

MINUTES OF THE NEVADA BOARD OF HOMEOPATHIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Date: Thursday, December 14, 2024

Time: 6:31 PM PDT – 6:54 PM PDT

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Recording: Recorded via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present (Via Zoom):

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

Board Members Absent:

- Dr. Frank Schallenberger (Excused absence due to travel abroad)

Public Present (Via Zoom):

- Dr. David Edwards, MD, HMD
- Dr. Dan Royal, DO, HMD, JD
- Ahmed Masood, APH
- Kathleen Peele, APH

Note: A quorum was established through roll call, as confirmed by Dr. Fong at the start of the meeting, with five of six board members present (excluding Dr. Schallenberger).

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order by Dr. Bruce Fong at 6:31 PM PDT.
- Dr. Fong conducted a roll call to confirm the presence of board members and establish a quorum:
 - Dr. Bruce Fong: Present
 - Greg Olson: Present
 - Dr. Melvin Nario: Present
 - Karen Dickerson: Present
 - Charles Green: Present
- Noted Dr. Frank Schallenberger's excused absence due to travel abroad, confirming a quorum with the remaining members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **Motion:** Greg Olson moved to approve the agenda.
- **Second:** Charles Green seconded.
- **Discussion:** None.
- **Vote:** All members (Dr. Fong, Dr. Nario, Dr. Olson, Karen Dickerson, Charles Green) voted "Aye"; no "Nay" votes. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

1. **Proposed Fee Increases Discussion**

- **Overview:** Dr. Fong addressed the sole agenda item, noting that the board voted on fee increases at the end of November 2024 due to the board's dire financial situation. He apologized for the board's oversight in not considering the economic impact on licensees and certificate holders, acknowledging that the process required workshops and updates to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), which cannot be completed until next year.

- **Decision:** Informed the board and public that the fee increases cannot proceed at this time and will revert to original fees: \$600 for HMDs, \$400 for APHs, and \$200 for HAs for the current renewal year.

- ****Action Item:**** Dr. Fong requested Charles Green to issue updated invoices reflecting the original fees by the next day (December 15, 2024), which Mr. Green confirmed he would do using the updated licensee list.

2. ****Notarization Requirement Clarification****

- ****Discussion:**** Dr. Fong noted that APHs and HAs were required to submit notarized supervisory notes for renewals, which he determined was not a board policy or previously voted on. He cited a past Deputy Attorney General's statement that notarization is unnecessary after the initial submission. With confirmation from former board members Kathleen Peele and Dr. David Edwards that this was never a formal policy, Dr. Fong issued an executive order to strike the notarization requirement for the current renewal cycle, requesting only completed renewal applications and checks.

- ****Clarification:**** Charles Green clarified that the application included an affidavit or attestation of signature, not notarization, which had been voted down previously. Dr. Fong affirmed that no notarization is required, resolving the matter.

3. ****Off-Agenda Discussion (Supervisory Records)****

- ****Proposal:**** Charles Green raised an off-agenda concern about tracking which APHs and HAs work under which doctors, suggesting a recording mechanism since records are now in Reno.

- ****Response:**** Greg Olson noted that supervising physicians submit letters with protocols during initial applications, which should be in files. Dr. Fong agreed it's an administrative matter but deferred further discussion, promising to compile a list and address it later. Kathleen Peele confirmed Dr. Fong signed supervisory forms last year. The issue was tabled as it was not on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- ****Dr. David Edwards, MD, HMD:****

- Suggested sending approved agendas, meeting dates, and Zoom login information to all licensees to keep them informed and encourage participation. Proposed extending this to Nevada legislators to demonstrate the board's activity, countering past criticisms about missed meetings and unpaid AG bills, which led to the board's troubles two years ago.

- ****Ahmed Masood, APH:****

- Expressed gratitude and shared his experience of being stranded for 10 months after his supervising physician, Dr. Robert Eslinger, lost his osteopathy license, and Dr. Greenberg (who co-supervised) passed away on November 24, 2024. Requested a safety net protocol to transfer credibility to another supervisor, emphasizing his non-invasive, homeopathic practice.

- ****Dr. Dan Royal, DO, HMD, JD:****

- Criticized the board's refusal to pay operating expenses submitted by Charles Green last year, suggesting a lack of understanding of operational costs. Urged transparency by publishing those expenses on the website, comparing the refusal to pay to practices in China. Proposed alternative revenue sources (e.g., resurrecting the IRB, seeking donations) instead of raising licensure fees, calling it a lazy approach. Advocated for fiscal responsibility.

- ****Dr. David Edwards, MD, HMD (Follow-Up):****

- As a former board member who opposed paying Mr. Green's expenses, he explained the lack of detailed financial records (inflows and outflows) and cited the policy manual's requirement for an independent bookkeeper to ensure trustworthy numbers. Questioned the board's expense details, suggesting most funds went to Mr. Green over the last two years, and supported transparency by opening the books.

NEW BUSINESS

- ****Suggestions for January Meeting:****

- Dr. Melvin Nario proposed fundraising activities to address the board's debt and enhance transparency as a priority for the new year.

- Dr. Greg Olson suggested developing a budget to anticipate expenses (e.g., lobbying, board operations) and justify revenue efforts, recommending it as an agenda item for the next meeting.

- ****Action:**** Dr. Fong acknowledged these suggestions, noting support from board members, and planned to include them in the January agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

- ****Motion:**** Greg Olson moved to adjourn the meeting.

- ****Second:**** Dr. Melvin Nario seconded.

- ****Discussion:**** None.

- ****Vote:**** All members (Dr. Fong, Dr. Nario, Dr. Olson, Karen Dickerson, Charles Green) voted "Aye"; no "Nay" votes. Meeting adjourned

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2025, with a date to be determined and properly noticed. Agenda items will include fundraising activities and budget development.

- Charles Green is tasked with issuing updated renewal invoices by December 15, 2024.

- Dr. Fong committed to addressing the supervisory records issue off-agenda and will follow up with Charles Green.

- Public comments highlighted concerns about transparency, financial management, and supervisory protocols, which may be addressed in future meetings.

****Certification:**** These minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting, prepared in compliance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 241, Open Meeting Law, to the best of the Secretary's knowledge.

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

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