

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NATUROPATHY
GENERAL SESSION BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 25, 2023
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108
VIA WebEx
1:00 PM

(Open Session)
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Paul Herscu, ND, MPH, Naturopathic Doctor 1, Chair
Anne Frances Hardy, ND, LAC, Naturopathic Doctor 2, Vice-Chair
Mattia Migliore, PhD, RPH, Clinical Pharmacologist, Secretary
Christina Bain, Public Member

Board Members Not Present: Darshan Mehta, MD Physician 1

Staff Present: Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Heather Engman, Chief Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, DPH
Judy Bromley, Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, DPH
Sarah Constantino, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Kayla Mikalauski, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Tracy Tam, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL

Public Attendee: Daryl Bennett
George Lawrence

I. Call to Order

At 1:03 PM Dr. Paul Herscu, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order. Dr. Herscu reminded the Board members the meeting was being recorded and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

Roll call as follows: Paul Herscu: present; Anne Frances Hardy: present; Mattia Migliore: present; Christina Bain: present.
Absent: Darshan Mehta

II. Approval of Agenda

The Board reviewed the July 25, 2023, Regular Session Agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Herscu asked if anyone had a conflict of interest with the agenda as written. No conflicts of interests were noted.

ACTION:

Dr. Anne Frances Hardy made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Dr. Paul Herscu. The vote carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Paul Herscu: yes; Anne Frances Hardy: yes; Mattia Migliore: yes; Christina Bain: yes.

Opposed: none; Abstained: none, Recused: none

Absent: Darshan Mehta

Document: July 25, 2023, Regular Session Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the June 27, 2023, Regular Session Minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Mattia Migliore stated she would abstain because she was not present at the last Board meeting. Dr. Anne Francis Hardy stated there is typography error, convection should be amended to convention.

ACTION:

Dr. Anne Frances Hardy made a motion to approve the minutes as amended which was seconded by Paul Herscu. The vote carried by roll call vote as follows: Paul Herscu: yes; Anne Frances-Hardy: yes; Christina Bain: yes.

Opposed: none; Abstained: Mattia Migliore; Recused: none

Absent: Darshan Mehta

Document: June 27, 2023, Regular Session Minutes

IV. Sub-Regulatory Discussion

A. Guidance regarding Naturopathy Scope of Practice

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Paul Herscu asked when documents can be uploaded to the website. Mr. Steven Joubert stated there are still documents pending review and approval, then they can all be posted.

Dr. Mattia Migliore stated there is a typography error, tee tree oil should be amended to tea tree oil.

ACTION:

Dr. Anne Frances Hardy made a motion to approve the Guidance regarding Naturopathy Scope of Practice as amended which was seconded by Dr. Mattia Migliore. The vote carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Paul Herscu: yes; Anne Frances Hardy: yes; Mattia Migliore: yes; Christina Bain: yes.

Opposed: none; Abstained: none, Recused: none

Absent: Darshan Mehta

Document: Guidance regarding Naturopathy Scope of Practice

B. Executive Summary of Doctor in Naturopathy

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert introduced a draft of the Executive Summary of Doctor in Naturopathy document and asked Board members to send their input to him via e-mail.

Ms. Heather Engman reminded Board members of the Open Meeting Law, they must send their input to Mr. Joubert only and cannot send it to other Board members.

Document: Executive Summary of Doctor in Naturopathy

V. Discussion to Waive 50 CE Requirements for November 2023 Cycle

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Paul Herscu stated Licensees who received their license a few months ago would not have enough time to meet the CEU requirements by November 2023. Dr. Herscu proposed creating a Sub-Regulatory Guidance to waive or pro-rate CEU requirements for the first cycle.

Ms. Heather Engman stated many Boards would waive the CEU requirement for new graduates or for those who received their license within a specific period of time before the renewal cycle. Ms. Engman asked if the Board is including Licensees who were already practicing in another state in this discussion to waive CEUs.

Dr. Herscu stated many Licensees are already practicing in other states and some of them have CEU requirements but some of them do not.

Ms. Engman stated she would prefer waiving CEUs for those who received their licenses within a certain period of time in the cycle, such as within 6 months or 12 months of the renewal cycle. Ms. Endman asked when did the Board start to issue Naturopathic licenses.

Mr. Steven Joubert stated the Board became licensed in May 2022 and Licensees would have trouble meeting the CEU requirements if they have only had a short timeframe. Mr. Joubert also stated there is precedent of other Boards extending the CEU deadline to give Licensees enough time to meet the requirements.

Dr. Herscu stated this upcoming renewal cycle would not be a full cycle.

Dr. Hardy stated Licensees should be given time to attend conventions and receive CEUs through a variety of activities instead of just taking online classes to meet the deadline. Dr. Hardy also stated she would prefer to waive the CEU requirements completely for the first cycle or waive it for Licensees who have held their licenses for less than 12 months in the cycle.

Mr. Joubert stated the renewal reminders are scheduled to be mailed out on August 30th, 2023.

Dr. Herscu stated he would like to make a decision to waive CEUs for the first renewal cycle.

Ms. Engman stated Board counsel will draft a policy to waive the CEU requirements for the November 2023 renewal cycle such that the first continuing education requirements would be due for the November 2025 cycle.

ACTION:

Dr. Anne Frances Hardy made a motion to waive the CEU requirements for the November 2023 cycle because it was not a full two-year cycle and move the CEU requirements to the November 2025 cycle, which was seconded by Dr. Paul Herscu. The vote carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Paul Herscu: yes; Anne Frances Hardy: yes; Mattia Migliore: yes; Christina Bain: yes.

Opposed: none; Abstained: none, Recused: none

Absent: Darshan Mehta

VI. Board Meeting Schedule

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Paul Herscu stated he would like to continue meeting monthly for the time being to tend to Board business. Dr. Herscu also stated he has concerns over a quarterly meeting schedule because a loss of quorum would result in a cancelled meeting and leave a 6-month gap between Board meetings.

Mr. Steven Joubert stated cancelled meetings can be rescheduled.

Dr. Herscu asked if it would be possible to keep a monthly meeting schedule and cancel meetings if there are no Board business to tend to.

Ms. Heather Engman stated the cancellations should be announced at least 2 weeks before the scheduled meeting.

Ms. Christina Bain stated she also wants to continue meeting monthly and cancel accordingly to prevent any Board business from being delayed.

Dr. Herscu stated he would like to work on the Sub-Regulatory Guidance for CEUs and the one-page Executive Summary at the next board meeting.

VII. Flex Session Schedule

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Paul Herscu asked for the attendance of the next board meeting scheduled on August 22, 2023. Dr. Paul Herscu, Dr. Anne Frances Hardy, Dr. Mattia Migliore, and Ms. Christina Bain stated they would be able to attend.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other business before the Board, Ms. Christina Bain motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Dr. Anne Frances Hardy. The vote carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Paul Herscu: yes; Anne Frances Hardy: yes; Mattia Migliore: yes; Christina Bain: yes.

Opposed: none; Abstained: none; Recused: none.
Absent: Darshan Mehta

Let the records show the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

The next meeting of the Board of Registration in Naturopathy is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 1:00 PM via WebEx.

Respectfully submitted by:
The Board of Registration in Naturopathy