

**\*\*Minutes of the Meeting of the Nevada Board of Homeopathic Medical Examiners\*\***

**\*\*Date and Time:\*\*** November 30, 2023, 6:30 PM PDT

**\*\*Place:\*\*** Virtual Meeting

**\*\*Compliance Statement:\*\*** This meeting was conducted in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS Chapter 241), with proper notice provided, a quorum established, and public access ensured via teleconference.

**### Members Present:**

- Charles Green, Secretary-Treasurer
- Bruce Fong, DO, HMD (elected President)
- Melvin Nario, MD, HMD (elected Vice President)
- Greg Olson, APH
- Frank Shallenberger, MD, HMD
- Karen Dickerson

**### Members Absent:**

- None (quorum of six members established)

**### Others Present:**

- Philip Zinni, DO (applicant)
- Dr. Fnu Dhaani (applicant)
- Matthew Feeley (legal counsel)
- Carrie Porter
- Earlene Forsythe
- John Glavinovich, MD, HMD
- Cora Ibarra, MD, HMD
- Dr. Mary Phillips (assistant to Charles Green)

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### ### Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

- The meeting was called to order by Charles Green, acting as Secretary-Treasurer, at 6:30 PM PDT.
- A quorum was established with six members present.

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### ### Agenda Item 2: Induction of New Board Members

- Charles Green administered the oath of office to the following new board members:
  - Karen Dickerson
  - Bruce Fong, DO, HMD
  - Melvin Nario, MD, HMD
  - Greg Olson, APH
  - Frank Shallenberger, MD, HMD
- **\*\*Action Taken:\*\*** All new members were officially inducted.

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### ### Agenda Item 3: Election of Officers

- The board elected the following officers:
  - **\*\*President:\*\*** Bruce Fong, DO, HMD
  - Motion by: Frank Shallenberger
  - Seconded by: Greg Olson

- Vote: Unanimous (6-0)
- **Vice President:** Melvin Nario, MD, HMD
- Motion by: Greg Olson
- Seconded by: Karen Dickerson
- Vote: Unanimous (6-0)
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Charles Green (reaffirmed)
- Motion by: Frank Shallenberger
- Seconded by: Melvin Nario
- Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

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#### ### Agenda Item 4: Financial Report

- Charles Green presented the financial report:
  - Current balance: \$34,641 in the bank.
  - Estimated balance by January 1, 2024: \$63,000 after December collections.
- **Action Taken:** The Secretary-Treasurer's report was accepted.
- Motion by: Greg Olson
- Seconded by: Frank Shallenberger
- Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

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#### ### Agenda Item 5: Public Comment (First Period)

- Public comments highlighted Charles Green's efforts in auditing the board's finances and planning an integrative medical foundation, with a fundraiser targeted for March 2024.

- No actions were taken during this public comment period.

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### ### Agenda Item 6: Review of Applicants for Licensure

#### #### a. Dr. Philip Zinni, DO – HMD Licensure

- Dr. Zinni was reviewed for HMD licensure. He was praised for his extensive medical background and character.

- **\*\*Action Taken:\*\*** Dr. Zinni was conditionally approved for HMD licensure pending a written exam.

- Motion by: Frank Shallenberger

- Seconded by: Melvin Nario

- Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

#### #### b. Dr. Fnu Dhaani – APH Licensure via Reciprocity

- Dr. Dhaani was proposed for APH licensure via reciprocity, with over 10 years of homeopathic experience in India and a doctorate in homeopathy.

- Discussion:

- Bruce Fong raised concerns about setting a precedent for waiving exams, suggesting a 10-year experience threshold as a potential criterion.

- Greg Olson supported reciprocity for international applicants but questioned its application for U.S.-trained practitioners.

- Philip Zinni noted a precedent from the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine, where 10 years of experience allowed grandfathering into fellowship.

- Frank Shallenberger suggested deferring the decision to establish formal criteria.

- Melvin Nario advocated for Dr. Dhaani, emphasizing the value of her pure homeopathic expertise.

