA

Bridging the Future of Healthcare

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From the President

When I became president of TAPA, my number one goal was to modernize PA practice in Tennessee. Last year, we were successful in passing legislation to establish one of the few independent PA Boards in this country. This year, we have been pushing for more changes to the PA Practice Act that would give PAs more autonomy in their practice. We have a lot of momentum with legislators right now, and I am optimistic that we can get this done.

The bill we presented this session, along with the nurses' bill, was sent to a summer task force. The first meeting of the task force is scheduled for late July. That meeting will only involve the senators who are spearheading this initiative, including our sponsor, Sen. Mike Bell. In subsequent meetings, TAPA representatives will be in attendance to represent the views and concerns of practicing PAs. The goal is to have a final draft by the end of this year to present to the General Assembly next January.

Our lobbyists do a great job educating legislators about PA issues and make powerful arguments for supporting our efforts. However, legislators will ultimately vote the way their constituents want them to vote. If one side is blowing up their phones and the other side is silent, they are going to vote with those constituents who are making their voices heard.

So often, I hear PAs ask what they can do to help. You don't need to charge into the Legislature and try to figure out strategies – that is what we pay Alexandria and Katherine to do. Instead, follow these simple steps that will make a GIANT impact in our success.

1. Make sure you are registered to vote. And make sure your family and friends are registered. Tennessee has one of the lowest voter turnout rates, and state elections typically have small turnouts. Elections are being decided by small margins, and mobilizing your family and friends to go vote for candidates that support PAs can help elect PA-friendly legislators.
2. Find out who represents you in the Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives. The General Assembly's website has a great "[Find My Legislator](#)" tool, but that hasn't been updated yet with the new district lines that were redrawn earlier this year. You can check your voter registration card to see what districts are printed on there, or you can

See President, page 2

Mission - TAPA's mission is to promote accessible, quality healthcare, and to advance the education, profession and practice of physician assistants in Tennessee.

Vision

Protecting and empowering the practice of physician assistants in Tennessee.

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call your county commission to find out if your district has changed since last year.

3. Find out if your legislator is supportive of PAs. Send them an email or pick up the phone. If you need some insight into their voting records, call or email Katherine at the TAPA office and she can help you.
4. Send a donation to your legislators. Start big or start small. A \$100 check will get their attention. A \$25 donation will get you on their mailing list so that you start getting invited to their meet and greets. Show up at those events. Bring your family, friends, and coworkers. There is power in numbers. Keep going to their events until they recognize your face.
5. When you meet them, give them your cell number and ask them for theirs.
6. Stay engaged with TAPA so that you know when to plug in and make those calls to your legislators.
7. Donate to TAPA PAC. A well-funded political action committee will help us, as a group, support legislators who support PAs.

We are so close to making the changes that many of us have sought for years, but we won't get over the finish line without everyone working together. You can't sit back and complain about the state of our profession and expect others to do the hard work for you.

If you want to see improvements in our practice act, you need to step up and help. Work your network of contacts, including coworkers, friends, family, church members, etc. to encourage them to support those legislators who support PAs. Let's get this done once and for all!

Greg Cain, PA-C
TAPA President

Does your practice need to hire a PA?

Are you searching for a job?

If so, visit TAPA's Job Board!

Jobboard.tnpa.com

2022 Legislative Update

By Katherine Pesut Moffat, TAPA Executive Director

TAPA had another busy legislative session this year. Coming off of our legislative victory last year to establish an independent Board of PAs, TAPA introduced optimal team practice (OTP) legislation to make substantial changes to the collaboration requirements for PA Practice in our state. Meetings with legislators were very positive, with many legislators agreeing that our proposed changes would bring care into communities that are lacking access to healthcare services in our state.

At the same time that TAPA was pursuing OTP, the nurses were also pursuing a bill for full practice authority. This "battle" between nurses and physicians has been going on for the better part of a decade, and legislators are ready to find a resolution. For that reason, they voted to send both our bill and the nurses' bill to a summer task force where a comprehensive bill would be drafted to modernize the practice of both professions.

The first meeting of this task force is scheduled for late July. Attendees at this meeting will be limited to legislators only. In subsequent meetings, TAPA representatives and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in the process. We expect to have a bill drafted by the end of the year that will be introduced in January 2023.

