

**BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**OPEN SESSION MEETING VIA ZOOM.US**

**MINUTES**

**March 11, 2021**

**Location:** <https://zoom.us/j/92126534263?pwd=Mj9lVml1SUUV0Sm1QRncxalF1UzBiZz09>

**Join by Phone:** (US) +1 651-571-0975 (PIN: 823118228)

**The Public Meeting commenced at 1:14 PM, opened by the Board President, Dr. Yvonne Umezurike.**

**Roll call was initiated by the Executive Director. By acclamation, all Board members were in attendance.**

**Board members present: Drs. Umezurike, Cohen, Silverman, Gottlieb and Fox**

**Consumer Members present: Ms. Sharon Bunch and Ms. Frona Kroopnick**

**Board staff present: Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, and Elizabeth Kohlhepp, Deputy Executive Director**

**Office of the Attorney General: Rhonda Edwards, AAG, Board Counsel**

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

**Dr. Umezurike cited 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 11, 2021 meeting**

The minutes from the February 11, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously, as submitted.

**B. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT -Dr. Umezurike**

Dr. Umezurike updated the Board on discussions that occurred during recent PDMP committee meetings. These updates included the following:

- OPER placed an advertisement in the Maryland Family Physician Magazine on January 30, 2021 highlighting the Academic Detailing Project. OPER will have advertisements placed in all 4 issues of the magazine in 2021 highlighting the Detailing Project as well as new Clinical tools available in the PDMP and CRISP. OPER is currently working with a communications vendor to develop a Strategic Communications Plan to support Maryland healthcare provider use of the PDMP and safe opioid prescribing. Although the initial focus will be on primary care providers, future iterations will expand to other provider groups.
- The Advisory Board provided feedback on the "DEA Self Audit Tool" available in CRISP. The tool is not used very often and OPER is working with CRISP to rebrand and make improvements to the tool. The anticipated roll out for the enhanced tool is for late 2021.

- OPER staff presented recommendations from a national PDMP technical assistance partner on potential improvements on the reporting and display of veterinarian data within the PDMP. The Advisory Board had a robust discussion and recommended convening a workgroup to discuss the topic further.
- OPER staff presented to the Advisory Board the CRS Drug-Related Indicators Dashboard. A tool utilizing the data visualization tool Tableau to present aggregate PDMP data as well as data from HSCRC and Vital statistics. The tool is only available for local health department and Maryland Department of Health staff for local and state level planning and evaluation purposes.
- OPER is actively recruiting for a new Director and a Deputy Director for OCSA.
- CRISP shared that pharmacists will soon have access to additional clinical data in the PDMP, such as nonfatal overdose alerts. Pharmacists will need to sign new participation agreements, roll out is being planned around the middle of 2021.
- OPER shared an update on the PDMP registration data. Since the 2020 Annual Report was finalized, quality improvement efforts have been implemented to better understand and accurately report on registration rates. As of December 31, 2020, while 90.32% of all prescribers have registered for the PDMP, 98.01% of all Podiatrists have registered for the PDMP.
- OPER discussed several bills they are tracking this legislative session:
  - HB0209/SB0168 Public Health - Maryland Suicide Fatality Review Committee
  - HB0344/SB0072 Open Meetings Act - Requirements for State Agencies and Local Boards of Elections (Maryland Transparency Act of 2021)
  - HB1125 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - Prescribers of Opioids - Notification Requirement

## **C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Eva Schwartz**

### **1. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Policy: Removing PDMP Access**

Ms. Schwartz informed the Board that the PDMP is working on developing policies and procedures for when PDMP access to the database can be removed. While the PDMP Use Mandate requires the PDMP not to remove access when professional licenses have been suspended, there are other instances like death or revocation when access can be removed. Boards also may be able to request PDMP audit trails for their licensees for bona fide cases under investigation and may report to the Board if there is suspicious use of the PDMP. Ms. Schwartz will update the Board when the policies and procedures are in effect.

## **D. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT-Drs. Umezurike, Silverman, Cohen**

The Board's legislative committee met prior to the Board meeting to discuss current proposed Bills in the Senate and House. The committee had no additional updates regarding legislation that was not already discussed on posted meeting's agenda.

## **E. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **1. HB 182/SB 169 – Podiatric Physician**

The Board discussed the two proposed amendments that were introduced during the Senate hearings of HB 182/SB 169- Podiatric Physician. One of the amendments was to include that the following licensees may not use the term Podiatric Physician:

1. A LIMITED LICENSEE UNDER § 16-317; OR
2. A LICENSEE WHO WAS ISSUED A LICENSE WITHOUT COMPLETING A PODIATRIC RESIDENCY.

The Board strongly opposed this proposed amendment by Delegate Hill, discussing that podiatric residents and fellows must comply with the same academic credentialing criteria to obtain the Limited License for their training, and through their residency programs training, as those individuals that are fully licensed, therefore, "Podiatric Physician" can be applied to residents and fellows as well. The proposed amendments to the Bill were withdrawn during a Subcommittee Hearing in HGO.

The Bill has passed the second reading, but to date has no additional hearings scheduled.

## **2. SB 247-State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Sunset Extension**

There are no updates to the Bill at this time.

## **F. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. HB 123 - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021**

The Board reviewed HB 123 which would extend the use of telehealth past the current State of Emergency due to the COVID19 pandemic. The Board voted to take no position on the Bill.

### **2. NPDB Insights**

The Board was given a copy of the National Practitioner Data Bank Insights Newsletter for informational purposes.

### **3. SB 952 - Health Occupations – Internship and Residency Training Requirements – Waiver for Former Service Members Injured in Combat**

The Board reviewed SB 952 which would allow the current required residency training for professional licenses to be waived for all military service members who were injured during combat. The Board discussed their opposition to the Bill, because of the impact on the safety and welfare of the podiatric patient population.

### **4. SB 005- Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities**

The Board reviewed SB 005 which requires all initial and first-time renewal licensees to complete a mandatory Implicit Bias training program approved by the Cultural and Linguistic Healthcare Professional Competency Program. The Bill is moving forward.

### **5. Review eligibility for issuance of Full Active Podiatric License:**

- a. **Mazin Sadik, DPM**
- b. **Shaina Nelson, DPM**

The above individually identified licensure candidates were approved unanimously for the issuance of a Full Maryland License.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business, the Public Session of the Board meeting concluded at 1:49 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted by Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, Signature and date\_\_\_\_\_**

**and Elizabeth Kohlhepp, Deputy Executive Director, Signature and date\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature by Frona Kroopnick, Board Secretary/Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_**