



State of Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners
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REGULAR MEETING
September 24, 2008

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Della Estrada, L.Ac., Chairperson
Joe Balensi, L.Ac., Secretary
Toni Bernalley, L.Ac., Professional Member
Ross Adelman, Consumer Member
John M. Rhodes, L.Ac., Professional Member
Rebecca Wilks, MD, MD(H), Professional Member
Toni Karnas, Consumer Member
Diane Pruetz, Consumer Member (by telephone)

Board Members Absent:

Vacancy—Professional Member

Attorney General Representative:

Seth Hargraves, Assistant Attorney General

Administrative Staff:

Pete Gonzalez, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

Chairman Estrada called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Board Member Bernalley declared a conflict of interest on applicants for licensure:
Nancy Brem, Mary Maurer, Adrian Hillyer, and Joyce Kocourek.

Board Member Rhodes declared a conflict of interest on applicant for licensure:
Harris E. Weberman

3. Discussion and Approval of Minutes

Board Member Bernalley moved the adoption of the minutes for the August 27, 2008 board meeting with Board Member Wilks providing a second. The Board approved the motion with an 8-0 vote.

Board Member Rhodes moved the adoption of the executive session meeting minutes for the August 27, 2008 board meeting with Board Member Balensi providing a second. The Board approved the motion with an 8-0 vote.

4. Applications for Licensure (without self-disclosures)

The Board reviewed the license applicant chart and Board Member Pruetz moved for the approval of the applicants for licensure listed below with Board Member Karnas providing a second. The Board approved the motion with an 8-0 vote.

Jodi M. Kapla
Paul A. McElderry

The Board reviewed the license applicant chart and Board Member Pruetz moved for the approval of the applicant for licensure listed below with Board Member Wilks providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 7-0 vote. Board Member Rhodes did not vote due to conflict.

Harris E. Weberman

The Board reviewed the license applicant chart and Board Member Pruetz moved for the approval of the applicants for licensure listed below with Board Member Karnas providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 7-0 vote. Board Member Bernalley did not vote due to conflict.

Nancy A. Brem
Mary E. Maurer
Joyce B. Kocourek
Adrian W. Hillyer

5. Applications for Auricular Certification

The Board reviewed the auricular certificate applicant chart and Board Member Pruetz moved for the approval of the applicants for certification listed below with Board Member Karnas providing a second. The Board approved the motion with an 8-0 vote.

Joyce C. Perot
Cynthia M. Potter
Natividad Cano

6. Professional Business

A. Discussion and update on Consolidation of Health Care Regulatory Boards

The Executive Director provided the Board with a brief explanation of this proposal and shared documents produced by the Governor's office at the September 4, 2008 meeting.

Board Members Estrada, Balensi, Rhodes, and Adelman attended the September 4, 2008 meeting. At this meeting, representatives from the 11 health care boards designated for consolidation were in attendance.

Board Members Estrada and Adelman shared their thoughts on the software systems presentation provided at the meeting. This new system is first class, but questions have been raised on the cost to boards to utilize this system. The presenters of the system indicated there is no cost at this time, but there will be some costs in future years.

Board Members Rhodes and Balensi shared their thoughts on consolidation with a focus on the impact to licensees and the public.

All the health care boards are quite interested in the software system, but there is reluctance on the idea of consolidation due to lack of information on how the new health care board would function. A good number of questions related to administrative issues were raised.

Board Members Wilks and Adelman consider the latest consolidation proposal is much more reasonable as compared to the initial proposal of a super board structure.

A work group of board members and executive directors will be meeting in October to develop thoughts/recommendations on consolidation issues. It is unknown how many meetings will be undertaken to complete this project. It is anticipated this effort will be spread over a 6 to 12 month timeline.

Assistant Attorney General Hargraves reminded Board Members participating in the work group to refrain from making any comments on behalf of the Board on the issue of consolidation since the Board has not taken any official position on the matter.

Board Members shared their frustration with the Governor's office on inconsistent notification of meetings.

B. Potential October 2008 Board Meeting in Tucson

The Board discussed the feasibility of conducting a board meeting in Tucson in the coming months. The Board would like to hold their meeting in conjunction with other events to maximize the attendance by licensees and the public.

The Executive Director was asked to explore potential meeting dates and locations in Tucson before the end of the calendar year.

Chairman Estrada encouraged all Board Members to make every effort to attend the Tucson meeting when it is scheduled.

C. Preliminary discussion on statutory requirements for licensure

The Board was provided with an explanation on the need for a substantive policy statement to clarify the issues surrounding the examination requirements for licensure.

In recent years, the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) has modified its examination process that has resulted in Exam Modules (Point Location Module, Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module, Biomedicine Module, and Acupuncture Module). These four modules are required by the NCCAOM for an applicant to attain certification.

The Acupuncture Board of Examiners at the November 17, 2004 board meeting took the following action:

The Board discussed ARS 32.3924 (1) "Examination that is recognized by the board". The issue was when a person passed the NCCAOM examination but the program they attended was not ACAOM accredited and therefore NCCAOM would not certify the person. The discussion surrounded whether(sp) the Board should agree that the NCCAOM exam is sufficient along with graduation from a program that the Board approved to grant an Arizona acupuncture license. Mr. Nichols made a motion that the Board recognizes the NCCAOM examination as a separate qualifier for licensure. Ms. Heskett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

After discussion by the Board, the Executive Director was directed to present a draft substantive policy statement for consideration at the next board meeting.

7. Executive Director Report

License and Certificate Status Report:

Active Licensed Acupuncturists (as of 9/17/08): 468

Current Expired Licenses: 22

Active Certified Auricular Acupuncturists (as of 9/17/08): 63

Board News:

The Governor's Office called earlier this month to inquire if board members Adelman, Balensi, and Pruetz are still interested in reappointment to the Board. The Office was reminded of the vacancy due to a resignation in October 2007.

Board Office Information/Activities:

The Executive Director prepared, completed and submitted the following report.

Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting:

Arizona Integrated Planning System (AZIPS) for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011

Budget Development Information Exchange System (BUDDIES) for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011

The Executive Director attended the Executive Directors meeting with the Governor's office on September 16, 2008. At this meeting, the Executive Directors were provided with presentations on the state web portal redesign, proposed statutory language on citizenship documentation, continuity of operations planning, and state budget issues.

For the month of August, the board website was visited by 925 individuals. A steady increase of hits has taken place in the last two years. In 2006, a total of 7496 individuals used the web and 10,200 in 2007. To date, there have been 8814 unique visits and 331, 938 hits.

State Budget News:

The Executive Director is providing monthly cost analysis reports to the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) due to the potential budget shortfall for Fiscal Year 2009.

The Executive Director informed the Board of the budget shortfall and some work will be conducted to determine if a fee increase will be needed if the Acupuncture Board of Examiners fund is swept again.

8. Future Meeting Dates

October 22, 2008 (Wednesday)

November 25, 2008 (Tuesday)

December 15, 2008 (Monday)

9. Call to the Public

Patricia Martin, L.Ac., delivered a message from AzSOMA inviting the Board to attend the October 26, 2008 conference in Tucson.

Harris Weberman thanked the Board for their approval of his license application.

10. Discussion of Items to be place on a future meeting agenda

The Board will be receiving an update on Complaint 2008-01 re: Clark Kim.

11. Adjournment

Board Member Rhodes moved for adjournment and Board Member Bernalley provided a second. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0. The Board adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Gonzalez".

Pete Gonzalez
Executive Director

Approved by the Board: October 22, 2008