PC 949 - Changes to Physician Site Visits

This session, a bill was passed that gives physicians and PAs more flexibility with regard to site visits and chart review. Per Public Chapter 949, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) joined Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) in being allowed to conduct all of their monthly collaborating physician visits remotely. All other practices are now permitted to conduct 10 of the 12 annual site visits remotely.

The new law also clarifies that chart review can be done remotely, a routine that most practices are already currently doing through their EHR systems. [Click here](#) to download the full draft of PC 949.

Legislative, continued from page 2

PC 1061 – Opioid prescribing

Also passed this session is a bill that requires prescribers to offer a prescription for an opioid antagonist, such as naloxone, when a opioid is prescribed under the following conditions:

The prescription is for more than a three-day supply of an opioid medication; and

- The opioid medication is prescribed concurrently with a prescription by the same provider for benzodiazepine; or
- The patient presents with an increased risk for overdose, including a history of overdose, a history of substance use disorder, or being at risk for returning to a high dose of opioid medication to which the patient is no longer tolerant.

This requirement does not apply to an opioid prescription that is written as part of a patient's palliative care treatment. [Click here](#) to download a copy of PC 1061.

Members with questions about these and other statutes and rules are encouraged to contact the TAPA office for further professional guidance.

TAPA Awards

TAPA is accepting nominations for the follow awards:

- **PA of the Year**
- **PA Student of the Year**
- **Preceptor of the Year**
- **Educator of the Year**
- **PA/Physician Team of the Year**

Nominations can be submitted by PAs, PA students, faculty and supervising physicians. The nomination deadline is **July 31, 2022**. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the TAPA website at www.tnpa.com.



Make Plans to Attend FallFest

By Mallory Briggs, TAPA Special Event and Conference Coordinator

TAPA's 46th FallFest is scheduled for Oct. 3-7 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. Join colleagues in Gatlinburg, the gateway to the Smokies, for a week of medical education, networking, and fellowship.

TAPA's CME Committee is putting together another great conference that will offer a staggering **54 CME credits**, which includes the SA-CME bonuses awarded to NCCPA-certified PAs and optional workshops. Earn all of the Category I credits required each NCCPA cycle at just this one conference!

FallFest is a terrific CME value. In addition to CME credits, the conference registration includes a continental breakfast each morning, four complimentary luncheons, and refreshments during breaks.

Learn about advocacy efforts in Tennessee during the Legislative Luncheon on Monday, and attend the TAPA Membership Meeting and mixer on Thursday. Both of these are open to all PAs and students in attendance.

Your TAPA staff has devised a way for attendees to earn more CME credits while also providing more free time to enjoy Gatlinburg and the national park. Of the 54 credits offered, 15 of those will be provided through prerecorded content. That allows the daily agenda to end a little earlier most days so that attendees can enjoy the sights and sounds of Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Attendees can watch the prerecorded content back at the hotel each evening or when they return to their homes after the conference.

FallFest, continued from page 3

This new format gives attendees plenty of time to explore one of the many trails that the park has to offer, take a drive to enjoy the colors of the fall foliage, or visit some of the many family-friendly attractions, such as the Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, Anakeesta, Ober Gatlinburg, and several mini golf courses.

After the conference, or after your visit to the national park, fine dining can be found in Gatlinburg – from steaks at Cherokee Grill, to seafood at Chesapeake's, to BBQ at Bennet's - there are many delicious restaurants to choose from. If you are looking for dinner AND a show, there are many dinner show options to choose from. The new Pirates Voyage Dinner & Show is getting rave reviews, and there are several comedy venues to choose from. If you like music, check out the Motown Tribute show or Elvis & The Superstars.

For PA students, the Student Track will be held on Monday, Oct. 3. TAPA will offer student-specific programming in the morning and in the afternoon, TAPA has designed a 4-station workshop on Monday where each student has 2+ hours to explore PA skills hands-on. There will be stations offering practice in suturing, casting, POC ultrasound, and joint injections.

Students can move at their own pace and focus on improving the skills that they want to focus on. The Student Track will conclude on Monday with the Annual Challenge Bowl, so come cheer on your team, a team, or every team!

If you haven't been to FallFest in several years, we hope to see you this year. If you come to FallFest each year, TAPA looks forward to hosting you again as you make new memories and visit your favorite places. For more information, visit www.tnpa.com/fallfest.

SAVE THE DATES!

