

Arizona State Board of Homeopathic and Integrated Medicine Examiners

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

October 17, 2012

Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Presiding officer, Dr. Todd Rowe, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

The following Board members were present and responded by telephone during the roll call:

Todd Rowe, MD, MD(H)

Don Farris

Les Adler, MD, MD(H)

Martha Grout, MD, MD(H)

Mary Ackerley, MD, MD(H)

Alan Kennedy (present at the meeting location)

Christine Springer, Executive Director, and Mona Baskin, Assistant Attorney General, were also present at the meeting location within the State Board's Office located at 1400 West Washington, Room 230, Phoenix, Arizona. Patrice Pritzl, Executive Director of the Chiropractic Board of Examiners was present as a member of the public.

II. Review, Consideration and Action on Professional Business

1. Review, discuss Board position concerning the Arizona Acupuncture Association Sunrise Application.

Mrs. Springer was asked to provide a short overview of the pending sunrise. She explained that the amount of training required for the proposed advanced practitioner certificate comports with the national recommendations for acupuncturists that intend to practice herbal medicine. She explained that typically a Board remains neutral in sunrise applications and that the public health and safety must be considered with regard to new proposals.

Dr. Rowe commented that the proposal indicated 750 hours of additional training with an examination that would be administered by the state board. Dr. Adler inquired if the definition of natural substance would include homeopathic remedies. Dr. Grout indicated her support of the sunrise.

Dr. Grout made a motion to not oppose the pending sunrise and to remain neutral. Dr. Ackerley seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Dr. Rowe called for each member's vote by roll call:

6 -0 Aye

Mr. Kennedy , Dr. Adler, Dr. Ackerley, Dr. Grout, Dr. Rowe, Mr. Farris

(Mr. Kennedy excused himself from the meeting at this point)

2. Review, discuss and consider board position concerning the Arizona Chiropractic Association Sunrise Application

At the request of Dr. Rowe, Mrs. Springer provided a brief overview of the pending sunrise application noting that the intent of the application would be to recognize an advanced chiropractic practice certification allowing chiropractic doctors to have prescriptive authority. The certification would allow chiropractic doctors, with additional training, to prescribe certain drugs, practice homeopathy, and use orthomolecular therapies.

Drs. Adler and Ackerley both indicated their unease with the proposal to grant prescriptive authority to prescribe and administer through injection, natural substances. They commented that the indicated additional training (90 clinical and didactic hours of pharmacology) was not adequate. Dr. Adler further stated that the recommendation to require 100 hours of orthomolecular therapy training seemed insufficient when viewed from the standpoint of protection of the public health and safety. Dr. Rowe commented that AHIMA was generally supportive of the Sunrise Application, although some concern had been expressed regarding inclusion of the use of intravenous therapies.

Following a short discussion of the use of intravenous therapies, Dr. Rowe suggested the Board table the discussion until the next regular meeting and extended an invitation to Mrs. Pritzl to attend as her time permits.

III. Review, Consideration and Action on Legislation

Mrs. Springer indicated she had approached AHIMA for their support of a legislative change of the Board's fee structure set forth in A.R.S. § 32-2914. She indicated the proposed legislation would remove caps, add four new fees and establish a clause that fees could not be increased more than a percentage amount as set forth by rulemaking.

She indicated she would be visiting with legislative members to find a sponsor.

IV. Review, Consideration and Action On Other Business

(This matter was discussed following roll call)

1. Discussion of staffing levels relative to the upcoming retirement of the executive director and

2. Review, discuss, and vote concerning whether to retain the services of the executive director at a reduced staffing level

Noting the executive director's memorandum of October 17, 2012 detailing her pending retirement and suggestions regarding alternate staffing levels for the remainder of the fiscal year, Mr. Kennedy made a motion to accept a reduction in the staffing levels at the Board office from 35 to 19.5 hours per week to become effective on November 5, 2012. Dr. Rowe seconded the motion.

During the discussion Mr. Farris indicated concern with the reduction in staff hours and the ability of the Executive Director to complete her tasks. He also expressed a concern with the Board's ability to fund additional staff if the workload became too heavy. He inquired about alternative ways the Board could address the issue.

Mrs. Springer indicated there were options available that included requesting limited assistance in high volume times from staff at the State Board's office, the state clerical pool, and the use of an unpaid intern for certain job tasks requiring a different skill set.

Dr. Rowe requested a standing agenda item be added to discuss the impact on the ability of staff to complete the workload. There was a brief discussion of board members volunteering to complete certain tasks at home. Mrs. Springer indicated this would be difficult from the prospective of confidentiality and recusal considerations.

Mr. Kennedy called the question and restated the motion to approve a reduction in the executive director's work hours from 35 to 19.5 hours per week, to be effective on November 5, 2012 at an hourly rate of \$33.00.

Roll Call vote: 6 – 0 Aye

Mr. Kennedy, Dr. Adler, Mr. Farris, Dr. Ackerley, Dr. Grout, and Dr. Rowe

V. Future Agenda Items

Chiropractic Association Sunrise Application

Standing Agenda Item – Status of Office Processes Under Reduced Staff Levels

VI. Call to the Public

Members of the public were no longer present

VII. Future Meeting Dates

November 13, 2012 –

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m. following a motion by Mr. Farris and a second by Dr. Adler. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Springer
Executive Director

Approved by the Board in Regular Meeting on November 13, 2012