

FINAL APPROVED

ADVISORY BOARD ON ACUPUNCTURE

Minutes

October 6, 2021

The Advisory Board on Acupuncture met on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions at 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Janet Borges, LAc, Chair
R. Keith Bell, LAc
Luke Robinson, DO

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon Crowell, LAc, Vice-Chair
Beth Rodgers, Citizen

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Executive Director, Licensure
Colanthia Opher, Deputy Executive Director, Administration
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Beulah Baptist Archer, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: None

Call to Order

Janet Borges, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Dr. Harp announced the Emergency Egress Procedures.

Roll Call

The roll was called; a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes

Keith Bell moved to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2021 meeting. Dr. Robinson seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

Adoption of Agenda

Keith Bell moved to adopt the agenda. Dr. Robinson seconded. The agenda was adopted as presented.

Public Comment

No public comment.

New Business

1. 2021 Legislative Update and 2022 Proposals

Ms. Yeatts and Dr. Harp provided an update on legislative actions from the 2021 General Assembly that were of interest to members, including 2022 legislative proposals. She reported that currently, nine pieces of DHP legislation are proposed, including one that would allow the boards in the Department of Health Professions to hold electronic meetings.

2. Certifying Organizations Name Changes

Mrs. Yeatts presented proposed changes in the names of certifying organizations for Acupuncture in the Board's regulations. The Advisory Board members were in agreement that the proposed changes would reflect a more accurate representation of the profession than the current names. Ms. Yeatts advised that for the changes to move forward, the process is that the Advisory Board recommends amendments to regulations to the full Board of Medicine for approval. Once the full Board approves the language change, the proposed amendments will be posted for public comment prior to other steps in the regulatory process.

After discussion, Keith Bell moved to recommend a fast-track action for the changes to the names of the certifying bodies in the regulations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robinson and carried.

3. Review of Licensure Requirements

Michael Sobowale said this topic was placed on the Advisory Board's agenda at the request of the Credentials Committee for the Advisory Board to review the licensing requirements and application questions to determine if they can be further streamlined. The Credentials Committee met on September 20, 2021 to review and recommend which documents required in the licensing process should be primary-source verified, which ones may be submitted as copies, and those that are no longer be needed in the licensing process. The Credentials Committee will be making recommendations on how the licensing process for all professions could be streamlined. The Committee asked that any recommendation made by the Advisory Board be reported at its next meeting on November 8th.

Members reviewed current licensure requirements for licensed acupuncturists and were in agreement that there should be a digital opportunity for submission of required documents in the licensing process. Members also agreed that the application process could be simplified for applicants while still protecting the public.

After discussion, and upon a motion by Ms. Borges, seconded by Dr. Robinson, the Advisory Board voted to recommend that a license applicant should submit primary source verification of the following documents: professional education /school transcripts, National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) result and United States evaluation of international professional education for an internationally-trained applicant, National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) self-query report and one state license verification.

Copies of the following documents could be accepted: Other state license verifications, if submitted; a digitally-certified electronic copy of the NPDB report in lieu of a mailed report, and supporting documentation for any question answered 'Yes' on the application form that is deemed non-routine.

It is no longer necessary for applicants to submit a "Form B" employment verification.

4. Approval of 2022 Meeting Calendar

Keith Bell moved to accept the proposed meeting dates for the Advisory Board on the 2022 calendar. Dr. Robinson seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Election of Officers

Keith Bell nominated Janet Borges as Chair. Dr. Robinson seconded. The motion carried. Janet Borges remains Chair of the Acupuncture Advisory Board.

Janet Borges nominated Keith Bell as Vice-Chair. Dr. Robinson seconded. The motion carried. Keith Bell is Vice-Chair of the Acupuncture Advisory Board.

Announcements

Beulah Archer provided the acupuncture licensing report. The Board has 429 current active licensees with 127 out-of-state. There are 5 currently inactive acupuncturists.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

February 2, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, Janet Borges adjourned the meeting at 11:44 am.

Janet L. Borges, L. Ac., Chair

William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director

Beulah Baptist Archer, Licensing Specialist