FallFest
Oct. 3-7, 2022
Gatlinburg Convention Center

Spring Fling
April 14-15, 2023
Hilton Memphis

AAPA 2022 Impact Report

By Katherine Pesut Moffat, TAPA Executive Director

For the first time in two years, PAs gathered at the AAPA's annual meeting in person in Indianapolis. It was great to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and Tennessee PAs were well represented at this meeting!

TAPA's delegates to the AAPA House of Delegates were Chief Delegate Leigh Anne Pickup, Delegate Jennifer Harrington, Delegate Brendan Lucas and Delegate Natalie Stafford. They worked hard to represent the interests of Tennessee PAs, and their reports on the various resolutions debated in the HOD start on page 6.



Tennessee delegates are the best! From left to right: Leigh Anne Pickup, Natalie Stafford, Jennifer Harrington, and Brendan Lucas.

During the General Session, the AAPA discussed the various legislative victories that PAs had across the country in 2021. It was great to see Tennessee singled out for our work in establishing an independent PA Board! We hope to Tennessee included again in next year's report as we work to pass Optimal Team Practice (OTP) in our state.



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Later that weekend, conference attendees were treated to a keynote address by TAPA Member Hayley Arceneaux as she spoke about her experience aboard Space X as the first PA in space.



From left to right, TAPA Members Leigh Anne Pickup, Natalie Stafford, Hayley Arceneaux, Julia Copeland, Jennifer Harrington and Brendan Lucas.

Next year, the AAPA will be coming to Nashville for its 2023 Impact conference. We can't wait to show off our state to PAs across the country.

2022 PAC Contributors

As of 6/30/2022

Bridge Members

contributing \$250+

*Greg Cain
Jill Denney
Eric Elliot
Timothy Jenkins
*David Lennon
*James Montag, Jr.
Amanda Queen
*David Roberts
*Michelle Ross
Mark Smith
Gary Tooley
Seth Weathersby
Robert White

Sustaining member

contributing \$100-\$249

*Donald Black
Anand Dave
Rebecca Dodd
*Patrecia Eaton
*Richard Heintl
*Allison Jowers
Jennifer Light
*Joseph Lindahl
*Sarah McQueen
*Paula Miksa
*Johnny Nowlin
*Leigh Anne Pickup
*Vincent Proctor
Nicole Schtupak
*Shane Smith

Contributing member

contributing up to \$100

Ryan Bader
Amy Biedenbach
Kimberly Borris
Lea Brainerd
Brian Buxton
Christina Free
Vicki Frye
Sioeli Fuimaono
William Glover
Stuart Jones
Ronda Kopra
*Sarah Murawski
Erin Olsen
Bethany Rockwood
David Sehorn
Darice Spackman
Timothy Vivian
Melissa Watson
Melissa Witzigman
*Jodi Zych

**Monthly contributors*

Summary of Resolutions by Chief Delegate Leigh Anne Pickup

Resolution Number	Description
2022-A-01-GovCom	Attempted to amend AAPA bylaws to define GOVCom and Nominating Work Group within AAPA governance. This was tabled indefinitely to allow for more clarification before amending AAPA policy.
2022-A-02-GovCom	AAPA Bylaws were changed with this accepted (although amended) resolution which now allows the Student HOD delegates and the Student Board of Directors to vote in AAPA General Elections. For 2023 that is approximately thirty new votes allowed.
2022-A-03-GovCom	Amends AAPA Bylaws to change the name of the corporation to American Academy of Physician Associates.
2022-A-04-GovCom	Amends policy for the Spanish title to correlate with name change. AAPA Shall adopt, "asociado medico."
2022-A-05-PALH	Allow all titles to be branded in a similar fashion as Physician Associate.
2022-A-06-PR	AAPA promotes inclusion of all individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by providing multilingual marketing and educational materials. Also, HOD provides materials in Spanish.
2022-A-07-SPAAM	This resolution attempted to amend policy to allow for more diversity and inclusion. The resolution was split into 7a and 7b. 7a was adopted as policy and affirms AAPAs commitment to non-discrimination of all student members. 7b was referred to a committee for further work regarding a review of current bylaws and policies that could present barriers to diversifying AAPA leadership. This will be presented in the HOD 2023.
2022-A-08-DEI	Amends existing policy to combine four expiring policies. The amended policy strongly supports access to care and AAPAs support of the development of programs to address barriers and PAs be available to receive any incentives offered in promoting this work.
2022-A-09-DEI	Amends existing policy to include underserved and under-resourced as language around health disparities.
2022-A-10-DEI	Amends existing policy by reducing redundancy and instating one policy supporting PAs providing culturally effective care and eliminating health disparity gaps.
2022-A-11-DEI	This resolution attempted to amend policy by reducing redundancy and instating one policy to allow for educational experiences to target diversity and inclusion in strategic partnerships to eliminate health disparities. The resolution was split into 11a and 11b. 11a stated AAPA shall provide, support, and promote educational policies, and programs that target diversity and inclusion to eliminate health disparities. 11 b stated AAPA shall support formation of strategic partnerships in this work.
2022-A-12-DEI	Amends exciting policy to compliment similar policies surrounding legislation and policies to eliminate discrimination.

