

MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE

4201 Patterson Avenue

Third Floor

Baltimore, MD 21215

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

November 15, 2022 1:00 p.m. via **GOOGLE MEET**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Brandie Armijo, DACM, Dipl. Ac (NCCAOM®), LPN, BSN, Clinical Acupuncturist, Board Chair
- Sherrie Black, L.Ac., RN, Esq., Board Vice Chair,
- Christina Tian, DACM, CMD, MAOM, L.Ac., Professional Member
- Barbara Huston, Consumer Member
- Peter Marinakis, Ph.D, L.Ac., Professional Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

- Tiffany Smith-Williams, Executive Director
- Cynthia Dobbins, Deputy Director
- David Finkler, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
- Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison to the Health Profession Boards

VISITORS:

- Kimberly Link, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Health Boards
- Denise Tyson, President, Maryland Acupuncture Society
- Bill Brooks, Penn North Recovery Center
- Tom Ingegno, Vice President of Public Affairs, Maryland Acupuncture Society

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board Chair Armijo called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Board member roll call was performed. Quorum confirmed - five of seven members present. Two positions vacant - one professional and one consumer. Board staff and guests identified.

B. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 MINUTES

The Executive Director requested approval of the September 13, 2022 minutes as written. The Board Chair requested that her title be corrected and stated the minutes could be approved with the correction. The Executive Director noted the request and called for the motion. Board Vice

Chair Black made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Consumer Member Huston seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection..

C. BACK OFFICE MATTERS

Motion made to change agenda, moving H. 2023 Meetings: Virtual vs. In-Person to C. Back Office Matters by Consumer Member Huston. The motion was seconded by Board Vice Chair Black. The motion passed without objection. After some discussion considering both pandemic related and technical concerns, the Board decided to continue virtual meetings until improvement in both areas are achieved.

The Executive Director shared updated information about the network reconnection including the completion of a user inventory and the establishment of the Wide Area Network (WAN).

The Office of Internal Audit Compliance and Information Security (IACS), liaison for the Maryland Department of Health with the Office of Legislative Audits and the Secretary's Office, have documented that the Board has sufficiently responded to the audit recommendations and therefore the findings have been closed.

The Executive Director shared that there are some operational considerations to explore moving forward such as paperless payments/eliminating acceptance of paper checks, reviewing existing English proficiency guidelines and investigating performing criminal background checks.

D. LICENSING: STATUS OF RENEWALS & NCCAOM CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

The Executive Director reviewed licensee statistics, including the renewals for this period. 70% of the renewals had been completed. Multiple notices have been sent to remind licensees about their obligation to renew their license.

The Executive Director opened a discussion about the future NCCAOM certification requirement. In cooperation with the Maryland University of Integrative Health (MUIH), the Board made a statutory change to licensing requirements to require NCCAOM certification by 2026 for new licensees. This change was made prior to MUIH's decision to pause acupuncture program admissions. The Executive Director shared that the Board may want to explore pursuing another change to accelerate the certification effective date. After a brief discussion with Board Counsel, it was decided that this effort would not be the best use of the Board's time considering the existing effective date, legislative cycle submission ability and the impact on existing MUIH students.

E. SUNRISE DISCUSSION

The Executive Director initiated a discussion about Arizona's proposed increase in that State's Acupuncturists scope of practice. The discussion is based on the proposal a.k.a. the Sunrise document. This document was shared by Professional Member Marinakis. This discussion seeded a discussion about the upcoming legislative session and past legislation that the Board will be evaluating for resubmission next session. The Board's Legislative Committee will be comprised of Board Chair Armijo, Board Vice Chair Black and Professional Member Marinakis.

F. DRY NEEDLING

The Board prepared a response to the Board of Occupational Therapy's intention to add dry needling to its scope of practice. This inspired discussion about the difference between acupuncture and dry needling, if any and the other healthcare practitioners that can legally offer dry needling. Of concern is the practitioners competency with training and the safety of patients. Also discussed is the growth of acupuncture services and the Maryland Practice Act's current and future capacity to fully reflect the scope of practice. The Board decided to re-establish the Scope of Practice Committee. Board Chair Armijo, Vice Chair Black and Professional Member Tian will serve on the committee.

G. VACANT BOARD POSITIONS: PROFESSIONAL & CONSUMER UPDATE

The Executive Director shared that applications have been received for the professional vacancy but no applications for the consumer vacancy has been received.

H. OPEN DISCUSSION

The Executive Director shared that a new Investigator was hired

I. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Armijo made a motion to close the Regular Session of the board meeting to discuss issues related to licensure of an individual to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirements that prevents public disclosure about a particular procedure. Board Vice Chair Black and Professional Member Marinakis seconded the motion. The Regular Session of the November board meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.