

MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Room 505

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 14, 2020
1:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Ingegno, L.Ac., DACM, Chair, Sheryl Hongsermeier, L.Ac., RN, Vice Chair, Brandie Armijo, L.Ac., LPN, BSN, DACM, Sherrie Black, L.Ac., RN, Esq., Peter Marinakis, L.Ac., Ph.D., Barbara Huston, Consumer, Bonnie Miranda, Consumer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

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

GUESTS:

Lillian Reese, Regulations Coordinator, Kim Lang, MDH, and Xuekai Zhang, Director, US Center for Chinese Medicine, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Dr. Ingegno called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF November 12, 2019 MINUTES

Ms. Huston moved to approve the Minutes as written and Dr. Armijo seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

1. OLD BUSINESS

A. CHIROPRACTIC BOARD DRY NEEDLING REGULATIONS

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that Chiropractic Board's dry needling regulations were posted in the Maryland Register for public comment. Ms. Reese stated that the comment period ends on January 21, 2020 and that she does not believe any comments have been received to date.

B. CHANGES TO COMAR 10.26.02

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that its proposal approved at the last meeting was put on hold by the Secretary due to the legislative session. Ms. Reese informed the Board that it is unlikely that the Secretary will be reviewing any new proposals until after session.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Heisler recommended that the Board review the current CEU requirements to determine whether they are in line with the legislative changes made through the passage of HB 404 last year. Dr. Ingegno recommended that a Committee be formed to review the language and report back to the Board at its next meeting. Dr. Armijo and Ms. Black volunteered to serve on the committee.

B. POINT INJECTION THERAPY

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that the regulations are on hold until April. Ms. Heisler compiled a listing from the New Mexico and Colorado Boards of their acceptable injections for the Board to review. Ms. Heisler recommended that a committee be formed to review the list. Dr. Ingegno and Dr. Marinakis volunteered to serve on the committee.

C. LEGISLATION 2020

Ms. Heisler deferred to Ms. Reese for a report on pertinent Bills that have been filed this legislative session. Ms. Reese reported on SB67 and SB103.

SB67 – Public Information Act – Application for Inspection – Responses and Time Limits.

This Bill would change the response time for the Board to fulfill public information requests from 30 days to 7 days. After a lengthy discussion, Dr. Armijo moved to oppose the Bill and Ms. Miranda seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

SB103 – Health Occupations – Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment of Patients – Disciplinary Actions (The Patient’s Access to Integrative Healthcare Act of 2020)

Board members discussed the Bill and decided to send a letter of information to the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee stating that it is unclear how the Bill would apply to the practice of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine, as East Asian Medicine, by its nature, is integrative, complementary, alternative and sometimes non-conventional. Ms. Heisler will draft the letter for the Board’s review. Ms. Reese informed the Board that she would need this letter by Friday, January 17, 2020.

D. ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPT ACCEPTANCE FROM THE NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARING HOUSE

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that she received a request from the Maryland University of Integrative Health to be able to send transcripts electronically via the National Student Clearinghouse. After discussion, the Board agreed to accept electronic transcripts on a 6 month trial basis. If after the 6 month trial period there are no issues, the Board will accept electronic transcripts on a permanent basis.

**E. INVITATION FROM THE U.S. CENTER FOR CHINESE MEDICINE
BY BEIJING UNIVERSITY OF CHINESE MEDICINE**

Dr. Ingegno introduced Dr. Xuekai Zhang, CMD, PhD, Director of the Center. Dr. Zhang informed the Board that the Center is a non-profit organization. He is working on developing a plan to have an international conference of acupuncturists in Beijing and would like Board members to attend. He is hoping that Beijing University could provide some or all of the funding. There is also the possibility that this conference will offer continuing education credits.

The Center's mission is to establish a place to exchange clinical treatment, education and scientific research between the US and China. The Center also houses a museum which includes historical traditional Chinese medicine artifacts and information about traditional Chinese medicine therapies (acupuncture, qigong, tuina, and cupping). The museum will also promote prevention of chronic diseases and pursuit of a healthy life style.

Dr. Zhang hopes to bring the benefits of traditional Chinese medicine to the American people and integrate Chinese medicine into healthcare practices in the US. He believes the exchange of ideas, technology and culture will bring the two countries together. Dr. Armijo recommended that the Board publish an article about the Center in its next newsletter.

Mr. Finkler recommended that the Board contact the State Ethics Commission to inquire whether there would be any conflict of interest to attend the conference in Beijing.

Ms. Miranda moved to close the meeting at 2:15 PM to go into Administrative Session in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act § 3-305(b)(2) "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business" and Dr. Armijo seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.