Summary of Resolutions by Delegate Brendan Lucas

Resolution Number	Description
2022-B-01-CCPDE	Identifies master's degree as terminal degree for PAs. There was debate on the confusion term of "terminal" and attempts at offering clarifying language of "entry level degree" failed.
2022-B-02-CCPDE	Simply updates data in an existing policy paper regarding specialty certification. There was no change to the position of AAPA regarding specialty certification and time-based preconditions.
2022-B-03-MI	Increases CME for preceptors. Initial proposal was to increase from 20 credits to 30 credits. After debate in the house, resolution amended to no maximum number of credits.
2022-B-04-MI	Simply updates data in an existing policy paper regarding PA education, precepting, and addressing barriers to education. No change in position of the organization.
2022-B-05-OH	Creates a task force to identify core leadership skills for PAs wishing to advance into an administrative role. Supports creation of educational modules surrounding leadership advancement for PAs.
2022-B-06-GRPA	Replaces a previous policy paper titled <i>The Importance of PAs in Executive Leadership</i> with a support statement for lifelong learning and professional development for those who aspire to rise into executive leadership.
2022-B-07-OH	Creates a task force to develop a model Transition to Practice program for new graduates/PAs switching specialties. Allows for mentoring of new providers to the practice. Goal is to increase retention and engagement of the PA in the practice.
2022-B-08-HOTP	Amends existing policy to position the organization with a firm stance against restrictions or attempts at restrictions on availability of reproductive healthcare.
2022-B-09-HOTP	Amends existing policy in support of breast/chest feeding when possible for about the first year of life, while also acknowledging the mutual desires of both parent and infant. Aligns with AAP, AAFP, ABM.
2022-B-10-HOTP	Calls for support of legislation regarding safety labeling for button/coin batteries and encourages incorporation of education on recognition of button battery ingestion, symptoms, and treatment guidelines in PA education and CME programs
2022-B-11-HOTP	Amends existing policy regarding use of cannabinoids. Recognizes there are approved uses of such substances, amended to encourage reducing the use of non-medically approved cannabinoids.
2022-B-12-HOTP	Updates and amends an existing policy paper regarding advertising in healthcare and deceptive practices. Makes simple changes to make the policy paper more clear regarding types of practices that may fall into this category.

Summary of Resolutions by Delegate Jennifer Harrington.

The House of Delegates sessions at AAPA 2022 was an incredible experience and a vital part of promoting and advancing our profession. I am thankful and honored to be able to have serve and represent PAs in the wonderful state of TN in voting on monumental decisions that will shape the future of the PA profession for years to come. Below, I have included my reports on the C-01-C-12 resolutions that were made:

The **C-01** resolution was made to advocate for training, supply, education, legal protection of those using tourniquets for hemorrhage control. This resolution was made to promote measures that will save lives from bleeding in emergency situations.

Resolution **C-02** was made to update the AAPA policy paper on immunizations in children and adults to include new CDC Vaccine guidelines.

The **C-03** resolution was passed to amend the AAPA policy paper on HIV/AIDS to reflect CDC updates to HIV screening, prevention, and treatment. The new language also destigmatizes IV drug users accessing HIV services and addresses the international HIV epidemic.

Resolution **C-04** was passed to encourage regulatory bodies to reduce methadone restrictions for those who are being treated for opioid use disorder. This resolution was made after the COVID pandemic brought to light that take-home methadone dosing did not increase patient risk. New language also promotes the ability and use of PAs in treating patients with opioid use disorder.

