

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

JULY 9, 2013
1:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deneb Falabella, L.Ac., Kate Carter, L.Ac., Thomas Ingegno, L.Ac., Grant Zhang, L.Ac., Jan Exler, Consumer, Charles Neustadt, Consumer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Corinne Axelrod, L.Ac.

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

GUESTS:

Sharon Bloom, DHMH and Tracy Soltesz, L.Ac., MAS, Steve Kaufman, L.Ac.

Ms. Falabella announced that Steve Kaufman, L.Ac. had completed his term on the Board and thanked him for his many years of service. She also welcomed Thomas Ingegno, L.Ac. and congratulated him on his new appointment to the Board.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Ms. Falabella called the Acupuncture Board meeting to order at 1:00 PM and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Neustadt moved to approve the Minutes with minor corrections and Mr. Zhang seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. DRY NEEDLING REGULATIONS

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that the Board of Physical Therapy had completed the draft of the dry needling regulations and gave a courtesy copy to the Board for review. Ms. Soltesz stated that MAS feels that Dr. Sharfstein's concerns regarding the second draft of the regulations has not been addressed. She feels that the PT Board did not sufficiently increase the number of hours for training or provide a clear transition plan for physical therapists now practicing dry needling. She noted that a physical therapist in Colorado, who had little training, gave a patient pneumothorax with acupuncture needles.

She also stated that MAS believes that any physical therapists who do not meet the minimum educational requirements should be issued cease and desist orders until they have completed all required training. MAS plans to send Dr. Sharfstein a letter of concern.

Ms. Falabella agreed with Ms. Soltesz and said that the new regulations are not clear about the credentialing or training of instructors. After further review and discussion, Ms. Rubin recommended that the Board address the 3 concerns that Dr. Sharfstein cited in his letter to the Physical Therapy Board. Ms. Heisler will draft the letter.

B. HERBAL MEDICINE

Ms. Heisler asked the Board whether they wanted to continue pursuing regulation of herbs. After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Falabella recommended that a committee be formed to review the matter. Mr. Zhang, Mr. Ingegno and Ms. Falabella volunteered to serve on the committee.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. INITIAL LICENSURE APPLICATION APPROVAL

Mr. Zhang moved to approve the list of new applicants and Mr. Ingegno seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

B. BUDGET

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that the final FY13 revenue (\$272,097) exceeded expenditures (\$259,097) by \$12,273. This information is beneficial as projected expenditures were expected to exceed revenue by \$5,503. The increases in the initial application fee to \$525 and the verification fee to \$50 will also assist to keep revenues and expenditures in balance.

C. ACUPUNCTURE SALARY SURVEY

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that in order for licensees to avoid paying the HCCA fee, the Board must show that the majority of acupuncturists are either part-time or make under \$36.00 an hour. Ms. Heisler stated that the Board may wish to send out a survey to collect this data. Ms. Soltesz recommended that the Board review the 2008 NCCAOM job analysis which shows that 60% of diplomats work equal or less than 30 hours a week before creating a survey. Ms. Heisler will review this information and report back to the Board.

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that regulations require that initial applications submit documentary evidence that they have completed at least 60 credits from an English-speaking undergraduate school or English-speaking professional school to prove English competency. A fax was received by a potential applicant requesting the Boards approval on 2 certificates that show the number of hours for the course he completed but not credit hours. The Board recommended that Ms. Heisler write back to him asking that he have the school translate the certificates into number of credit hours.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m.