

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION MEETING

MINUTES

January 10, 2019

Room 110

The Public Session Meeting commenced at 1:07 PM, opened by Board President, Dr. Phillip Cohen.

Board members attending were Drs. Umezurike, Gottlieb, Chattler, and Silverman. Consumer members present were Frona Kroopnick and Sharon Bunch.

Board staff present: Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, Rhonda Edwards, AAG, Board Counsel, Sheri Henderson, Deputy Executive Director, Elizabeth Kohlhepp, Licensing Coordinator, and David Bruce, Investigator.

Representing MDH: Kim Lang, PhD.

Representing MPMA: Richard Bloch, Esq., Executive Director, and Dr. Jay LeBow.

COMAR 10.01.14.02.B:

Except in instances when a public body expressly invites public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation, or when public participation is otherwise authorized by law, a member of the public attending an open session may not participate in the session.

A. MINUTES:

1. Approval of minutes from the December 13, 2018 meeting.

The minutes from the December 13, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously, as submitted.

B. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion about possible Bill to be introduced by the MPMA.

Richard Bloch, MPMA, informed the Board that this legislative session, the MPMA is hoping to introduce the same Podiatric Physician Bill that was submitted but failed last year. The MPMA has changed lobbyists and are currently working on obtaining sponsors from both Houses, therefore are confident the Bill has a higher chance of passing this year. Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, requested a copy of the proposed Bill from the MPMA.

C. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Report by the Board President/ED on the meeting with the MDH Secretary.

Ms. Schwartz updated the Board on the topics discussed at the meeting held with the MDH Secretary. The topics included the process of doing the personal evaluations (PEP) required by Human Resources. Also discussed at the meeting, was a new electronic controlled correspondence system, Intranet

Quorum (IQ) that will be more centralized and will begin to be implemented. The IQ system will not change any of the Board's correspondence, but track the incoming and outgoing inquiry/responses and if the processes occur in a timely fashion. Ms. Schwartz expressed concerns about potential HIPPA violations when Board confidential documents are transmitted via the IQ system.

2. Discussion on Bills introduced regarding prescribing Medical Cannabis and Opioids.

The Board was given a copy of HB 18- Nataile M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission- Certifying Providers, HB 22-Occupational Licenses or Certificates- Application Determination-Use of Criminal History, and HB-33-Medical Cannabis- Provider Applications-Opioid Use Disorder for review. After discussion, the Board decided to support HB 33 and take no position on HB 18 and HB 22.

3. Review eligibility for FULL License:

a. Lonny Nodelman, DPM

The above identified licensure candidate was approved unanimously for the issuance of a Full Maryland License.

D. OTHER:

1. Ms. Schwartz invited Joy Stran, Executive Director Cannabis Commission, to the Board meeting. It was recommended that Ms. Stran attend an MPMA meeting to discuss the registration of providers as required for recommending/prescribing medical cannabis to registered patients. Ms. Stran will be in touch with Richard Bloch to set up the presentation to the MPMA members.

2. Mr. Bloch informed the Board of a new specialist cost tier methodology that Carefirst insurance is trying to implement, which will try to push using lower cost specialists over high cost ones. The Board expressed concerns how this could be more about cost containment instead of patient care quality. There is a seminar in February with more information on the topic for whoever is interested.

With no further business, the Board meeting concluded at 2:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Bunch, Secretary/Treasurer