

**MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE**  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
Room 105

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION**

**JULY 11, 2017**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Thomas Ingegno, L.Ac., Teal Beatty, L.Ac., Sheryl Hongsermeier, L.Ac., Peter Marinakis, L.Ac., Ph.D., and Jan Exler, M.Ed., Consumer

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kate Carter, L.Ac.

**BOARD MEMBERS LATE:**

Barbara Heller, Ed.D., R.N., Consumer

**BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

David Blaiwas, L.Ac., MAS, Sharon Bloom, Brandon Wright, Kristin Neville, Andrew Block, L.Ac., E.J. McNulty, Governor's Office/Dept. of Health, Office of the Secretary, Andrew Siske, Legal Intern

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

**APPROVAL OF MAY 9, 2017 MINUTES**

After review of the Minutes, Mr. Exler moved to approve the Minutes as written and Ms. Beatty seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

**1. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Mr. Ingegno informed the Board that there is no report at this time.

**B. LIGHT THERAPY**

Mr. Ingegno stated that Andrew Bloch, L.Ac., had submitted a question to the Board via email, regarding whether a properly trained Maryland licensed acupuncturist could administer light therapy through a hollow needle using Chinese medicine philosophy. The Board invited Mr. Bloch to the meeting for questions and answers. Mr. Block gave a brief overview of his

education and explained basic light therapy techniques. He stated that the technique involves the administration of different lights (blue, green, yellow and red) through a hollow needle, either in a point or intravenously, which causes a photodynamic reaction within the body to regulate Qi and blood. After a lengthy discussion, Peter Marinakis moved to send the issue to the Scope of Practice Committee for further review and send a written response to Mr. Bloch within one month and Jan Exler seconded the motion. Mr. Ingegno restated the motion and opened it up for debate. After a lengthy discussion, Jan Exler moved to direct Ms. Heisler to write a letter to Mr. Bloch stating that the Board, at this time, does not consider the use of a hollow needle intravenously to be within the scope of the Maryland Acupuncture Practice Act. Teal Beatty seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Teal Beatty, Sheryl Hongsermeier, Peter Marinakis, Jan Exler and Barbara Heller. Mr. Ingegno abstained. Mr. Finkler advised the Board to include a disclaimer.

### **C. LEGISLATION 2018**

Ms. Heisler reported that at the last meeting, the Board voted to submit a pre-proposal concept paper to DHMH to propose changes to its statute to include Oriental medicine in its scope, repeal foreign equivalency review, and revise the number of hours of training to reflect current standards. She stated that the Department had approved the concept paper. A copy of the draft Bill was provided to the Board and a courtesy copy was sent to the Maryland Acupuncture Society (MAS). Ms. Heisler stated that David Blaiwas, President of MAS, had informed her that the Association will not support the Bill. Mr. Blaiwas informed the Board that although MAS supports the content of the Bill, the Association is concerned about the current political environment and opening the Board's statute at this time.

Mr. Exler moved to pull the bill and Barbara Heller seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. ADS SUPERVISION**

Mr. Ingegno tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

### **B. STATISTICS**

Ms. Heisler provided the Board with the Fiscal Year 2017 licensure statistics.

#### Total Active:

1137	FY 2017
1065	FY 2016
1031	FY 2015
1027	FY2014
1012	FY2013
939	FY2012

#### Application Basis of Total Active:

317	Applied by exam
820	Applied by accredited school

#### States:

921	MD
6	DE
28	DC

19	PA
73	VA
6	WV
84	Other

New Applications:

92	FY 2017
77	FY 2016
85	FY 2015
88	FY 2014
75	FY 2013
77	FY 2012

Renewals:

456	FY 2017
329	FY 2016
453	FY 2015
407	FY 2014
420	FY 2013
374	FY 2012

Inactive Requests:

19	FY 2017
19	FY 2016
27	FY 2015
18	FY 2014
23	FY 2013
11	FY 2012

Verification Requests:

38	FY 2017
34	FY 2016
46	FY 2015
38	FY 2014
20	FY 2013
49	FY 2012

Reinstatements:

8	FY 2017
13	FY 2016
17	FY 2015
14	FY 2014
21	FY 2013
12	FY 2012

**C. OPEN MEETING ACT TRAINING**

Mr. Finkler informed the Board that HB 880, Open Meetings Act-Annual Reporting Requirements, passed this session and mandates that one Board member takes a Maryland's Open Meetings law course online. The course is offered by the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. Ms. Hongsermeier volunteered to complete the training.

The meeting adjourned at approximate 2:25 PM.