

MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Room 105

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 9, 2010
1:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barbara Cronin, Consumer, Kate Carter, L.Ac., Tyme Gigliotti, L.Ac., Steve Kaufman, L.Ac., Grant Zhang, L.Ac., and Dr. Charles Griffin, Consumer

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Penny Heisler, Executive Director, Cynthia Dobbins, Administrative Officer, and Richard Bloom, AAG

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Cai, L.Ac.,

GUESTS:

Deneb Fanabella, L.Ac., TAI-SOPHIA, Paula Hollinger, DHMH, Cara Michele Nether, L.Ac., ADS Supervisor, Steve Solomon, L.Ac., MAS, David Wurzel, L.Ac., ADS Supervisor, Sally Monahan and Sharon Bloom, DHMH

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Mr. Gigliotti called the Acupuncture Board meeting to order at 1:00 pm and a quorum was established. Mr. Gigliotti welcomed our guests and asked that they introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 12, 2010 MINUTES

After review of the Minutes, Ms. Cronin moved to approve the Minutes and Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. ADS SUPERVISORY DUTIES

Ms. Heisler presented the Board with the final draft of the auricular detoxification specialist regulations that would require training of ADS supervisors. Mr. Gigliotti asked if anyone had any recommend changes to add. After a brief discussion, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to approve the regulations as written and Ms. Cronin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that this process takes at least 6 months and that the approval process will not begin until after legislative session in April.

B. DRY NEEDLING

Ms. Heisler stated that the Board had sent a letter to the Attorney General's office requesting an opinion as to whether the insertion of acupuncture needles, or any needle, falls within the definition of the practice of physical therapy in Maryland and whether it is appropriate for the Physical Therapy Board to expand the scope of practice of physical therapy to include an invasive technique without first seeking statutory authority to do so. The letter has been posted on the Office of the Attorney General's website to elicit comments from the public for at least one month.

Ms. Sally Monahan addressed the Board with concerns regarding a Chiropractor who is dry needling concurrent with her acupuncture treatments. Mr. Gigliotti thanked Ms. Monahan for her time.

C. LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ms. Heisler gave an update on the following bills affecting Boards:

- HB 627-Health Occupations Boards and Committees - Consumer Member Requirements
- HB 114/SB 291 Health Occupations Boards - Revisions
- HB 541- Health Occupations - Wellness Practitioners - Exemption from Licensure as Physicians
- HB 323/SB 308- Health Occupations - Licensure of Physician Assistants

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. FAOMRA

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that the FAOMRA meeting may be canceled due to budget cuts for out of state travel in all states. Ms. Heisler stated that the NCCAOM has offered to hold a webinar in May to allow her to give a presentation about FAOMRA to state executive directors.

B. CCAOM

Ms. Heisler and Mr. Kaufman attended an AOM leaders meeting hosted by the CCAOM. Ms. Heisler reported that the group has developed a strategic plan over a 3 year period to:

- promote research, education public awareness and outreach
- Increase job opportunities for AOM graduates in all health care settings
- obtain federal recognition for the profession
- achieve licensure and parity in 50 states and DC

The vision statement is “by 2014, acupuncture and Oriental medicine, an independent licensed profession, will be fully accessible to the public through American health care.”

The ACAOM made a public announcement that they are going forth with creating a first professional doctorate degree. They have a lot of dissension in the field but have decided to move forward. This may ultimately lead to statutory changes in our law in the years to come.

The NCCAOM is re-evaluating their need to continue apprenticeship as a valid eligibility route.

The AAAOM is holding a world health organization conference for AOM integrative medicine collaboration May 13 and 14, 2011 in Baltimore MD.

The CCAOM would like to see the AOM national standards formed.

C. BOARD COUNSEL UPDATE

None.

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that effective June 1st, the terms of two consumer members, Ms. Cronin and Dr. Griffin, and one acupuncturist, Mr. Gigliotti, will expire and that none will be eligible for another term. She asked that if anyone knows of any potential candidates for the consumer positions to let her know as soon as possible.

D. NEW LICENSES

Ms. Cronin moved to approve the list of applicants for licensure and Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m.