

Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure
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Minutes of March 10, 2022 Board Meeting – 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Members Present: Melissa Michaud, PA-C, Chair; James Pisini, DO, Vice-Chair; John Brewer, DO, Board Secretary; John Gaddis, DO; Peter Michaud, Public Member; Christine Munroe, DO; Brian Gillis, DO; Marty McIntyre, Public Member and Rebeca Vose, PA-C; Lisa Ryan, DO

Others Present: Susan E. Strout, Executive Secretary; Lisa Wilson, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General; Savannah Okoronkwo, Consumer Assistance Specialist; Det. Michael Durham, Office of the Attorney General; Amanda Richards, Executive Director, Maine Osteopathic Association; David Bauer, Esquire; Maureen M Sturtevant, Esquire, Guy Cousins, Director, Maine Professionals Health Program (MPHP); Heidi Lamonica, MPHP Operations Manager and Chelsea Pherigo, Jennifer Bailey and Heidi Wright – MPHP Clinical Coordinators at MPHP; Merica Tripp, Planning and Research Associate II, Rural Health Primary Care Program – Dept of Health & Human Services

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

I. Review of Complaint and Investigative Matters

A. CR2021 44 – Dr. Pisini, Case Reporter

Dr. Pisini provided an overview of the case and following review of the request for reconsideration, the Board took this action:

MOTION: Made by Mr. Michaud and seconded by Ms. McIntyre with the vote, via roll call, being to invite the parties to attend an Informal Conference at a future meeting. Motion carried with 8 members in favor; Dr. Gillis was opposed. Dr. Pisini, Case Reporter, abstained from voting.

B. CR2022 09 – Ms. McIntyre, Case Reporter

Due to Ms. McIntyre having technical difficulties, Dr. Pisini stepped in and provided an overview of the matter and following discussion which Ms. McIntyre was able to participate in, the Board took this action:

MOTION: Made by Dr. Brewer and seconded by Dr. Munroe with the vote, via roll call, being unanimous to issue a complaint based on alleged unprofessional conduct. Ms. McIntyre, Case Reporter, abstained from voting.

II. Medical Professionals Health (MPHP) Program Annual Presentation

Guy Cousins, Director of the MPHP along with Heidi LaMonica, Operations Manager and Clinical Coordinators Jennifer Bailey, Heidi Wright and Chelsea Pherigo joined the meeting and provided an overview of the program which members, particularly those new to the Board, found interesting and informative. No Board action was necessary.

Continued from Item 1 above.

C. IN2022 11 – Dr. Brewer, Case Reporter

Dr. Brewer provided an overview of the investigative materials received from the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (hereafter 'IMLC') and other state licensing board disciplinary actions as a result of the information from the IMLC. Following discussion and legal advice, Board members took this action:

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MOTION: Made by Ms. McIntyre and seconded by Mr. Michaud with the vote, via roll call, being unanimous to move forward with the automatic 90-day suspension pursuant to the IMLC statute. Dr. Brewer, Case Reporter, abstained from voting.

D. Edward Drasby, DO – Consent Agreement Compliance

Board members reviewed and accepted the documentation provided by the licensee as required per the terms of his Consent Agreement. No further action is required of the licensee; none was taken by the Board.

E. Elliot Gruen, DO – Consent Agreement Compliance

Board members reviewed and accepted the initial mentor report submitted by Jeffrey Barkin, MD. No Board action was necessary.

III. Minutes/Revenue & Expense Reports

A. February 2022 Meeting Minutes

Following review, the Board took this action regarding the draft February 2022 meeting minutes:

MOTION: Made by Dr. Brewer and seconded by Ms. Michaud with the vote, via roll call, being unanimous to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022 meeting.

B. Review of Current Revenue & Expense Reports¹

The reports had not yet been received; will be provided for the April 2022 meeting.

IV. Old & New Business/Miscellaneous

A. Federation of State Medical Boards Information (‘FSMB’)

1. Chair Simmons Report on Legislation

Board members noted the report; no Board action was necessary.

2. Draft Report re Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Medical Regulation & Patient Care

Board members noted the report; no Board action was necessary.

B. Legislation

Mrs. Strout updated the Board that LD 1973 (An Act to Support Frontline Health Care Workers by Waiving Professional Licensing Fees) was voted ought not to pass by the committee of jurisdiction. Had it passed, licensing boards, in general, would have been unable to operate due to paying back license fees from March 2020 through December 2022, estimated as \$1.2 million for this Board alone. Overwhelming testimony in opposition was submitted for both the Public Hearing and the Work Session. No Board action was necessary.

C. Rural Health & Primary Care Program Survey Proposal

Board members had reviewed the materials provided prior to the meeting and then discussed the proposal. Merica Tripp, Planning & Research Associate, who works with the RHPCP joined the meeting to answer any questions. Following discussion with Ms. Tripp, the Board took this action:

¹ Reports are generated by the Department of Administrative & Financial Services

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MOTION: Made by Ms. Michaud and seconded by Dr. Munroe to move forward with adding the survey to the license renewal applications. Following additional discussion, during which the Board and staff learned that completion of the survey would be mandatory, Ms. Michaud withdrew her motion. A new motion was then presented, as follows:

MOTION: Made by Dr. Gaddis and seconded by Ms. McIntyre with the vote, via roll call, being unanimous to deny the request to add the survey to the license renewal process unless it could be optional at the time of renewal.

D. VeriDoc – Update re Costs

Mrs. Strout reported that the startup costs would be approximately \$2500. The Board discussed raising its license verification fee and took this action:

MOTION: Made by Dr. Brewer and seconded by Dr. Gillis with the vote, via roll call, being unanimous to move forward with the use of VeriDoc for license verifications and to increase the Board’s license verification fee to \$25, not including the fees charged by VeriDoc.

V. Licensure Matters

A. Permanent Licensure Applications

Following review and discussion, the Board took these actions regarding applications:

MOTION: Made by Ms. Michaud and seconded by Ms. McIntyre with the vote, via roll call, being unanimous to approve the permanent licensure applications submitted by Andre Bonnet, DO; Sarah MacDuffie Hundertmark, DO; Tejeshwer Jaswal, DO; William Mansour, DO; Timothy Newell, DO; Sunah Oh, DO; Marielle Opena, DO; Ethan Percy, DO; Maxwell Simard, DO; Lisa Smith, DO and Julian Weinstein, DO.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned (motion by Ms. McIntyre and seconded by Dr. Brewer), via unanimous roll call vote, at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan E. Strout, Executive Secretary