

Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure
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Minutes of July 13, 2023 Board Meeting – 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Members Present: Melissa Michaud, PA-C, Board Chair; John Gaddis, DO, Vice-Chair; John Brewer, DO, Board Secretary; Christine Munroe, DO; Gust Stringos, DO; Peter Michaud, Public Member; Lisa Ryan, DO. Member Excused: Brian Gillis, DO

Others Present: Susan E. Strout, Acting Executive Secretary; Savannah Okoronkwo, Consumer Assistance Specialist; Lisa Wilson, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General; Detective Lauren Edstrom, Office of the Attorney General; Beth Pearce; Emily Bloch, Esquire; Elizabeth Campbell, Esquire; Heidi Bean, Esquire; Amanda Mahan, Executive Director, Maine Osteopathic Association.

Complaint and investigative reviews are held in Public Session without the use of any names unless otherwise noted.

I. Review of Complaints, Investigations and Compliance Matters

COMPLAINTS

A. CR2022 55 – Dr. Brewer, Case Reporter

Dr. Brewer provided a thorough synopsis of the case and following discussion, the Board took this action:

MOTION: Made by Dr. Stringos, seconded by Dr. Munroe and voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint as it did not rise to a level which would warrant action against the licensee. Dr. Brewer, Case Reporter, abstained from voting.

B. CR2023 07 – Dr. Brewer, Case Reporter

Dr. Brewer again provided a thorough overview of the case and following discussion, Board members took this action:

MOTION: Made by Dr. Gaddis, seconded by Dr. Stringos and voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint as it did not rise to a level which would warrant action against the licensee. Dr. Brewer, Case Reporter, abstained from voting.

C. CR2023 10 – Dr. Stringos, Case Reporter

Board members reviewed and discussed, in depth, the licensee's request for reconsideration of its June 2023 decision to forward the complaint to the NY Board as that was the location of both the patient and the licensee. The licensee felt that the complaint should be dismissed and not referred to the other jurisdiction. Following discussion, the Board took this action:

MOTION: Made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Dr. Gaddis and voted unanimously to uphold the Board's original June 2023 motion and vote to forward the complaint to the New York State Office of Professional Medical Conduct. Dr. Stringos, Case Reporter, abstained from voting.

D. CR2023 20 – Dr. Ryan, Case Reporter

Dr. Gaddis provided a thorough overview of the case and following discussion, the Board took this action:

MOTION: Made by Mr. Michaud, seconded by Dr. Stringos and voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint as it did not rise to a level which would warrant action against the licensee. Dr. Ryan, Case Reporter, abstained from voting.

INVESTIGATIONS

G. IN2023 27 – Mr. Michaud, Case Reporter

Mr. Michaud provided an overview of the investigative materials and following discussion, the Board took this action:

MOTION: Made by Ms. Michaud, seconded by Dr. Ryan and voted unanimously to continue to table the matter for further investigation. Mr. Michaud, Case Reporter, abstained from voting.

I. IN2023 44 – Dr. Munroe, Case Reporter

Dr. Munroe provided a thorough overview of the investigative materials presented and following discussion, the Board took this action:

MOTION: Made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Michaud and voted unanimously to issue a complaint based on incompetence and unprofessional conduct and to offer the licensee an Interim Consent Agreement whereby he would agree to no longer prescribe Ketamine for patients below 19 years of age until such time as the matter has been resolved. Dr. Munroe, Case Reporter abstained from voting.

COMPLIANCE

J. Michael Landrum, DO – Dr. Ryan, Case Reporter

Dr. Ryan, Case Reporter, noted the curriculum vitae for a proposed physician mentor for Board review and as well as a copy of his proposed patient evaluation form, both for Board review and approval. Following review and discussion, the Board took this action:

MOTION: Made by Dr. Stringos, seconded by Ms. Michaud and voted unanimously to approve the proposed mentor as well as the patient evaluation form. Dr. Ryan, Case Reporter, abstained from voting.

II. Board Meeting Minutes/Revenue & Expense Reports

A. Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes were not finalized; review was tabled.

B. Revenue & Expense Reports¹

With the meeting being early in the month and the new fiscal just starting, reports were not yet received.

III. Other Business

A. Commissioner Head Message re Potential Transfers to General Fund

Board members reviewed the memo; Ms. Strout noted no word on transfers from the Board yet.

B. Federation of State Medical Boards – Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Board members reviewed the highlights; no Board action was necessary.

C. Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FEBI) Training Information

Ms. Michaud provided a bit more information regarding FETI training which she had learned of at the FSMB Annual Meeting. Det. Edstrom indicated an interest in the course which Ms. Michaud felt would also be valuable for Board staff.

¹ Prepared and distributed by DAFS (Dept of Administrative & Financial Services)

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D. Medical Professionals Health Program (MPHP) – Review of Annual Report for 2022

Board members took note of the report and discussed the possibility of increasing its funding to the MPHP. Ms. Strout noted that the funding is set for FY24 but that perhaps it could be increased for the future and in addition, if the Board wished to make an extra contribution, it should bear in mind that a financial order would be required, and very detailed justification would be required.

E. Public Law Chapter 132 (LD1936) Emergency Medical Services

Mr. Michaud noted that this law resulted from a working group that he represented the Board on and that the necessary statutory changes had been made so that the wording in both the DO and MD statutes is now the same and it is clarified that EMS-licensed personnel can work in medical facilities as delegated assistants and that delegated assistants do not require licensure.

IV. Licensure Matters

A. Reuben Bell, DO

Board members reviewed the documentation submitted by Dr. Bell satisfying the Board's CME Consent Agreement requirement for the 2021-2023 renewal period. No Board action was necessary.

B. Christopher Johnson, DO

Board members reviewed the renewal application as well as Det. Edstrom's Summary of Investigations (SOI) and determined that the licensee was in good standing. The Board then took this action:

MOTION: Made by Ms. Michaud, seconded by Dr. Ryan and voted unanimously to approve the renewal application submitted by Dr. Johnston for renewal through June 30, 2025.

C. Jack Tivnan, DO – Inquiry

Following review of Dr. Tivnan's inquiry, the Board noted that his inquiry is outside of their jurisdiction as Board certification is not required for licensure.

D. Review of Permanent Licensure Applications

Following review of the permanent licensure application submitted, the board took this action.

MOTION: Made by Ms. Michaud, seconded by Mr. Michaud and voted unanimously to approve the permanent licensure applications submitted by: Anna Augustin, DO; Justin Berkner, DO; Cameron Burke, DO; Sean Byrne, DO; Jerry Childs, DO; Jeffrey Dalm, DO; Erin Dauchy, DO; George Eyerer, DO; Stephany Fuentes, DO; Holly Gwozdz, DO; Gavin Hannon, DO; David Jackson, DO; Linda Meehan, DO; Alexandra Murray, DO; Thomas Pentzer, DO; George Perez, DO; Peter Rippberger, DO; Azhar Shah, DO; Sara Siavoshi, DO; Brittany Supp, DO; and Tison Thomas, DO.

V. Amanda Mahan, Executive Director, Maine Osteopathic Association

Ms. Mahan was invited to provide any information/updates she felt would be of interest to the Board. Several topics of interest were noted and briefly discussed; no Board action was necessary.

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Dr. Brewer, seconded by Dr. Munroe and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan E Strout, Acting Executive Secretary