

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION MEETING VIA GOOGLE MEET

MINUTES

October 8, 2020

Open Meeting ID: meet.google.com/xva-ysei-xat

Join by phone: (US) +1 818-960-3352 PIN: 645 937 217#

The Public Meeting commenced at 1:10 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: Lillian Reese, Legislation and Regulations Coordinator for select Boards and Commissions

Representing FPMB: Russell Stoner, Executive Director

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 September 10, 2020 meeting

The minutes from the September 10, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously, as submitted.

B. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT -Dr. Umezurike

Dr. Umezurike discussed some articles that were in the most recent Topics Quarterly Newsletter, addressing specifically the article regarding the Medicare Advantage Hospital Partnership Grant Program, a program launched by HSCRC, to encourage hospitals to work with Medicare Advantage(MA plans) plans to improve quality and to drive enrollment.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Eva Schwartz

1. Executive Directors Meeting report

Ms. Schwartz discussed topics from the last Executive Directors meeting including the Open Meetings Act training that is mandatory for at least one person on the Board to complete. Dr. Umezurike has already taken

the training, however, the Board was open to all members completing the training, and therefore Ms. Schwartz will email the training link to everyone.

2. MDH Office of Regulations and Policy Coordination deadline for regulations submission, is November 9, 2020 Anticipated AELR hold is between Dec 4, 2020-Feb 18, 2021

Ms. Schwartz informed the Board of the deadline listed above.

3. OLA- Audit Exit Meeting summary

Ms. Schwartz informed the Board that the previously mentioned comment in the Board's audit has been deleted and the Board of Podiatry is no longer listed in the final audit summary.

D. CME COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT -Dr. Gottlieb

Dr. Gottlieb had no new CME correspondence to report.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Response from MDH Secretary addressing the request by MPMA for the reduction in the number of required CME credits for the next license renewal cycle 2022-2023.

Robert Neall, Secretary of MDH, provided the Board with his response to the request for an Executive Order submitted by the MPMA to the Governor, regarding the reduction of CME credits required for the 2022-2023 renewal cycle. In his response Secretary Neall stated that, "The Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (the Board) implemented changes to help alleviate the strain on its licensees which include waiving the in-person CME requirement and allowing credits to be obtained online, and has agreed to (on a case by case basis) accommodate licensees who for some reason are unable to complete CMEs in the next fifteen months. On the advice of the Board, in the interests of public health, safety, and welfare, and in an effort to remain aligned with national standards, the Maryland Department of Health believes that it is important to maintain the current CME renewal requirement for Maryland licensees."

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. American Podiatric Medical Licensing Exams (APMLE) and Licensure; Russ Stoner, ED, FPMB

Russell Stoner, Executive Director of the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards, prepared and presented a slideshow to the Board. The information pertained in the slideshow addressed the National Board Exams Parts I, II, and III. The exams are administered by the NBPME via Prometric as their testing agency. Mr. Stoner spoke about the required Part II Clinical Skills Patient Encounter (CSPE) exam, and administration of the exam problems that are occurring due to the pandemic. The exam is being administered in only one location nationally in Pennsylvania, and because of the current COVID-19 pandemic, it can impede safe access to the exam. As of July 15, 2020, students have the option to test for the Part II CSPE, at a later date but prior to finishing their residency program. Students graduating in the year 2021 will also have the opportunity to take Part III, PMLexis exam(online), prior to completing the Part II CSPE exam. Mr. Stoner informed the Board that they would need to discuss how the Board would handle full licensure applicants that may have not completed the Part II CSPE exam, which is required under the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Exams (APMLE). The Maryland Board of Podiatry's regulations do not address the NBPME Part II CSPE Exam as a specific requirement, but does state that the licensure requirements are according to the APMLE requirements. During the Federation meeting, most Boards stated that they will consider each applicant on a case by case basis. Other Board have stated that they

would offer licensure reciprocity or endorsement from another state. The Maryland Board of Podiatry's laws do not allow for licensure by endorsement or reciprocity.

Proposed Regulations concerning the Practice of Telehealth

The Board created a **Regulations Committee** consisting of Yvonne Umerzurike, Board President, Adam Silverman, Board Vice-President, Frona Kroopnick, Board Secretary, Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, and Lillian Reese, Boards Legislation and Regulations Coordinator and Rhonda Edwards, as Board Counsel. The Regulations Committee met virtually on October 2, 2020 at 4 pm, to discuss proposed regulations by the Board of Podiatry addressing the practice of telehealth. The Regulations Committee presented these proposed regulations to the Board. After review, the Board voted and passed the proposed regulations unanimously. The proposed regulations will move forward to the MDH Office of Regulations and Policy Coordination, for review, processing and hopefully approval by the Secretary. Subsequent to that process, they will move to the AELR committee in Annapolis. The finalized proposed regulations will be posted on the Board's website during the comment period.

Jurisprudence Online Lecture for Review

The Board reviewed the Jurisprudence Online Lecture to verify its updated content. The Board approved the revised online slides lecture. Ms. Schwartz proposed to the Board to award one (1) CME credit in the podiatric practice specific category to Maryland licensed podiatrists. The criteria for approving the one (1) CME credit was that a licensee attest that they have read and familiarized themselves with the content of the lecture. The attestation can be accomplished by submitting to the Board a completed CME approval request form which is downloadable from the website, or by an individual email to the Board.

The request was approved, and the online lecture is awarded one (1) CME credit toward the 25 CME online credits required for licensure renewal.

2. FPMB Newsletter

The Board reviewed the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards Newsletter for informational purposes.

3. Topics Quarterly Newsletter Volume 35/No. 3 Fall 2020 from Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman & Hollander

The Board received a copy of Topics Quarterly Newsletter Volume 35/No.3 Fall 2020 from Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger & Hollander, LLC for informational purposes. Dr Umezurike discussed some points of interest addressed in her President Report.

4. Review eligibility for issuance of Full Active License: Kevin Jefferson, DPM

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

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Public Session of the Board meeting concluded at 2:20 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: _____