

MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Room 100

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 8, 2013
1:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Kaufman, L.Ac., Corinne Axelrod, L.Ac., Kate Carter, L.Ac., Deneb Falabella, L.Ac., Grant Zhang, L.Ac., Jan Exler, Consumer, Charles Neustadt, Consumer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None.

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Penny Heisler, Executive Director, Cynthia Dobbins, Administrative Officer, Marian Ruth, Investigator and Richard Bloom, AAG

GUESTS:

David Wurzel, L.Ac., Paula Hollinger, DHMH, Sharon Bloom, DHMH, Kristen Neville, Regulations Coordinator and Teal Beatty, L.Ac., ADS Supervisor

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Mr. Kaufman called the Acupuncture Board meeting to order at 1:00 pm and a quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 13, 2012 MINUTES

After review of the Minutes, Ms. Carter moved to approve the Minutes with minor changes and Ms. Falabella seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. REGULATION CHANGES

Mr. Kaufman informed the Board that the CEU committee met and recommends that the Board change its CEU requirements to be more compatible with national requirements. The committee recommended that the total number of CEU hours be decreased from 40 hours to 30 hours every 2 years, with 20 hours in acupuncture and Oriental medicine and 10 hours in programs that are relevant to the practice. The committee also recommended that the hours for teaching be changed from 15 hours to 10 and pro bono work decreased to 7 hours. Writing peer review articles should be changed to 4 hours per article.

The committee also recommended that the Board increase the fee for initial licensure to \$525 and verifications to \$50 in light of the sunset analyst's concern to keep revenues and expenditures in balance.

The committee also recommended that the Board eliminate the required 3 hours of ethics for every 2 year renewal cycles. Mr. Kaufman stated that the Board should maintain copies of its ethics regulation and manual online and during every renewal a licensee will be required to read the manual and check a box on the renewal form to verify that the licensee has in fact read the manual.

Ms. Carter moved to approve all of the recommended changes to the regulations and Mr. Exler seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

B. HERBAL MEDICINE

No report.

C. NATUROPATHS

Ms. Heisler and Mr. Kaufman attended a presentation by the Maryland Naturopathic Society at the Board of Physicians on December 19 at their open meeting. The Naturopaths intend to introduce legislation this session to be licensed in Maryland. The draft bill will exclude acupuncture from their scope of practice.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. INITIAL LICENSURE APPLICATION APPROVAL

Mr. Kaufman moved this item to the bottom of the Agenda.

B. LEGISLATION 2013

Ms. Heisler reviewed some new bills that being introduced this session.

SB 56: Unauthorized Institutions of Postsecondary Education - Transcripts, Diplomas, and Grade Reports - Penalties - Prohibits a person from buying, selling, distributing, using, offering or presenting as genuine a transcript, diploma, or grade report of an entity that represents itself as an institution of postsecondary education if the person knows or has reason to know the entity is not authorized to operate in Maryland or in another state or country.

SB 44: Occupational and Professional Licensing - Military Training and Military Spouses - Requiring an occupational licensing Board to issue a license, certificate, permit, or registration to an applicant who is military trained or who is a military spouse if the applicant meets certain requirements; requiring an occupational licensing Board to consider certain types of experience for a certain calculation; authorizing an occupational licensing Board to issue a temporary license, certificate, permit, or registration under certain circumstances, etc.

HB 16 - State Government - Administrative Procedure Act - Effective Date of Adopted Regulations - Providing that the effective date of a regulation is dependent upon when it is published in the MD Register.

HB 59 - Dedicated State Funds Protection Act - Amending the MD Constitution to prohibit the transfer of dedicated funds to the State General Fund except under extraordinary circumstances such as invasion, or a declared State of Emergency, and requiring that if dedicated funds are transferred, a plan is stated in the budget for how to repay the transferred money back to the fund from which the money was transferred. This is the same bill that was introduced last session, which a few Boards supported.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that the ADS regulation changes went into effect on January 7, 2013 and was mailed to all ADS' and ADS supervisors.

D. INITIAL LICENSURE APPLICATION APPROVAL

Mr. Exler moved to close the regular meeting at 2:30 PM and move into Executive Session to discuss an application. Ms. Falabella seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kaufman reopened the meeting at 2:45 PM. After review of the list of approvals for licensure, Mr. Exler moved to approve the list and Mr. Neustadt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.