The **C-05** resolution was passed to promote the utilization of PAs working in palliative care.

Resolution **C-06** was passed to promote the removal of barriers for PAs managing patients in hospice care, allowing parity with our advanced practice nursing colleagues.

The **C-07** resolution acknowledges the role that PAs have in collaborating with EMS providers to provide care and support and preventative health in community programs.

Resolution **C-08** was passed to oppose regulations that reimburse PAs differently based on their academic credentials.

The **C-09** resolution was passed to emphasize that AAPA promotes PA utilization to employers, legislators, policy makers, patients, and other healthcare stakeholders including the dissemination of data on PA scope of practice and the quality of care.

Resolution **C-10** updated policy language to state, "Team-based care leads to better patient outcomes." Previous language was removed that stated, "The physician-PA relationship is fundamental to the PA profession".

In resolution **C-11** wording was amended to emphasize that AAPA opposes the inclusion of non-PA healthcare professionals in PA state practice acts.

Resolution **C-12** amends current policy to include the endorsement of virtual shared decision making between patient and provider. This amendment was made due to the increased usage of telemedicine and virtual patient care.

Summary of Resolutions by Delegate Natalie Stafford

Resolution Number	Description
2022-A-13-NY	Amended language to limit use of APP/APC to describe PAs and APRNs. After several suggested amendments, TN collaborated with 10 other delegations to finalize language.
2022-A-14-GRPA	This resolution attempted to amend the policy paper "Guidelines for State Regulations of PAs" to reflect current practice and align with the language of OTP. Specifically lists barriers to licensure that should be removed, clarifies scope of practice should be determined at practice level and not necessarily determined by the collaborating physician's scope of practice. Also added "territory" whenever referring to states as to include Puerto Rico.
2022-B-13-HOTP	Amends policy to align with current CDC guidelines on screening for hepatitis C.
2022-B-14-NY	Amends policy supporting communication with residency and fellowship programs about the role of PAs on the healthcare team. Amendment was added to include all health profession education programs.
2022-B-15-SA	States that AAPA believes students should have access to free or low-cost healthcare and mental health services or coverage.
2022-B-16-SA	Amends currently policy to add diversity language to include sexual orientation, religion, sex, educational background and disability status. Also amended to state AAPA supports reduction of undue barriers to entry for students.
2022-C-13-GRPA	The resolution updated language in current policy regarding electronic prescribing compliance to reflect technological advances.
2022-C-14-GRPA	This resolution updated language in the core guidelines for PAs in disaster response to better reflect needs to patients and PAs and to highlight the need for standardized training. Also updated language regarding cultural competency during disaster relief.
2022-C-15-GRPA	Amends policy paper "The Role of In-Store and Retail-Based Convenient Care Clinics" including minor updates on policy language with recent proliferation of retail-based clinics.
2022-C-16-GRPA	Amends current policy to update language and reflect the current healthcare environment. Wording was changed to state PAs and PA students are encouraged by AAPA to become competent in best practice guidelines for telemedicine.
2022-C-17-GRPA	This resolution encourages PAs and PA student to advocate for appropriate resources to develop, implement and utilize telemedicine.
2022-C-18-GRPA	This amends current policy with updated language regarding compliance and appropriate use of prescription drug samples by practicing PAs.
2022-C-19-GRPA	Amends current policy to oppose unsolicited lobbying by NCCPA only if related to PA practice including state laws and regulations, scope of practice, employment and payment policies.
2022-C-20	This reaffirmed a policy (HX-4600.8.1) that was set to expire. There was an amendment to remove a statement in opposition of mass deportation as this was determined to be unrelated to AAPA's role. This reaffirmed AAPA's support of the duty of PAs to provide high-quality healthcare to all patients regardless of immigration or citizenship status.
2022-C-21	This reaffirmed a policy (HX-4600.1.10) that was set to expire. Reaffirmed AAPA's belief that all patients deserve access to healthcare and its opposition to initiatives that require healthcare providers to refuse care to undocumented persons or to report undocumented persons to authorities.
2022-C-22	This reaffirmed a policy (HX-4600.8.2) that was set to expire. This reaffirmed AAPA's support of opportunities for immigration to the United States legally without discrimination. This was reaffirmed due to the implications in certain areas of healthcare, particularly HIV treatment.