



State of Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners
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REGULAR MEETING

April 22, 2009

OPEN SESSION MINUTES
(Teleconference Meeting)

Members of the Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners met at 1:01 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 1400 West Washington, Conference Room B-1, Phoenix, Arizona.

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Della Estrada, L.Ac., Professional Member
Toni Karnas, Consumer Member
Vacancy—Professional Member

Attorney General Representative:

Seth T. Hargraves, Assistant Attorney General

Administrative Staff:

Pete Gonzalez, Executive Director

Call to Order

Chairperson Bernalley called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m. The following order of business was then considered:

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Board Member Bernalley declared a conflict of interest on the license applications of Mario Fontes and Ruben Z. Villaraza.

Discussion and Approval of Minutes

Board Member Wilks offered some changes to the minutes. Board Member Pruetz moved the adoption of the open session minutes as amended for the March 25, 2009 board meeting with Board Member Balensi providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 6-0 vote.

Board Member Pruetz moved the adoption of the executive session minutes for March 25, 2009 with Board Member Adelman providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 6-0 vote.

Applications for Licensure (without self disclosures)

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 Bernalley providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 6-0 vote.

Caroline J. Rath

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 Rhodes providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 5-0 vote. Board Member Bernalley did not vote due to conflict of interest.

Ruben Z. Villaraza
Mario Fontes

Board Member Pruetz left the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Professional Business

Executive Director Gonzalez reviewed the draft substantive policy statement (SPS 2009-01) that allows the Board to begin renewing acupuncture licenses and auricular acupuncture certificates at the end of each month. At the present time, a license and certificate is renewed on the date of board approval and SPS 2009-01 would permit the Board to reinterpret the rules on license and certificate renewals.

Per advice from Assistant Attorney General Hargraves, the Board amended the draft statement to make certain that both rule references include acupuncture licenses and auricular acupuncture certificates.

Board Member Bernalley moved the adoption of SPS 2009-01 as amended with Board Member Wilks providing a second. The Board approved the motion with a 5-0 vote.

The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan 2009 document. Chairperson Bernalley would like to see three committees considered by the Board: Continuing Education Committee, State Regulation Committee, and Ethics Committee.

Board Members expressed their views on the proposed committees being considered for creation.

Assistant Attorney General Seth T. Hargraves advised the Board to think about establishing some parameters of purpose for the committee as they are created. This would enable the committees to provide recommendations to the Board for consideration after some deliberation and discussion.

Chairperson Bernalley asked the Board Members to prepare their thoughts on committee assignments for discussion at a future board meeting so appointments to committees can begin to take place.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Gonzalez provided the following report to the Board.

License and Certificate Status Report:

Active Licensed Acupuncturists: 478

Expired Licenses: 5

Active Certified Auricular Acupuncturists: 56

Board Appointment News:

The Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions has notified the office of upcoming appointments to the Board. The new Policy Advisor for Boards and Commissions is Linda Stiles.

Board Office Information/Activities:

The Executive Director prepared and submitted the primary source verification as requested by Coventry Health Care.

Attended the 2009 Southwest Health Conference hosted by the Arizona Society of Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture (AzSOMA) on April 19, 2009.

Attended the 90/10 (Small boards and commissions) Executive Director's meeting at the Governor's office on April 14, 2009. The new Policy Advisor, Rules and Regulations for Governor Janice K. Brewer was introduced--Jeri Kishiyama Auther. Ms. Auther informed the group that the rulemaking moratorium has been extended to June 30, 2009.

For the month of March, the board website was visited by 759 individuals. A steady increase of hits has taken place in the last three years. In 2006, a total of 7496 individuals used the web; 10,200 in 2007; and 11,930 in 2008. A total of 459,755 hits were made in 2008. To date, there have been 2737 unique visits and 104,176 hits.

Future Meeting Dates

May 27, 2009

June 24, 2009

Due to an invitation from the Arizona Society of Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture (AzSOMA) to hold a board meeting on June 7, 2009 in Tucson, the Board discussed the feasibility of consolidating the May 27, 2009 and June 24, 2009 board meetings.

Board Member Rhodes made the motion to move the May 27, 2009 and June 24, 2009 board meetings to June 7, 2009 if details could be arranged with Board Member Adelman providing a second. The Board approved the motion on a 5-0 vote.

Call to the Public

There were no requests made.

Discussion of Items to be place on a future meeting agenda

Board Member Adelman requested the agenda include the formation of committees and appointment of committee members. The committees proposed are: Continuing Education Committee, State Regulation Committee, and Ethics Committee.

Adjournment

Board Member Rhodes moved for adjournment and Board Member Adelman provided a second. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. The Board adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pete Gonzalez
Executive Director

Approved by the Board: May 27, 2009