

2021

MARYLAND STATE ACUPUNCTURE BOARD

NEWSLETTER

BOARD CONTACT NUMBERS

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[https://
health.marylan
d.
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Pages/
index.aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/bacc/Pages/index.aspx)

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4201 Patterson
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Baltimore, MD
21215
Room 311

FAREWELL TO BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Penny Heisler

After serving over 27 years as the first and only Executive Director for the Maryland Board of Acupuncture, Ms. Heisler has decided to retire, effective November 1, 2021. Ms. Heisler was always readily available to help everyone with their licensing concerns, disciplinary problems and day to day questions. She ensured that the Board maintained integrity and assisted with passing numerous bills and regulations that enhanced the Board's operation. She saw through the transition of acupuncturists from the Board of Physicians, to their own Board in 1994, which eliminated supervision by physicians. She created and processed the animal acupuncture registration, auricular detox specialist registration and assisted with the dry needling concerns of other health professionals.

The Board would like to greatly thank Ms. Heisler for her 27 plus years of service and wish her well in her future endeavors.

FAREWELL TO BOARD MEMBER AND CHAIR Tom Ingegno

The Board bid farewell to Tom Ingegno, L.Ac., DACM, who dedicated so much of his time, knowledge and effort to the Board. Dr. Ingegno worked diligently during his tenure to support the Board. Dr. Ingegno was appointed in 2013 and served as Chair for 4 years and was active on the legislative, regulatory and disciplinary committees. We would like to thank him extensively for his efforts and many accomplishments throughout his 2 terms.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER Christina Tian

The Board welcomes Christina Tian, DACM, CMD, MAOM, L.Ac., Dipl.O.M. Dr. Tian holds a Doctorate in Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine with studies focusing on evidence-based medicine and integrative therapies and a Master's Degree in Oriental Medicine, specializing in Chinese herbal medicine and acupuncture. She has advanced oncology training and over ten years of clinical experience in treating Olympic and professional athletes.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Orders and Guidance

Below is the link to the most current proclamations and orders issued by Governor Larry Hogan related to COVID-19.

<https://governor.maryland.gov/covid-19-pandemic-orders-and-guidance/>

Proper Record Keeping is Essential

It is important that all licensees understand that SOAP notes are a vital part of any medical treatment. It does not matter what style of acupuncture you use (ie: TCM, 5 Element, Japanese) or clinic model (ie: private practice, community, house calls), SOAP notes are essential for providing patients with quality care, ensuring continuum of care, and assisting in mitigating malpractice risks.

WHAT IS A SOAP NOTE?

SOAP is an acronym for:

Subjective - Patients' current condition and why they came to visit.

Objective - The impartial observation of the practitioner which documents the patient's status and facts ie: vital signs, examination results, lab results, patients measurements and age.

Assessment - A brief statement on the analysis and proposed diagnosis for the patient on the day of the visit.

Plan - Documented course of treatment that is needed to achieve stated goals and what is going to happen from this point forward with a patient.

SOAP notes are the recorded account of the medical treatment provided to your patient and are useful to protect both you and your patient. When they are written properly, the document will reflect the medical history of the patient. It is important that any other licensed acupuncturist can pick up and read your SOAP notes and understand why the patient was being treated and what treatment was performed. Long patient narratives are unnecessary in most cases. Please visit the following link on the Board's website to find an example of a properly documented medical record: <https://health.maryland.gov/bacc/Documents/soap.pdf>

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE BOARD: The Board frequently reviews clinical records when complaints are received regarding allegations of serious incidents. A properly documented clinical record can assist you and the Board during an investigation of a complaint. The Board has noted a lack of proper documentation during several recent cases and urges you to take the time to review this link and your documentation practices. Thank you.

BOARD COMPOSITION

BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIR:

Brandie Armijo L.Ac, LPN, BSN,
MSOM, DACM
PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

VICE CHAIR:

Sherri Black, L.Ac., RN, Esq
PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

Sheryl Hongsermeier , L.Ac., RN
PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

Peter Marinakis, L.Ac., PhD
PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

Christina Tian, DACM, CMD,
MAOM, L.Ac.

Barbara Huston
CONSUMER MEMBER

Bonnie Miranda
CONSUMER MEMBER

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Penny K. Heisler
penny.heisler@maryland.gov

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Cynthia Dobbins
cynthia.dobbins@maryland.gov

INVESTIGATOR:

David Bruce

BOARD COUNSEL:

David Finkler, AAG

RENEWAL INFORMATION

The extended expiration dates to assist with the hardships caused by COVID 19 ended on June 30, 2021. All future renewals will be expected to be processed on time.

There is a grace period of 30 days after the renewal expires for which you will have to pay a \$100 late fee.

FAILURE TO NOTIFY BOARD ON ADDRESS CHANGE

\$50 FINE

Failure to notify the Board of a change in your home or office address will result in a \$50 fine. A change in your address can be submitted by mail or email. Whenever the Board receives returned mail from the United States Postal Service, you will automatically receive a fine notice from the Board. Failure to pay the fine may result in disciplinary action against your license.

NAME CHANGE REQUESTS

The Board will change a licensee's name only when a request is received in writing and proper legal documentation is attached. (example: marriage/divorce certificate). Without this documentation, the Board will not reflect the change. Email requests for name changes will not be accepted.

***PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE FOR
ADDRESS OR NAME CHANGES.***

VERIFICATION OF LICENSE TO ANOTHER STATE

To provide verification of your acupuncture license to another state, please send your verification request or form (available on website) directly to the Board with a **\$50 check** made payable to the Maryland Acupuncture Board. You must provide your name, license number and the state to which you would like the verification mailed. Please ensure that you provide the State's address and phone number.

THE MD BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE IS GOING GREEN

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2021 THE BOARD WILL NO LONGER ISSUE YOU A BLUE PAPER LICENSE

The Board will be transitioning to paperless licensure for all renewals. Beginning on October 1, 2021, you will no longer receive a blue paper license in the mail. Instead, you will receive an email notification that your license has been renewed. On-line verification is free and available 24/7. Please visit the Board's website on the following link to verify that your license was renewed.

<https://mdbnc.health.maryland.gov/ACUPTVerification/default.aspx>

Please note that you will be able to print out a copies of your updated license from this site, if you wish to display them in your office. You are no longer required to post them in each office location. You can direct your patients to check online for your licensure status. The Board will continue to issue the Wall Certificate to new licensees.

To slowly shift to paperless, the Board will send out renewal reminders to licensees for the November 2021 and May 2022 renewal periods. Thereafter, the Board will be completely paperless and will email all future renewal notices. It is, therefore, very important to contact the Board immediately if you change your email address.

All questions regarding these changes can be directed to Ms. Cynthia Dobbins at Cynthia.dobbins@maryland.gov

Board Office Work Schedule Update - COVID-19

The Board Office will continue operating on a reduced service schedule. The majority of all Board staff are teleworking and completing all possible work that is able to be done remotely from home.

Please make note of the following:

- Until further notice the office at 4201 Patterson Avenue is closed to visitors and only staff members will be allowed in the building. All Board-related meetings and sub-committee meetings will take place via conference call until further notice.
- Until further notice, our Licensing Coordinator will be in the office 3 days a week to process paper-work that can not be completed remotely. Our Executive Director will be in 2 days a week. These times may change so we are recommending that you email staff instead of calling.
- We strongly encourage all licensees to use online renewals during this time and pay via credit card versus mailing in a check or money order.
- Immediately after the office processes all online renewals, the license will show online as active with the new expiration date. You can check the status of your license under the verification link on our web-site:

<https://mdbnc.health.maryland.gov/ACUPTVerification/default.aspx>

We will continue to keep you updated as we get more information. As always, thank you for your assistance.

For all licensing, verification and renewal questions:
cynthia.dobbins@maryland.gov

For disciplinary matters, scope of practice questions and legal matters:
penny.heisler@maryland.gov

POINT INJECTION THERAPY UPDATE

The Board is still waiting for the regulation to pass that will allow licensees to perform point injection therapy. When the regulation is passed, the Board will create an application where you will have to document that you (1) Possess a current license to practice acupuncture in Maryland; (2) Successfully complete a Board approved specialty training program in Acupuncture Injection Therapy that consists of a minimum of 30 hours of theory and clinical training culminating in an assessment of competency including training on each of the following topics:

- (a) Uses and contraindications for injectable substances;
- (b) Proper storage and disposal of injection syringes and injection compounds;
- (c) Safety and emergency procedures;
- (d) Administration and practical injection skills, including injection technique;
- (e) Universal precautions including management of blood borne pathogens and biohazardous waste; and
- (f) Clinical training

The Board will keep you apprised on the status of the regulation.

Reporting Requirements For Minor Patients

The following guidelines are provided as a reference when dealing with suspected abuse/neglect of a minor patient.

Disclosure of Minor Health Matters to Parents:

Maryland Health General Section 20-102(f) allows licensees to release healthcare information regarding a minor patient to a parent or guardian. The only exception is when there is an issue of abortion. An example is where a licensee treats a 14-year old female and discovers through examination that she is pregnant. The licensee may (and should) report the matter to the parent to ensure optimal healthcare and safety of the minor patient. The failure of a licensee to promptly notify a parent or guardian of a healthcare issue of their child could result in civil and possible criminal liability should physical or psychological harm result from such inaction.

Reporting Abuse/Neglect:

Maryland Family Law Section 5-704 requires a licensee to report knowledge of possible child abuse or neglect to local authorities and to make an oral and written report of the details of the examination and the facts upon which the suspicion of abuse/neglect is based.

Report Requirements:

The above-mentioned report must contain:

Name, age and address of the minor

Name, address of parent, guardian or responsible person

Whereabouts of the minor

Nature and extent of suspected abuse/neglect, including evidence or information available

Board Meeting Schedule

The Board of Acupuncture traditionally meets on the second Tuesday of every other month, starting at 1:00 p.m. Scheduled months are January, March, May, July, September and November. All meetings are held at 4201 Patterson Avenue, usually in Room 105. However, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Board has been holding its meetings virtually. A link to the open meeting can be found on the Board's website.

Scheduled meetings:

November 9, 2021
January 11, 2022
March 8, 2022
May 10, 2022
July 13, 2022
September 13, 2022
November 8, 2022

Free Continuing Education by the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

In order to address and eliminate current health disparities in Maryland health care, the Office of Minority and Health Disparities offers free on-line training to health professionals. This training may be earned to fulfill the 10 CEU's permitted outside of the practice of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine. The Board strongly recommends this training.

<https://health.maryland.gov/mhhd/Documents/MHHD-Recommended-Health-Equity-Trainings.pdf>

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Unit 252

