

# **MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE**

**4201 Patterson Avenue**

**Third Floor**

**Baltimore, MD 21215**

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION**

November 19, 2024 1:00 p.m. via **GOOGLE MEET**

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Brandie Armijo, DACM, Dipl. Ac (NCCAOM), LPN, BSN, L.Ac., Board Chair
- Sherrie Black, L.Ac., RN, Esq., Board Vice Chair,
- Christina Tian, DACM, CMD, MAOM, L.Ac.
- Christina Van Norman, D.OM, M.OM, M.Ac, L.Ac
- Sharon, Jennings-Rojas, DOM, M.Ac., L.Ac., RT
- Barbara Huston, Consumer Member
- Iola V. Purnell, Consumer Member

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- None

### **BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

- Tiffany Smith-Williams, Executive Director
- Stephanie K. Coley, Deputy Director/Licensing Administrator
- David Finkler, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel

### **GUESTS:**

- Denise Tyson, MBA, DOM, LAc, ADS, President, MD Acupuncture Society
- Angela S., American Society of Acupuncture Board Member, former MD Acupuncture Society Board Member
- Sallie Novak, MD Acupuncture Society Vice President of External Affairs
- Guangda Cathy Qiao, MD Acupuncture Society
- Gene Bruno, American Board of Animal Acupuncture

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board Chair Armijo called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Attendance confirmed for the five of the seven members at the start of the meeting. Six were present by the time agenda item “B” was completed. All seven were present by the time agenda item “C” was in process. No other MDH and Health Boards and Commissions staff were present. Guests recognized.

#### **B. APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2024 MINUTES**

Board Chair Armijo opened the meeting asking for feedback on the September meeting

minutes. No feedback was shared so she called for a motion to approve the September 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Professional Member Van Norman made a motion to approve the September 2024 meeting minutes as written. Professional Member Jennings-Rojas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **C. RELATIONSHIP WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **a. American Board of Animal Acupuncture (ABAA)**

Gene Bruno, President of the ABAA presented at the meeting. President Bruno shared the history of animal acupuncture in the United States and the organization.

ABAA is a nonprofit based in Oregon and Arizona. The program is hosted at the [Phoenix Institute of Herbal Medicine & Acupuncture](#) in Arizona (transitioning to the National Academy of Animal Acupuncture in the near future). The availability of a small animal program in Maryland is pending. ABAA will notify regulatory boards and its mailing lists when applications are being accepted. At present, Maryland licensed acupuncturists, in good standing, educated by Tai Sophia or the Maryland University of Integrative Health, and on the board's animal acupuncture registry can apply to be recognized as ABAA certified practitioners and members. There is a fee. More details will be provided by ABAA at a later date.

The National Acupuncture Association (NAA), the first professional organization for acupuncturists, was a nonprofit and education organization based in California. The NAA created a research arm, the Animal Acupuncture Research Division. The research was housed on the campus of UCLA. The members of the NAA help found the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAC), getting the buy-in of professional veterinarians to ensure the viability of this speciality in the practice. NCCAOM does not supervise acupuncturists certified by ABAA but does offer PDAs for the speciality.

For more information on the history of animal acupuncture please visit [ABAA's History](#) page.

#### **b. National Auricular Detoxification Association (NADA)**

NADA Board Members were unable to attend the November meeting, however a statement was provided along with a commitment to attend a meeting in 2025. The statement from Dr. Kenneth Carter, NADA President is below.

*Dear Maryland Acupuncture Board Officers:*

*Thank you for inviting NADA Organization input as you revisit the scope of NADA protocol practice in Maryland. Safety is our central consideration and, as a physician and acupuncturist, I wish to assure you that Clean Needle Technique instruction is central to our training.*

*As a physician specializing in psychiatry, I endorse NADA protocol's safety and utility in individual, group, public health and population-based care as unparalleled. The sole absolute contraindication for any person's participation in NADA protocol intervention is acute behavioral disruption of a severity that places themselves or others at risk.*

*As a comprehensive acupuncturist practicing NADA protocol before medical school and before acupuncture school, I appreciate that NADA protocol is not the practice of medicine and that it is not practice of acupuncture. The practices of medicine and acupuncture require the ability to make and change diagnoses and treatment plans whereas NADA protocol explicitly prohibits any of this. As a somatic intervention, only a codified and invariant pattern 1 to 5 auricular acupoints is appropriate.*

