

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION MEETING VIA GOOGLE MEETS

MINUTES

September 10, 2020

Open Meeting ID: <https://meet.google.com/sgk-fyzm-tbt>

Join by phone: [\(US\) +1 218-451-4317 \(PIN: 412912814\)](tel:+12184514317)

The Public Meeting commenced at 1:11 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

Representing MDH: Kim Link, MDH Liaison to the 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 July 9, 2020 meeting

The minutes from the July 9, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously, as submitted.

B. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT -Dr. Umezurike

Dr. Umezurike expressed appreciation to the podiatric community regarding their response to the coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Umezurike encouraged all podiatrists to utilize the Board's website for updates regarding the coronavirus pandemic, as the information is continuously updated by MDH. Additionally, Dr Umezurike advised the podiatric licensees that they should all take advantage of the multiple free online CME courses that are being offered due to the current public health situation.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Eva Schwartz

1. Budget

At this point in time, the Board has not received the closure of end of year FY 2020 budget which is June 30, 2021. The budget allocation for FY21, which started on July 1, 2020, is appropriate.

2. OLA- General Audit Recommendations

The Executive Directors of the Boards and Commissions have had one meeting with the Office of the Inspector General regarding the OLA audit. Ms. Schwartz informed the Board that there was one comment in the Board's audit; however, the comment was not considered a violation. Ms. Schwartz posted an explanatory note in the Boards' comprehensive response document.

3. Governor Proclamation

Ms. Schwartz read the latest Proclamation from Maryland Governor, Larry Hogan, regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic and Healthcare providers. The Proclamation states that "Healthcare Providers who act in good faith under this catastrophic health emergency proclamation, including orders issued under the proclamation by the Governor and by other State officials acting at the direction of or under delegated authority from the Governor, have the immunity provided by §14-3A-06 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code."

D. CME COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT -Dr. Gottlieb

Dr. Gottlieb discussed with the Board the ease of finding CME credits online during this pandemic for podiatrists. He reiterated how, by law, podiatrists are required to submit 50 CME credits toward every licensure renewal.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. None.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Request by MPMA to reduce the number of CME credits to a total of 25 credits for the 2022-2023 licensure renewal cycle.**

The Board received a request from the MPMA and other individual licensees, to reduce the number of required CME's for the 2022-2023 license renewal from 50 credits to 25 credits. The Board's CME Committee conducted research on the topic and presented to the Board their findings. The results included information from the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards which stated that no other States have reduced the number of CME's required by podiatric licenses, except the State of Louisiana, and only for the year of 2020. The Board reiterated how at the June 2020 Board meeting, the **in-person requirement for 25 CME credits** specific to podiatric medicine, has been converted into online CME credits specific to podiatric medicine, thus allowing for all the 50 required CME credits to be obtained online.

The CME Committee recommended to the Board that the requirement for the 2022-2023 license renewal CME credits will remain the same: 50 CME credits that may be obtained online. The Board unanimously voted to keep the current CME decision in place, which is, **that all CME credits may be obtained online or in person, including the CPR for non-lapsing certification.** Specifically, 25 CME credits of the required 50 CME credits must be specific to podiatric medicine and approved by the Board. The CPR certification (3 CME credits) may be included as part of the required podiatric medicine CME credits. The window for the accrual of credits toward the 2022-2023 licensure cycle commenced on December 1, 2019, and is ongoing through December 1, 2021. The information will be posted on the Board's website.

2. **NPDB Inquires for Fellowships**

Ms. Schwartz proposed conducting a National Practitioner Data Bank query on anyone who applies and is approved for a podiatric fellowship in the State of Maryland. Board regulations currently require National

Practitioner Data Bank Queries on all new full license applications; however, it does not include Limited License applicants. The Board voted unanimously to start conducting National Practitioner Data Bank queries on limited license (in training) applicants for fellowships only.

3. Ink and Roll Fingerprint Card Process for In-State Applicants- Changes

The Board was made aware that effective October 1, 2020, all in-state applicant fingerprint cards submitted to the Maryland Criminal Justice Information System - Central Repository must be done so electronically via an approved live scan fingerprinting unit. Currently, all new applicants are required to complete a criminal background check as part of their licensing requirements. The Board would issue fingerprinting cards to the applicants as needed to start the background check process. After October 1, 2020 the only time in-state ink-and-rolled applicant fingerprint cards will be accepted will be when there is a bona-fide medical reason a live scan transmission cannot be obtained. There are over one hundred (100) locations available throughout the State that conduct live scan electronic fingerprinting. [A list of locations is available online at: http://dpscs.maryland.gov/publicservs/fingerprint.shtml](http://dpscs.maryland.gov/publicservs/fingerprint.shtml). The link for locations will also be posted on the Board's website.

4. NPDB Insights

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

5. Review eligibility for issuance of Full Active License:

- a. **Nilufar Medhane, DPM**
- b. **Michael McCollum, DPM**
- c. **Alexandra Spangler, DPM**
- d. **Brittney Mayer, DPM**
- e. **Virginia Parks, DPM**
- f. **Aisha Jasani, DPM**

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

G. ELECTIONS

The election for all Board Officer Positions was held. Ms Schwartz announced the names of the newly elected officers:

Re-elected as President, Dr. Yvonne Umezurike

Elected as Vice President, Dr. Adam Silverman

Elected as Treasurer/Secretary, Frona Kroopnick

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Public Session of the Board meeting concluded at 1:41 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: _____