

MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE

4201 Patterson Avenue

Third Floor

Baltimore, MD 21215

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

May 9, 2023 1:00 p.m. via **GOOGLE MEET**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Brandie Armijo, DACM, Dipl. Ac (NCCAOM®), LPN, BSN, Clinical Acupuncturist, Board Chair
- Sherrie Black, L.Ac., RN, Esq., Board Vice Chair,
- Christina Tian, DACM, CMD, MAOM, L.Ac., Professional Member
- Barbara Huston, Consumer Member
- Peter Marinakis, Ph.D, L.Ac., Professional Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

- Tiffany Smith-Williams, Executive Director
- David Finkler, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
- Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator to the Health Profession Boards
- Zakiyyah Holmes, Administrator, Boards and Commissions, Office of the Secretary
- Kimberly Link, J.D., Senior Advisor for the Health Boards

GUESTS:

Dr. Denise Tyson, MBA, DOM, LAc, ADS, President, MD Acupuncture Society

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board Chair Armijo called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Attendance confirmed for each board member. Quorum confirmed - five of seven members present. Two positions vacant - one professional and one consumer. Other Health Professions, Boards and Commissions staff recognized. Guest also noted..

B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Director requested approval of the March 14, 2023 minutes as written. Consumer Board Member Huston made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Board Counsel requested an amendment before the vote was completed. Specifically adding a script that the Board Chair reads to move from open to closed session. Board Member Huston restated the

motion adding Board Counsel's requested amendment. Professional Member Marinakis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

C. BACK OFFICE MATTERS

The Executive Director shared a network reconnection update including:

- Implementation of VPN access to our local network by DoIT. VPN software is running at all times and network traffic is monitored at all times. The VPN is an additional layer of protection for the Boards & Commissions self-contained and self-monitored environment. Network systems are evaluated routinely to determine if improvements can be made in the current environment including data storage, and hosting infrastructure & systems. Currently researching remote access and help desk ticketing systems. Working with DoIT to determine if the office can transition to VoIP phone system.
- New staff member Renzo Green, brings years of experience and know-how in Help Desk and network administration.

D. LICENSING: STATUS OF RENEWALS

The Executive Director reported on the status of Spring 2023 renewals. Notice of renewal sent electronically. Notice of renewal audit sent electronically and by mail. Licensee questions usually in reference to CEU requirements, implicit bias training requirement, access to online vs, paper renewal and the availability of paper licenses. The Regular renewal period ends May 31st. The grac/late renewal period is the month of June. The renewal statistics are as follows: Total due is 281. Total completed is 106. Total pending is 175.

E. LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS

The legislative session ended on Monday, April 10, 2023. Legislative Liaison Lillian Reese shared:

- that legislative proposals for the 2024 session must be submitted by Friday, June 2, 2023;
- the Board's scheduled sunset is in 2025. The Board has the option of submitting a bill for the 2024 session or doing so in 2025; and
- legislation submitted to but not reviewed by the former Secretary may be reviewed by Secretary Herrera Scott this month.

Board Counsel advised that the Board may want to consider submitting a sunset bill in 2024. Also advised, considering the time let to draft a proposal for submission and the turnover in Board staff, to weigh the need to submit other legislative proposals.

F. AGREEMENT & PARTNERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

The Executive Director circulated two documents for review prior to the meeting; the NCCAOM National Practitioner Data Bank Cooperative Agreement and the Medicaid Data Use Agreement. The Executive Director shared as follows:

- The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) is creating a national practitioner database as a critical resource for states and the public to access information about potential misconduct sanctions against practitioners nationwide. NCCAOM is requesting the Board's participation and our commitment to share information. Board Counsel reviewed the agreement, identified the objectionable language and NCCAOM has revised the agreement. The Executive Director requested a vote about participation. Vice Chair Black made the motion to participate and allow the Executive Director to sign the agreement. Professional Member Marinakis seconded the motion . The vote was unanimous.
- The MDH, OET Medicaid Enterprise Systems Development requested that the Board share licensee data. The Executive Director stated that the same data that is shared in roster requests could be shared with OET. Board Counsel has reviewed the agreement and had no suggested edits. The Executive Director requested a vote about data sharing. Vice Chair Black made the motion to participate and allow the Executive Director to sign the agreement. Professional Member Marinakis seconded the motion . The vote was unanimous.

G. STAFFING UPDATE

Board Member Vacancies

Kimberly Link, Senior Advisor to the Health Boards, shared:

- The GAO website (govappointments.maryland.gov) has been updated and states that online applications for Boards with seats that do not require Senate confirmation will open on May 1, 2023.
- At this time, GAO intends to review all applications, vet applicants, and provide names to MDH for the Secretary's advice, where applicable. In addition, OAEN will not receive copies of appointment letters sent to appointees. This procedure differs from previous years. If you have any questions, please email gov.appointments@maryland.gov.
- If you would like to discuss your particular board's vacancies before reaching out to GAO, please do not hesitate to contact

Office Staff Vacancy

- Interviews were conducted. The final decision to offer is being worked thru with human resources.

H. OPEN DISCUSSION

Acupuncture Society for Acupuncturist Conference is this coming weekend in Washington, D.C. The Acupuncture for Seniors bill will be reintroduced on Capitol Hill. Acupuncture will be offered to congressional staff on the 15th. The Board Chair will be attending and report back to the Board during the July meeting. The Maryland Acupuncture Society (MAS) has a board vacancy. The MAS President is on the Curriculum Redesign Committee for the Maryland University for Integrative Health's acupuncture program.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Armijo made a motion to close the Regular Session of the board meeting to discuss issues related to licensure of an individual to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirements that prevents public disclosure about a particular procedure. Board Vice Chair Black made the motion. Professional Member Tian seconded. The vote was unanimous. The Regular Session of the May Board Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.