*“The Spirit of NADA (SON)” is our slogan embraced by NADA Organization and subscribers to characterize the psychologically minded, nonverbal style of interaction that has served our patients, providers and programs so well. NADA protocol is not only a needling/acupressure technique. Most importantly, it is a style of interaction that is universally applicable in substance use disorder, mental/behavioral health and wellness settings.*

*Please find attached a brief introduction to NADA history and peer-reviewed literature. I hope that the information provided will prove valuable in your further deliberations regarding the adjuvant “value-added” that NADA protocol can bring to usual and customary MH/SUD clinical, public health oriented and population-based care.*

Professional Member Jennings-Rojas shared that NADA is making strategic changes to improve operational effectiveness, efficacy and efficiency. The Executive Director reiterated that the Board’s role is not to create professional organizations or training entities. As it relates to auricular detoxification, NADA serves in this capacity.

#### **D. LICENSING STATISTICS**

- a. This report was shared by Deputy Director & Licensing Administrator Coley. The current licensee census and Fall 2024 renewal numbers are as follows:
  - Census
    - Currently Licensed Acupuncturists -1286
    - Newly Licensed Acupuncturists - 22
    - Reactivations - 1
    - Reinstatements - 2
    - ADS - 29
    - Animal Acupuncture - 54
  - Fall 2024 Renewal
    - Acupuncturists scheduled to renew - 301
    - Acupuncturists completed renewal by November 19th - 146
    - ADS scheduled to renew - 13
  - Proof of Practice License Verifications
    - Scheduled to be mailed from Spring 2024 Renewal - 323
    - Delivery confirmed as of November 19th - 321

Staff will begin communicating with the vendor Strategic Factory about the mailing for the Fall 2024 renewal in the new year.

## **E. OPERATIONS UPDATE**

### **a. Transition to VOIP**

The process is completed. The small health professions boards and commissions have ceased using the hard-wired analog telephone lines and are using the voice over internet protocol phone (VOIP) system on the Zoom platform. The HPBCs entered into a three year contract with the States approved telecom vendor Lumen. While the transition required an initial investment, the VOIP service is less expensive than the analog service.

### **b. Website Updates**

Board staff has made significant progress in updating the Board's web content. Additional tweaks will continue including the updates to the Disciplinary page, approved by the Board in the past.

## **F. LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS**

### **● Acupoint Injection Therapy**

The draft regulation is close to completion and forwarded to the Board for review. Upon Board approval, the draft will be posted on the Board's website for informal comment from the public, licensees, other Boards and other health profession organizations.

The discussion about the draft included:

- language and word tweaks
- the number of training hours
- source of competencies
- Instructor qualifications
- pending NCCAOM certification program
- the substance list

Additionally, MAS President Tyson, who also participated in meetings with the professional organizations, spoke in favor of the regulation.

Based on the feedback provided the draft will be revised. Instead of waiting for a second board review and vote at the January meeting, the Scope and Regulation Committee would like the Board's permission to approve the final version for dissemination. Board Chair Armijo called for a motion. The motion was introduced by Vice Chair Black and seconded by Professional Member Tian. The vote was unanimous.

### **● Regulatory Review**

There are no new updates about next steps since submission.

### **G. OPEN DISCUSSION**

The health professions boards and commissions have hired a new fiscal officer after the retirement of Linda Beyer. Hillary Fasciano started in October. She comes to the HPBCs from the Medicaid Division.

2025 board meeting dates reviewed. It was decided that meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday, every other month beginning in January 2025 at 1pm. The one exception is the November meeting because it falls on a State holiday in 2025. This meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of November in 2025. The 2025 meeting dates are as follows:

- January 14th
- March 11th
- May 13th
- July 8th
- September 9th
- November 4th

The meeting dates, agenda and virtual access are posted on the board's website.

MAS President Tyson shared that MAS is holding elections and that she would not be running for another term, however she will continue to serve on the MAS Board. She also shared that MAS will be rebranded as the Maryland Association of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (MD AAEAM).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Chair requested that guests exit the meeting as the Board transitioned to its Administrative/Quasi-Judicial session. Board Chair Armijo called for a motion to adjourn the regular session and transition to the administrative session. The motion was introduced by Professional Member Van Norman and seconded Vice Chair Black. The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.