

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)

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.

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.

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)

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)

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.

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)

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 Ochrenschall, 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)

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)

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 Glavinvich 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)

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.

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.

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.

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