

**MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE**  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**GOOGLE MEET**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Thomas Ingegno, L.Ac., DACM, Chair, Sheryl Hongsermeier, L.Ac., RN, Vice Chair, Brandie Armijo, L.Ac., LPN, BSN, DACM, Sherrie Black, L.Ac., RN, Esq., Peter Marinakis, L.Ac., Ph.D., Barbara Huston, Consumer, Bonnie Miranda, Consumer

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

Penny Heisler, Executive Director, Cynthia Dobbins, Administrative Officer, and David Finkler, AAG

**VISITORS:**

Sharon Oliver, Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners and Kendra Ingrid, DC, Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners

**CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Dr. Ingegno called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 MINUTES**

Ms. Black moved to approve the Minutes as written and Ms. Miranda seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

**1. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. COMAR 10.26.02 CHANGES**

Ms. Heisler stated that Secretary Neall circulated the Board's proposed regulatory changes to all of the health boards for comment. The only two boards that responded with concerns were the Board of Physicians and the Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners. The Physician's Board invited the Acupuncture Board to its meeting on October 21 to discuss the regulations and expressed only one concern. The Board felt that the inclusion of the order of X

Rays may inadvertently cause a patient to be over exposed. The Maryland Radiological Society and Maryland Acupuncture Society expressed similar concerns and offered the following changes:

- (d) The [collection and interpretation] utilization of the findings or results of clinical data to engage in the practice of acupuncture as defined in Health Occupations §1A-101, et seq. [East Asian medical diagnosis] which may include traditional or modern diagnostic methods such as:
  - (i) Lab testing; and
  - (ii) Diagnostic imaging.

Dr. Armijo moved to incorporate the recommended changes and Barbara Hutson seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

The Board then discussed the Chiropractic Board's letter of concern addressed to Webster Ye on November 2, 2020. The Chiropractic Board suggested that the use of the terms dry needling and trigger points would confuse the public. Dr. Marinakis stated that the Board has always considered dry needling a form of acupuncture and that is within the scope of practice. He also felt that to leave the term out would cause more confusion. He noted that the Chiropractic Board did not identify any concerns regarding the ability of an acupuncturist to safely perform dry needling on patients. He felt that the educational pamphlet proposed by Secretary Neall several years ago would sufficiently educate patients on dry needling and alleviate any public confusion.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board concluded that it would not remove the term dry needling from its proposal. Dr. Ingegno requested that Ms. Heisler draft a letter to the Chiropractic Board stating that the Acupuncture Board considers dry needling, acupuncture, and that it is within the Board's scope of practice. Further, the Board would be happy to collaborate on an educational pamphlet that explains that dry needling in order to deter public confusion.

## **2. NEW BUSINESS**

None

Barbara Hutson moved to close the meeting at 1:50 PM to go into Administrative Session in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act § 3-305(b)(2) "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business" and Dr. Armijo seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.