

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION MEETING VIA GOOGLE MEET

MINUTES

June 10, 2021

Location Google Meet: meet.google.com/sze-pyrw-rnx

Join by phone: (US) +1 240-903-4217 PIN: 541 211 403#

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

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

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

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: Dr. Jay LeBow, MPMA member

Representing MDH: Lillian Reese, Legislation and Regulations Coordinator for select Boards and Commissions

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 May 13, 2021 meeting

The minutes from the May 13, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously, as submitted.

B. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT -Dr. Umezurike

Dr. Umezurike welcomed new Board member, Dr. Aparna Duggirala.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Eva Schwartz

Ms. Schwartz informed the Board that new Board member orientation will be presented virtually and the dates should be released soon for September or October of 2021.

Ms. Schwartz also discussed the newly proposed APMA White Paper.

The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) has a web page regarding the White Paper with additional links devoted to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and an Explainer: <https://www.apma.org/News/NewsDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=45158>

Dr Lebow explained some of the salient points regarding this endeavor, stating that there was a lack of consensus among the four organizations as to whether DPMs should currently be considered to be physicians.

Furthermore, it was clarified that all four organizations agree that irrespective of their differences with respect to the current definition of the term physician, that DPMs, similar to MDs, and DOs, should not be restricted in their ability to appropriately take care of patients within their respective scope of practice, nor in their access to patients based upon type of insurance. Nevertheless, each State would be required to legislate new licensing laws to address this proposal, if it were to pass.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. COMAR 10.40.12.01-.06 Telehealth Regulations -BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

The Board was made aware that the Governor’s office has expressed some concerns relating to the proposed telehealth regulations, therefore holding up the approval process. The department is working with the Attorney General’s Office as well as the Governor’s Office to rectify the verbiage issues. The Board would not be able to vote on the regulation change until the final draft is received.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Topics Quarterly Newsletter Volume 36/No. 1 Spring 2021 from Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman & Hollander

The Board received a copy of the Topics Quarterly Newsletter Volume 36/No. 1 Spring 2021 from Gordan, Feinblatt, Rothman, & Hollander, for informational purposes.

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

a. Gurovikram Boparai, DPM

The above individually identified licensure candidate was approved for the issuance of a Full Maryland License.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Public Session of the Board meeting concluded at 1:28 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: _____