- Charles Green noted the governor's push for reciprocity to attract talent to Nevada, supporting Dr. Dhaani's qualifications.
- **\*\*Action Taken:\*\*** Dr. Dhaani's application was deferred to the January 2024 meeting to establish formal reciprocity criteria, tentatively setting a 10-year experience threshold.
- Motion by: Frank Shallenberger
- Seconded by: Greg Olson
- Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

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### ### Agenda Item 7: Discussion of Senate Bill 336

- Charles Green reported on the passage of Senate Bill 336, which ensures that complaints against dual-licensed physicians using alternative medicine are handled by the homeopathic board.
- The bill was sponsored by Senator James Ochenschall, co-sponsored by Senator Stone, and signed into law by the governor two months prior (approximately September 2023).
- Discussion:
  - Frank Shallenberger expressed frustration that the medical board ignores the law, proposing a letter from legal counsel to assert the board's rights.
  - Bruce Fong emphasized the need for diplomatic wording in the letter.
- **\*\*Action Taken:\*\*** The board directed legal counsel, Matthew Feeley, to draft a letter to the medical board asserting equal jurisprudence over dual-licensed individuals, with time allocated for Feeley to meet with board members for further discussion.
- Motion by: Frank Shallenberger
- Seconded by: Greg Olson
- Vote: Unanimous (5-0; Greg Olson stepped away but had seconded the motion, assumed in favor per Bruce Fong)

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### ### Agenda Item 8: Reimbursement for Charles Green

- Charles Green requested reimbursement of \$15,000 for his work from July to December 2023, at \$2,500 per month, as allowed by NRS.

- Discussion:

- Bruce Fong noted that Green has been acting as an executive director, a role previously paid \$2,000 per month, and highlighted Green's extensive contributions.

- Frank Shallenberger supported the reimbursement, noting its alignment with past precedent.

- **\*\*Action Taken:\*\*** The board approved reimbursing Charles Green \$15,000.

- Motion by: Greg Olson

- Seconded by: Frank Shallenberger

- Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

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### ### Agenda Item 9: Fee Increase for Licensure

- Charles Green proposed increasing fees to address financial constraints, as permitted by Senate Bill 98 (NRS 630A.330, Section 5):

- HMDs: from \$600 to \$800

- APHs: from \$400 to \$600

- HAs: from \$200 to \$400

- Discussion:

- Frank Shallenberger initially proposed higher fees (HMDs to \$2,000, APHs to \$1,000, HAs unchanged), but the motion failed for lack of a second.

- Greg Olson expressed concern about APHs dropping out due to high fees, suggesting \$800 as a reasonable limit for APHs.

- There was some audience support to Green's suggestion of \$1,000 for HMDs, citing the importance of funding the board.

- John Glavinich and Carrie Porter cautioned against high fees scaring off potential members, advocating for incremental increases and alternative funding via a 501(c)(3).

- Earlene Forsythe noted her practice covers licensure fees for staff, supporting the increase.

- After debate, the board settled on:

- HMDs: \$1,000

- APHs: \$800

- HAs: \$400

- **\*\*Action Taken:\*\*** The board approved the fee increases: HMDs to \$1,000, APHs to \$800, and HAs to \$400.

- Motion by: Greg Olson

- Seconded by: Frank Shallenberger

- Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

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### ### Agenda Item 10: Suggestions for Next Meeting

- Bruce Fong suggested reviewing the board's CME policy, noting past confusion, and forming committees to handle such issues.

- Frank Shallenberger proposed discussing reciprocity for MDs and making APHs independent.

- Charles Green confirmed the next meeting is mandated for January 2024 and requested guidance on complying with the Open Meeting Law (NRS 241) when communicating with board members.

- Bruce Fong advised that Green can communicate with up to two members at a time without a quorum and must avoid making decisions outside of meetings.

- **Action Taken:** The suggestions were noted for the January 2024 agenda. No formal votes were taken.

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#### ### Agenda Item 11: Introduction of Assistant

- Charles Green introduced Dr. Mary Phillips, his assistant, who has been helping with board operations for a nominal fee.
- The board welcomed Dr. Phillips.
- **Action Taken:** No formal action was taken.

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#### ### Agenda Item 12: Public Comment (Second Period)

- Carrie Porter was given the opportunity to comment but was either not present or unable to unmute.
- No other public comments were received.

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#### ### Agenda Item 13: Adjournment

- **Action Taken:** The meeting was adjourned until the next mandated meeting in January 2024.
- Motion by: Greg Olson
- Seconded by: Frank Shallenberger
- Vote: Unanimous (6-0)
- The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM PDT



**\*\*Prepared by\*\*:** Frank Shallenberger

**\*\*Date\*\*:** 7-30-25