

MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE

4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Room 105

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 14, 2017
1:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Ingegno, L.Ac., Teal Beatty, L.Ac., Sherrie Black, L.Ac, R.N., Esq., Sheryl Hongsermeier, L.Ac., R.N., Peter Marinakis, L.Ac., Ph.D., Jan Exler, M.Ed., Consumer, Barbara Heller, Ed.D., R.N., Consumer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Penny Heisler, Executive Director, Cynthia Dobbins, Administrative Officer, and David Finkler, AAG

GUESTS:

Tracey Soltesz, L.Ac., MAS, Sharon Bloom, Kristin Neville, Kim Lang, and Donna Degnan, L.Ac.

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 MINUTES

After review of the Minutes, Ms. Black moved to approve the Minutes as written and Mr. Exler seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

1. OLD BUSINESS

A. SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Mr. Ingegno informed the Board that there is no report.

B. DRY NEEDLING

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that she received a photo that was posted on Instagram by a physical therapy practice showing a patient receiving dry needling treatment for a sinus infection. She shared the photo with Kim Lang of the Department of Health. She also forwarded the photo to Mr. Curry, Executive Director of the Physical Therapy Board. Mr. Ingegno stated that it is very clear that the insertion of the acupuncture needles is the practice of acupuncture and possibly medicine. Mr. Finkler read the Physical Therapy regulations on dry needling out-loud and stated that the

Physical Therapy Board is responsible for educating its licensees on the limits of dry needling practice under its regulations.

Ms. Soltesz stated that the PT Board has had almost 1 year to setup its training and registration requirements and would like to know when a list of dry needling registrants will be available. After discussion, Mr. Ingegno asked Ms. Heisler to write a letter to the Physical Therapy Board with a copy of the photo, stating the Acupuncture Board is very concerned that licensed physical therapists do not have a clear understanding of the appropriate boundaries of dry needling and requests that it take appropriate action to educate its licensees to ensure that its practitioners are not performing acupuncture, or advertising services that are acupuncture. He asked that the Secretary and Physicians Board be copied. Ms. Heisler stated that she would circulate the letter to the full Board before it was sent out.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD – DRY NEEDLING REGULATIONS

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that the Occupational Therapy Board voted to draft dry needling regulations at its September meeting. Ms. Neville stated that the OT Board will not commence drafting the regulations until after the 2018 Legislative Session. Ms. Heisler stated that she will try to locate a copy of the Minutes in which the vote was recorded.

B. BATTLEFIELD ACUPUNCTURE

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that she has been receiving a lot of inquires from nurses regarding battlefield acupuncture and whether it is allowed in Maryland. Kim Lang of the Department of Health also received a similar inquiry from the Maryland Veterans Administration. Ms. Lang sought responses from both the Acupuncture Board and the Nursing Board. Karen Evans, Executive Director of the Nursing Board responded that, "The Board of Nursing acknowledges that the Board of Acupuncture governs the education, training, and licensure process for acupuncturists in the state of Maryland. Those NPs who express interest in performing acupuncture are directed by Board staff to the Maryland Board of Acupuncture accordingly. These individuals may not be advised that they are authorized by the Board of Nursing to practice acupuncture because they hold any advance practice nursing certification."

Ms. Heisler stated that 2 years ago, representatives from the Maryland Veterans Administration came to a Board meeting to ask members of the Acupuncture Board to consider changing its statute to allow nurses working in Federal facilities to practice battlefield acupuncture. Ms. Heisler stated that she will alert the Board if there is any indication that a bill of this nature is introduced this session.

The meeting adjourned at approximate 1:50 p.m.