

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 12, 2016
1:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kate Carter, L.Ac., Thomas Ingegno, L.Ac., Teal Beatty, L.Ac., Sheryl Hongsermeier, L.Ac., Jan Exler, Consumer, and Barbara Heller, Consumer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Peter Marinakis, L.Ac.

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Penny Heisler, Executive Director, Cynthia Dobbins, Administrative Officer, Grant Gerber, AAG.

GUESTS:

Camille Klinker, L.Ac., MAS, Kristen Neville, DHMH, David Wurzel.

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Ms. Carter called the Acupuncture Board meeting to order at 1:00 PM and a quorum was established. Ms. Carter began the meeting by having the guests introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2015 MINUTES

Dr. Heller moved to approve the Minutes as written and Mr. Ingegno seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. OLD BUSINESS

A. DRY NEEDLING REGULATIONS

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that Secretary Mitchell would like to meet with the Acupuncture and Physical Therapy Boards before signing off on the regulation. Ms. Heisler will inform the Board as soon as a date is scheduled.

B. SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Mr. Ingegno distributed a rough draft for the regulation of Injection Therapy. Mr. Gerber recommended that the Board review §1A-101 F-1 to determine whether Injection Therapy fits within the Board's scope of practice to ensure that the Board does not have to go to the legislature for approval. The Board should also seek support from the Board of Physicians, Nurses and Pharmacy before moving forward. Mr. Ingegno will provide the Board with a current syllabus for injection therapy and prepare a definition for review at the next meeting.

C. LEGISLATION 2016

Ms. Heisler informed the Board that she and Mr. Ingegno met with Delegate Lamb regarding his proposal to introduce legislation that would exempt foreign applicants from taking the TOEFL exam if they were exclusively treating patients speaking the same native language. Ms. Heisler and Mr. Ingegno met with Delegate Lam to discuss the following concerns:

- 1) The Bill will create a loophole and is unenforceable
- 2) The Bill disregards patient safety.
- 3) The Bill states that the exemption will only apply to an applicant who intends to treat a “majority” of non-English speaking patients. The Board must ensure practitioners maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care to ALL patients.
- 4) All licensees must renew every 2 years and provide proof of earning 30 accredited CEUs. Most CEU programs in this country are in provided English.
- 5) The Bill is biased and directed only towards acupuncturists. No other health care professional will be afforded this exemption.
- 6) The Bill discredits the efforts of former applicants who took the time to become proficient in English and studied hard to pass the TOEFL exam.

Ms. Heisler has not heard back from Delegate Lam regarding their meeting.

D. REGULATION GUIDEBOOK

Due to Mr. Finkler’s absence, Mr. Gerber recommended that this issue be tabled for discussion at the next meeting

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

None

B. INITIAL LICENSURE APPLICATION APPROVAL

Mr. Exler moved to close the regular meeting at 2:30 PM and move into Executive Session to discuss an application. Ms. Beatty seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Carter reopened the meeting at 2:50 PM. After review of the list of applicants for approval of acupuncture licensure, Mr. Ingegno moved to approve the list and Dr. Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximate 2:55 PM.