

MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE

4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 9, 2021
1:00 p.m.
GOOGLE MEET

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brandie Armijo, L.Ac., LPN, BSN, DACM, Chair, Sherrie Black, L.Ac., RN, Esq., Vice Chair, Sheryl Hongsermeier, L.Ac., RN, Thomas Ingegno, L.Ac., DACM, 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

VISITORS:

Kim Link, Boards and Commission Liaison, and Lillian Reese, Boards and Commission Legislative Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

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

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 12, 2021 MINUTES

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

1. OLD BUSINESS

A. COMAR 10.26.02

Dr. Armijo and Ms. Heisler met with the Chiropractic Board to address the Chiropractic Board's concern over the inclusion of dry needling in the scope of practice of the proposed regulation. Dr. Armijo stated that during the discussion, she determined that removing dry needling from the list of therapies would be prudent, as it is only one of the many needling techniques used by acupuncturists. She stated that defining dry needling in the Board's scope would require the definition of all other needling techniques and therefore, recommended that dry needling be deleted.

The two Boards also discussed the remaining East Asian therapies listed in the Board's proposal. Dr. Armijo explained to the Chiropractic Board that all of the therapies listed, with the exception of point injection therapy, are taught in acupuncture schools at the Master's Degree level, which is required for licensure. Dr. Armijo informed the Chiropractic representatives and that a separate registration process and training requirements for point injection therapy has been included in the regulation to ensure competency in the technique.

After discussion, Sherrie Black moved to amend the Board's proposed regulation to delete dry needling as follows:

- (i) Manual therapies;
- (ii) Mechanical therapies;
- (iii) Thermal therapies;
- (iv) Acupoint injection therapy in accordance with Regulation .08 of this chapter;
- ~~{(v) Dry Needling}~~
- (v) Hot and cold therapy;
- (vi) Therapeutic exercise and stretching;
- (vii) Electric stimulation;
- (viii) Light and cold laser;
- (ix) Herbal remedies;
- (x) Mindfulness practices; and
- (xi) Nutritional and lifestyle counseling

Dr. Ingegno seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion. Sherrie Black recommended that the Board publish an article in the next Newsletter explaining the Board's decision to delete dry needling from the regulation and to assure licensees that dry needling is within the Board's scope of practice.

2. NEW BUSINES

A. Animal Acupuncture Course

Ms. Heisler stated that the Maryland Institute of Integrated Health has discontinued its animal acupuncture program. A recent licensure applicant inquired whether the Board would accept the Phoenix Institute of Herbal Medicine's program Animal Acupuncture - PIHMA College & Clinic as a basis for animal acupuncture registration in Maryland. Dr. Ingegno reviewed the program and found the 2 curriculums identical.

Ms. Black moved to approve the curriculum of the Phoenix Institute of Herbal Medicine's program Animal Acupuncture as a basis for registration of future animal acupuncture applicants and Dr. Ingegno seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

B. Legislation 2021

The Board reviewed several proposed Bills that affect the Health Occupational Boards:

HB 1041 -Health Occupations Boards - Uniform Reporting

The bill has been withdrawn by the sponsor, Senator Kelly, until next session. The Senator is requesting that the boards meet with her during the interim to work out details of the Bill.

SB 5 -Public Health - Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

The Senate Bill passed the Finance committee (w/amendments) and will go to floor for vote; HB 28 was heard on January 26 and has not moved from the Committee.

SB 72 – Open Meetings Act - Requirements for State Agencies and Local Boards of Elections

The Bill was heard on February 2 in Committee and has not moved; HB 344 was heard on February 11 and has not moved.

HB 732 - Health Care Practitioners - Telehealth - Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners

The Bill was heard on 2/10 in Committee and has not moved; SB 568 was heard on February 16 and has not moved.

SB 932 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Coverage – Acupuncture Services

The Bill was referred to Finance.

D. Executive Director Update

Ms. Heisler stated that the Board is gearing up for the May 2021 renewal. This will be the third renewal during the COVID State of Emergency. At this time, the COVID Emergency Order is still in place and renewal dates continue to be extended.

Dr. Marinakis moved to close the meeting at 1:40 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 Ms. Miranda seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.