

Maryland Department of Health
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

FEBRUARY 1, 2022
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Emergency Board Meeting was convened at 12:07 p.m. via video conference on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

Members Present

1. Felicia Anthony, Chair
2. Debra Buckalew
3. Patricia Cash
4. Stevanne Ellis
5. Kelly Freidman, Vice Chair
6. Kimberly Malin
7. Heather Reed
8. Michelle Rosenheim
9. Zollie Stevenson Jr.
10. Nader Tavakoli-Jalili
11. Michael Willis

Representatives of the State

1. Ciara J. Lee
Executive Director
2. David Wagner, Esq., Board Counsel
Assistant Attorney General
3. Lillian Reese
Legislative & Regulations Coordinator

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chair's Report

Board Chair Anthony stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 110.

Legislative Updates

Proposed Legislation: *Health Occupations Boards - Authority Over Staffing and Infrastructure Operations:*

Mr. David Wagner, Board Counsel, provided an overview of the proposed legislative bill that is planning to be dropped during the 2022 Legislative Session. The purpose of the proposed bill, which has yet to drop, is to give the Maryland Department of Health's Secretary of Health hiring and firing authority, rather than the Health Occupations Boards. A few of the Boards have submitted letters of concern to the Office of Governmental Affairs and to Senator Kagan (sponsor of the proposed bill). Mr. Wagner advised that if any remaining Boards draft another letter of concern prior to the bill dropping, the BENHA would have to vote to either join or not join the letter of concern. If the bill drops and becomes formal legislation, the Board would have to vote to take a position. Ms. Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator, announced that an Executive Director Meeting was scheduled for 2:30 pm on February 1, 2022 to obtain further information regarding the proposed legislative bill. After discussion, the Board decided to wait to receive further information from the scheduled Executive Director's Meeting and to table this agenda item until the next Board Meeting, scheduled for February 9, 2022.

Proposed Emergency Regulations: Board Chair Anthony, Board Counsel Mr. Wagner, and Board ED Ms. Lee provided a summary of the proposed emergency regulations submitted to the Board's office for consideration by Mr. Joe DeMattos, President and CEO of HFAM, on January 4, 2022. The proposed regulations are regarding requesting temporary waivers for fees for inactive and expired licensees, continuing education requirements for relicensure licensees, and reciprocity requirements for out-of-state licensee applicants. Mr. Wagner emphasized that the proposed regulations were not propelled by the Board. Ms. Reese disclosed that three other Boards (Board of Physicians, Board of Nursing, and Board of Pharmacy) have recently enforced similar temporary waiver regulations to assist current workforce challenges. Mr. Wagner recommended that the proposed regulations should be amended to add a provision to determine a deadline of the temporary waiver and licensing period. After discussion, the Board decided to table this agenda item until the next Board Meeting, scheduled for February 9, 2022, and to obtain the amendment language designated to be added to the proposed regulations. The executive director will also present quantitative data regarding licenses issued within the last year.

Move to Closed Session

A motion was made to move into Closed Session under the Executive Privilege of the Open Meetings Act. It was second and carried.

Meeting Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



Executive Director



Board Chair