

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION MEETING

MINUTES

March 12, 2020

Room 106

The Public Session Meeting commenced at 1:05 PM, opened by the Board President, Dr. Yvonne Umezurike.

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

Board staff present: Rhonda Edwards, AAG, Board Counsel, Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, and Elizabeth Kohlhepp, Deputy Executive Director

Representing MPMA: 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 February 13, 2020 meeting

The minutes from the February 13, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously, as submitted.

B. OLD BUSINESS:

1. HB 428- Health Occupations - Podiatric Physicians

Ms. Schwartz updated the Board on the status of HB 428- Health Occupations- Podiatric Physicians. The Bill was assigned to the HGO subcommittee and to date, it has not crossed over to the Senate. The deadline for crossover was scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2020. The Board discussed additional ideas for a broader witness panel representation, if the Bill were to be introduced again next year. Suggested representation may need to include a larger number of podiatrists from the Maryland licensed community to testify at the hearing, as well as the inclusion of patients.

2. HB 259- Health Occupations- Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment of Patients- Disciplinary Actions (The Patients Access to Integrative Healthcare Act of 2020)

The Board was given for review and comments, HB 259- Health Occupations- Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment of Patients- Disciplinary Actions (The Patients Access to Integrative Healthcare Act of 2020), which was cross-filed as Bill SB- 103. The Bill included some

amendments from the previous version. After review, the Board decided to continue to take no position on this Bill.

3. SB 166- Drugs and Devices - Electronic Prescriptions - Controlled Dangerous Substances

As amended, the Bill passed in both chambers; effective 2022

The Board received for review an amended copy of SB 166- Drugs and Devices - Electronic Prescriptions - Controlled Dangerous Substances. It was noted that in the original proposed Bill, podiatrists were not listed as stakeholders. The Board expressed their concern to the Senate Committee. In the last amended version of the Bill, the portion that listed “stakeholders” which did not include podiatrists, **has been deleted**. All relevant to prescribing and dispensing Health Care Occupation Boards supported the amendment. As amended, SB -166 crossed over to the House and passed.

4. PDMP Proposed Regulations- Report by Anna Gribble

PDMP representative, Anna Gribble, was unable to attend the meeting. The Board expressed concerns about PDMP’s extended reporting capabilities to numerous entities. PDMP’s response stated that their new proposed regulations in the comment period are based on 2019 passed legislation. PDMP representation at the Board meeting has been postponed until the May 14, 2020 meeting.

C. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Scam Alert: Healthcare Occupation Licenses

The Board was made aware of a current scam that is targeting doctors. A letter on the Maryland Board of Physicians’ letterhead is being sent out to physicians claiming that if they do not pay the stated fee, then their State license will be suspended. There have been several doctors already victims to this scam, therefore, the Board of Podiatry was alerting podiatrists that may receive this letter, to contact the Board for validation of any information concerning licensure.

2. 2019 Novel Coronavirus Update (COVID-19)

The Board was given for **informational and directive purposes**, the most current updates from MDH on COVID-19. MDH disseminated information is continuously posted on the Board’s website at mbpme.org.

D. OTHER:

1. The Board reviewed an inquiry regarding Medicare patients that are very concerned with travel during the Covid-19 pandemic, and their options for accessing telemedicine. The Board did not offer a position on the topic, and referred the inquirer to the most recent guidelines published by the CDC and MDH. These guidelines may be accessed via the following links:

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

2. The Board reviewed a letter from Secretary Dr. James Fielder, recommending that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the restrictions on large gatherings and travel, some institutions and medical boards may consider accepting distance learning credits in lieu of the in-person CME attained credits that are required for Maryland licensure. The Board considered the following:
 - a. that presently the CME requirements for license renewal are not due until December 1, 2021,
 - b. and that the Board was not in an active licensure renewal cycle.

Subsequently, at this point in time, the Board decided not to waive the requirement for in-person attained podiatric medicine specific CME credits, however, was amenable to revisit the topic as needed.

3. The Board members were advised and encouraged to take the online training course on “Open Meetings Act” that is mandatory for at least one Board member to have such training completed. The training course takes about 2.5 hours to complete and is comprised of six lessons and quizzes throughout, with a review at the end. The course is sponsored by the University of Maryland Institute for Governmental Service and Research and can be accessed at: www.igrs.umd.edu/VLC/OMA. Addressing the Board members, the Executive Director requested that upon completion of an individual Board member’s training, that she be informed of such for compliance with the State’s law.
4. The Board was updated on the status of HB 1586- State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners - Appointments. The Bill would require that four names, instead of the current mandated two names, would be nominated for each vacancy slot on the Board. The Board and MPMA opposed the Bill. At this time, on March 12, 2020, the Bill has not been scheduled for a hearing in the designated House Committee, and the upcoming legislative deadline for crossing chambers for all Bills that passed out of Committees was scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2020.

With no further business, the Public Session of the Board meeting concluded at 1:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, Signature and date_____

and Elizabeth Kohlhepp, Deputy Executive Director, Signature and date_____

Signature by Sharon Branch, Board Secretary/Treasurer: _____