

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION MEETING VIA GOOGLE MEET

MINUTES

January 14, 2021

Open Meeting ID: <https://meet.google.com/fsc-xsoy-pcr?hs=224>

[Join by phone](tel:+12246016365): +1 224-601-6365 (PIN: 847412956)

The Public Meeting commenced at 1:08 PM, opened by the Board President, Dr. Yvonne Umezurike.

Roll call was initiated by the Board President. By acclamation, all Board members were in attendance.

Board members present: Drs. Umezurike, Cohen, Silverman, Gottlieb and Fox

Consumer Members present: Ms. Sharon Bunch and Ms. Frona Kroopnick

Board staff present: Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, and Elizabeth Kohlhepp, Deputy Executive Director

Office of the Attorney General: Rhonda Edwards, AAG, Board Counsel

Representing MPMA: Richard Bloch, Esq., Executive Director, and Dr. Jay LeBow, MPMA member

Dr. Umezurike cited COMAR 10.01.14.02.B: "Except in instances when a public body expressly invites public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation, or when public participation is otherwise authorized by law, a member of the public attending an open session may not participate in the session."

A. MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes from the November 12, 2020 meeting

The minutes from the November 12, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously, as submitted.

B. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT -Dr. Umezurike

Dr. Umezurike informed the Board that according to Podiatry Today, effective January 1, 2021 there is no longer a global period for digital amputations (CPT codes 28820 and 28825). The full article can be viewed at: <https://www.podiatrytoday.com/blogged/post-op-global-period-changes-90-zero-days-common-digital-amputation-procedures>.

Additionally, Dr. Umezurike encouraged everyone to get the COVID19 vaccination and alerted everyone that the aid for PPE will start again soon. This will be the final round of financial health for small business to obtain PPE, so if interested, practices need to apply as soon as possible. There has been a change in the application to which a small business owner needs to attest to a 25% drop in revenue within any quarter to qualify.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Eva Schwartz

1. FPMB - Updates

Ms. Schwartz informed the Board that the Federation stated that if there is no Part II CSPE examination record found for an applicant applying for licensure then it will be stated on their report request. The following will be stated:

“COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020: Candidates from the Class of 2021 were given the option to test in a later test cycle for the Part II CSPE. Candidates exercising this option are required to successfully complete the Part II CSPE prior to completion of residency. Candidates from the Class of 2021 are permitted to attempt Part III regardless of their status in Part II CSPE. This exception applies only to the Class of 2021.”

D. CME COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT -Dr. Gottlieb

Dr. Gottlieb had no new CME correspondence to report.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. SB 247- State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners – Sunset Extension

The Board was informed that the Maryland Department of Health will be presenting the proposed legislation. The most recent legislative audit was retroactive to four years, preceding the audit date. The Board was not cited independently for violations. That information was added as part of the Board's position statement in support of the Bill. If passed favorably, SB 247 would extend the expiration date of the Title to July 1, 2032. The Bill is expected to move to HGO for a hearing in that Committee.

2. APMLE Part II, CSPE Testing Temporarily Suspended November 20, 2020

The Part II CSPE Skill Set Exam is only offered in Pennsylvania, which has placed travel restrictions in effect due to the COVID19 pandemic. Therefore, the NBPME suspended the Part II Clinical Skills Patient Encounter sessions that were scheduled for November 30 and December 1 and 2. Candidates that were scheduled to take the exam on those dates were contacted by NBOME and offered refunds or the opportunity to reschedule. NBPME plans to offer additional dates for testing, as well as the February dates previously announced, to the affected candidates in addition to others who plan to take the test during this cycle.

3. Recommendation of the Boards Licensure Committee concerning APMLE Part II, CSPE Exam

The Board's Licensure Committee comprised of Drs. Umezurike and Cohen, Rhonda Edwards, Board Counsel and Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, presented to the Board their recommendation that everyone applying for a full license in Maryland must still have completed and passed the APMLE Part II, Clinical Skills Exam as the current COMAR requires. The Board accepted the recommendation.

4. SB 169/HB 182 – Podiatric Physician

Mr. Bloch updated the Board on the preparation for the hearing for proposed SB 169/HB 182- Podiatric Physicians. The proposed legislation will identify DPM's as Podiatric Physicians. Mr. Bloch informed the Board that the MPMA has acquired sponsors as well as have already assigned three podiatrists who will be testifying. Due to the current pandemic, Mr. Bloch stated that the hearing committees do not allow more than three witnesses to testify for each position. The Board will issue a letter of support for HB 182/SB 169.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. National Practitioner Data Bank Insights

The Board was given a copy of the National Practitioner Data Bank Insights Newsletter for informational purposes.

2. MHCC Telehealth Workgroup Draft Proposals

The Board was given a copy of the MHCC Telehealth Workgroup Draft Proposal for review. At this time, the proposal is still being discussed, however many providers are strongly in support. The Board, while supportive, expressed concerns over the utilization of telehealth.

The Board's own telehealth regulations are currently on track to move to ALER soon.

3. SB 5/ HB 28 – Public Health- Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health

Disparities

The Board was given a copy of SB 5/ HB 28 – Public Health- Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities for review. The Bill mandates licensees to take CME's in cultural competency to maintain their full license. However, the course is only required once, either at the time of application for new licensees or at the first license renewal for existing licensees. The Board voted to support the Bill with an amendment to recommend but not mandate the course. There were two Board members that voted to oppose the motion to support with amendment.

The FSMTB offers a course in Cultural Competence: Prejudice, Racism & Discrimination. There is a \$15 fee for the course. The Board awards credit hours toward the online not podiatric medicine specific category.

<https://www.fsmtb.org/continuingeducation/coursedetail/?id=a072L00000oUPFiQAO>

4. SB 84 – Pharmacists- Administration of Self- Administered Medications and Maintenance

Injectable Medications

The Board was given a copy of SB 84 – Pharmacists- Administration of Self- Administered Medications and Maintenance for review. The Bill allows Pharmacists to prefill injections for self-administered medications. After review, the Board voted to take no position on this Bill.

5. SB 210 – COVID-19 Claim- Civil Immunity

The Board was given a copy of COVID-19 Claim- Civil Immunity for review. The Bill identifies that if providers follow the standard of care then they cannot be sued if an employee tests positive for the COVID19 virus. The Board voted to support the Bill.

6. HB 309 – Public Health – Data- Race and Ethnicity Information

The Board was given a copy of HB 309 – Public Health – Data- Race and Ethnicity Information for review. The Bill would require the Board to provide race and ethnic data on licensees upon request. The Board expressed concern over the Bill. After discussion, the Board voted to oppose the Bill, by issuing a Letter of Concern.

7. FPMB Newsletter

The Board reviewed the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards Newsletter for informational purposes. It was noted that a new podiatric school will be opening in Texas in 2022. Also, the Maryland Board was identified for efficiency in downloading timely an applicant's Board Scores.

8. Review eligibility for issuance of Full Active Podiatric License:

- a. **Andreas Kaikis, DPM**
- b. **Spenser Soldano, DPM**
- c. **Christina Bui, DPM**

The above individually identified licensure candidates were approved unanimously for the issuance of a Full Maryland License.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Public Session of the Board meeting concluded at 2:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, Signature and date _____

and Elizabeth Kohlhepp, Deputy Executive Director, Signature and date _____

Signature by Frona Kroopnick, Board Secretary/Treasurer: _____