

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION MEETING VIA GOOGLE MEET

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2024

Location: Google Meet meet.google.com/jwi-wwbu-wkg

Join by phone: (US) +1 573-721-9216 PIN: 998843847

The Public Meeting commenced at 1:06pm, opened by the Board President, Dr. Aparna Duggirala.

Roll call was initiated by the President.

Board members present: Drs. Yvonne Umezurike, H. David Gottlieb, Bruce Fox, and Adam Silverman.

Consumer Members Present: Ms. Frona Kroopnick. Ms. Lynne Brecker, R.N.

Board staff present: Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, Elizabeth Kohlhepp, Deputy Executive Director, and Kiana Nicholson, Licensing Coordinator.

Office of the Attorney General: Kristen Fon Lim, AAG, Board Counsel.

Guests: Richard Bloch, Esq., Executive Director and Chief Counsel, representing MPMA. Dr Jay LeBow, Director Emeritus, representing FPMB. Zakiyah Holmes- MDH. Lillian Resse-MDH.

Dr. Aparna Duggirala 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 09, 2023, meeting.

The meeting minutes from the November 09, 2023, public meeting, were approved unanimously, as submitted.

B. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Duggirala did not report at this time.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Schwartz shared that there are several bills for the Board's vote today that will be discussed later during the public session. Ms. Schwartz reported on a recent article from National Practitioner Data Bank that shared resources and reporting instructions for addiction related self-referrals. The article specified that if a practitioner voluntarily enters a rehabilitation facility and is NOT suspended by a Board, then it does not need to be reported to the NPDB. Information should be reported to the Board in instances where the **license or clinical privileges were suspended**, and the practitioner was required to enroll in a voluntary rehabilitation program.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update Discussion on Amending the Language for the Civil Settlement Reporting Requirements Application Question

Ms. Lim shared that the Board voted to approve the amended language during the November 9, 2023, meeting. The amended language was provided to Board staff and all applications will be updated immediately.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion Concerning Completion of Character and Fitness Questions on the License Renewal Application

The discussion concerning completion of character and fitness questions on the license renewal application was rectified in the discussion on amending the language for the civil settlement reporting requirements application question under Old Business.

2. FPMB - [Allied Organization Announcement #1] Council on Podiatric Medical Education - Updated Frequently Asked Questions

Ms. Schwarz shared that the FPMB- [Allied Organization Announcement #1] Council on Podiatric Medical Education- Updated Frequently Asked Questions was provided for informational purposes.

3. Regulatory Legislative Responsibilities

The Board was given a copy of a document written by Ms. Lillian Reese explaining what the Regulatory Legislative Responsibilities are for a Legislative Session. Dr. Duggirala shared that the Regulatory Legislative Responsibilities information sheet was very informative and well written. Ms. Schwartz thanked Ms. Lillian Reese for putting the information together and shared that the Board members are very appreciative. Additionally, Ms. Schwartz asked the Board to follow the proposed legislation this session and if there is a bill relevant to Podiatry or of high importance, that at least one

Board member volunteer to testify in Annapolis. Ms. Schwartz emphasized the importance for members of the profession to testify in person on relevant matters.

4. SB 3 - Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

The Board reviewed SB 3- Health Occupations- Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses- Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting. Ms. Resse shared that there are currently five (5) Boards that wrote letters of information in response to the proposed Bill.

Dr. Duggirala inquired how this Bill would impact Board operations, especially regarding proof of Board scores and Residency completion. The statements in subsection 2(1), “ (d) (24)If a health occupations board determines that a service member, veteran, or; (25)military spouse does not meet the education, training, or experience requirements for; (26)licensure, certification, or registration, a representative of the board shall assist the service; (27) member, veteran, or military spouse in identifying: 28 (1) Programs that offer relevant education or training; or 29 (2) Ways of obtaining needed experience”, would not meet compliance with the Board’s licensing requirements, whether a temporary, full, or limited license is issued efficiently. The Board is currently in compliance with the proposed Bill and currently accomplishing the Legislation’s proposed goals. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to take “No Position” on the Bill.

5. SB 54 (HB 175) - Occupational Licensing and Certification - Criminal History - Prohibited Disclosures and Predetermination Review Process

The Board was provided a synopsis of SB 54 (HB 175) - Occupational Licensing and Certification - Criminal History - Prohibited Disclosures and Predetermination Review Process for review. Ms. Schwartz shared that the proposed Legislation would prohibit the Board from being able to deny an applicant based on their Criminal History Records Check and limit the offenses that need to be disclosed to the Board for licensing purposes. Dr. Fox questioned how the proposed Legislation will affect employers asking employees about criminal history prior to hiring. Ms. Lim stated that while criminal history reporting authorization is illegal in private employment; CJIS is Federal law and each Boards regulations have blanket language covering the criminal history requirement. Additionally, Ms. Lim emphasized criminal history checks are permissible during the licensing process due to government oversight. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to write a “Letter of Concern”.

6. SB 221 (HB 146) - Health Occupations Boards - Reciprocal Licensure and Certification

The Board provided a copy of SB 221 (HB 146)- Health Occupations Boards- Reciprocal Licensure and Certification for review. Ms. Schwartz shared that the proposed Bill provides reciprocity to applicants, however reciprocity is not in the Board's current Statute or COMAR. Ms. Reese emphasized that the Bill permits reciprocity within the State; however, the relevant Boards ultimately decide whether a license may be granted. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously for "No Position" on the Bill.

7. New License Approval

a. Byun Sun, DPM

The above identified licensure candidate was approved unanimously for the issuance of a full Maryland license.

b. Cassandra Charles, DPM

The above identified licensure candidate was approved unanimously for the issuance of a full Maryland license.

F. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Public Session of the Board meeting concluded at 1:58 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:__