

MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE

4201 Patterson Avenue

Third Floor

Baltimore, MD 21215

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

January 14, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via **GOOGLE MEET**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Brandie Garry, 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
- Lillian Reese, Legislative & Regulatory Coordinator
- Zakiyyah Holmes, Administrator, MDH, Office of the Secretary
- Troy Pumphrey, Investigator, Supervisor
- John Pizzurro, Investigator

GUESTS:

- Christopher Thompson, NCCAOM
- Ruosi Lee, NCCAOM
- Tuesday Wasserman, NCCAOM
- Brian Jackson, University of Maryland
- Joanna Karakoulus, MAAEAM Member-at-Large
- Kristy Hanley, L.Ac.
- Lynne Vance, L.Ac.
- Jessica Kiel, MD Association of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Silke Elsner, MD Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
- Denise Tyson, MBA, DOM, LAc, ADS, MAAEAM President
- Lindy Burns, MAAEAM Board Member
- Tanya Wallace, L.Ac.

- Sara Damica, MAAEAM Member
- Guangda Cathy Qiao, MAAEAM Member

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board Chair Garry called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Attendance confirmed for all seven members at the start of the meeting. Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Health Boards & Commissions (HPBC) staff recognized. Guests recognized.

B. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2024 MINUTES

Board Chair Garry opened the meeting asking for feedback on the November meeting minutes. No feedback was shared so she called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. Professional Member Van Norman made the motion and Consumer Member Purnell seconded. The vote was unanimous.

C. RELATIONSHIP WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) has issued credentials for the practice of acupuncture and East Asian medicine since the 1980s. The organization serves as the standard bearer for safety and quality in the practice of acupuncture and East Asian medicine. Three members of the NCCAOM team attended the meeting to discuss national disciplinary tracking and acupuncture injection therapy.

Christopher Thompson is on the Ethics & Discipline Committee and is the lead for the National Disciplinary Action Tracking Database. He shared that, at present, most states don't require criminal background checks for licensure. This makes it easy for bad actors to move from state-to-state and restart practicing without this risk to the public being known. The national database is a tool created to combat such activity

Tuesday Wasserman, New Program Development Manager shared about the efforts to establish acupoint injection national credentials and standards. A partnership between American Society of Acupuncture (ASA) and NCCAOM resulted in a taskforce being formed. ASA is going to be the source of standardized training and NCCAOM will be the tester and credential issuer. This training and testing will be recognized as an entry level credential because Acupoint Injection Therapy (AIT) has the potential to become a standalone specialty. She acknowledged the existing training programs with varying hours requirements and shared that provision is being made to provide gap filler courses and grandfathering to ensure practice standardization and quality. Information about the new national requirements will be available on the [NCCAOM website](#) effective March 1st.

Rousi Lee, Education and Professional Development Manager shared about PDA information and the difference between receiving a certificate and being certified. Certificates (digital badges) will be issued upon completion of the coursework with ASA. Certifications will

be issued to those who also pass the assessment. Webinars will be held to inform educators and practitioners nationwide.

D. LICENSING STATISTICS

Review of current numbers and Fall 24 renewal outcome

Acupuncturists: New Licenses: 16 Reactivations: 4 Reinstatements: 3 Total Licensed – 1269 New Auricular Detoxification Specialist Applications: 0	Acupuncturists Scheduled to Renew in Fall 24: 301 Renewed on time: 248 Late Renewals - 14 Total Renewed – 262 Non-renewed – 33 Inactive apps - 6	Auricular Detoxification Specialist Scheduled to Renew Fall 24: 13 Renewed on time – 8 Non-Renewed - 5
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E. OPERATIONS UPDATES

a. Website

Katrina continues to bring the vision of the updated website to pass. Updated content, arrangement, use of Google forms, menu labels. Next up is the disciplinary page.

b. Public Health Workforce Development Program Intern

Katrina's contract has been extended for the Spring 2025 cohort. The term of this contract is from December 18, 2024 through May 6, 2025. Additional future research topics include board name change, criminal background checks & use of NCCAOM database and helping to draft new & updated standard operating procedures.

F. LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS

Committee Work

- Update Acupoint Injection Therapy

Draft regulation completed and forwarded for your review. Pending the Board's approval, we would like to circulate the draft amongst the other Boards and the professional organizations. 55 comments received: 51 from L.Acs, 1 other practitioner and 3 general public. Submission for formal review will occur after the legislative session ends.

- Update Regulatory Review

Next steps in the formal review process will continue after the legislative session ends.

- Current Bills of Interest

1. Senate Bill 67 (Simonaire & Jackson) Health Occupations Boards – Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits - motion made to submit joint letter of

information made by Vice Chair Black and seconded by Professional Member Van Norman. The vote was unanimous.

2. Senate Bill 72 (Lam) Health Occupations Boards – English Proficiency Requirements and Licensure by Endorsement for Nursing - motion made to submit position paper supporting the bill with amendments made by Vice Chair Black and seconded by Professional Member Van Norman. The vote was unanimous.
3. The board agreed to take no position on the following bills: Senate Bill 233 (Finance Committee Chair) Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Dispensers – Veterinarians; House Bill 113 (Delegates Ziegler, Boyce, Charkoudian, Foley, Kaufman, Ruff, Terrasa, and Wu) Civil Actions – Noneconomic Damages – Personal Injury and Wrongful Death; and Senate Bill 195 (Chair of Judicial Proceedings Committee - DHS Request) Family Law – Child Support
4. House Bill 231 Taxpayer Disclosure and Protection Act - the board agreed to submit a joint letter of concern. The motion was made by Vice Chair Black and seconded by Consumer Member Huston. The vote was unanimous.

- Delegation of Authority

A vote was taken to delegate authority to the Legislative Committee, allowing the members to make decisions on behalf of the Board during the 2025 legislative session. The motion was made by Vice Chair Black and seconded by Professional Member Tian.

- Discussion: Acupressure, Reflexology and Reiki

Board staff is taking steps to inform licensees in acupuncture & East Asian medicine, massage therapy, educational institutions and bodywork establishments that any meridian, point and energy based treatment is in the scope of acupuncture and East Asian medicine, and therefore under the regulatory authority of the Board. The ED has requested the Massage Therapy Examiners ED, and possibly board members, meet with the Board to further the discussion and inform future action. Continued examination of the situation has been delegated to the Scope Committee.

G. OPEN DISCUSSION

Board staff responded to questions about the status of AIT regulations. The ED shared that the goal is to be ready to forward the draft to the joint committee on Administrative, Executive, Legislation & Regulation and to the MD Register to publish for public comment at the end of the legislative season.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board Chair requested that guests exit the meeting and the Board transitioned to its Administrative/Quasi-Judicial session. Board Chair Garry called for a motion to adjourn the regular session and transition to the administrative session. The motion was introduced by Consumer Member Huston and seconded by Consumer Member Purnell. The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.