

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF NATUROPATHY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 24, 2022
VIA WebEx

(Open Session)
MINUTES

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

Board Members Not Present: None

Staff Present: Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Karen Geoghegan, Assistant Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, DPH
Patricia Young, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL

I. Call to Order

Board Chair, Dr. Paul Herscu, welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:11PM. A quorum of the Board was determined with members present via WebEx as follows: Paul Herscu: present; Anne Frances Hardy: present; Mattia Migliore: present; Christina Bain: present. Absent: None.

II. Review of the Agenda & Conflict of Interest

Dr. Herscu mentioned that the meeting is being recorded and asked if anyone had a conflict of interest? Dr. Herscu acknowledged that Dr. Hardy, Dr. Migliore and himself did not have any conflict of interest. He then asked Ms. Bain if she had any conflict of interest.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Bain asked if there was an agenda and minutes from their last meeting for review for this meeting? She also asked if the (Interchange) system that she has to log into is the place to find the minutes? Ms. Bain stated that she didn't receive any attachments. Ms. Karen Geoghegan said that it is and asked if she tried to log into it? Ms. Bain said no and asked if the Board packet also posted in Interchange? Ms. Geoghegan answered yes. Ms. Bain wanted to clarify whether she would get reminders to look for the Board packet there. Ms. Geoghegan stated that once the packet is sent to Board members through Interchange, an email would be sent to their state email stating you have files. Ms. Bain stated that she doesn't think that she received anything this time but will recheck her email again. Ms.

Geoghegan stated that because there isn't anything in the packet that is confidential and that the packet is so small, she would send it to Ms. Bain's regular state email. Ms. Bain stated that she isn't sure if she has a conflict of interest with the agenda because she hasn't seen it yet. She then stated that if the Board needed to proceed then please do so, she did not want to hold up the group. Dr. Herscu let the members know that the next item on the agenda is to approve the agenda.

ACTION:

Dr. Anne Frances Hardy made a motion to approve the agenda as presented which was seconded by Dr. Mattia Migliore. The vote carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Paul Herscu: aye; Anne Frances Hardy: aye; Mattia Migliore: aye. Absent: None. Abstained: Christina Bain. Opposed: None; Recused: None.

Document: April 26, 2022 Board Meeting Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Herscu asked that the Board members review the minutes from the April 26, 2022 General Session meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Herscu asked Ms. Bain if she would like to abstain from the vote for approving the minutes. Ms. Bain stated that she trusts the Boards' decision for the vote because she would need to get into the Interchange system to see the minutes and she isn't sure that she can get in. Ms. Geoghegan stated again that she would send Ms. Bain the Board packet through her regular state email. Dr. Herscu asked Ms. Mary Strachan if the Board could still vote while Ms. Bain waited to receive the Board packet? Ms. Strachan said that they could because they still had quorum.

ACTION:

Dr. Mattia Migliore motioned to approve the April 26, 2022 minutes as presented, seconded by Dr. Anne Frances Hardy. The vote carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Paul Herscu: aye; Anne Frances Hardy: aye; Mattia Migliore: aye. Absent: None. Abstained: Christina Bain. Opposed: None; Recused: None.

Document: April 26, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

IV. Flex Session

A. Announcements:

Dr. Herscu handed the floor over to Mr. Steven Joubert for announcements. Mr. Joubert stated that the Naturopathy regulations have been promulgated and publicized. He also stated that the final regulations have been finalized and they will be made available on the website. Mr. Joubert then congratulated Dr. Herscu and Dr. Amy Rothenberg for becoming amongst the first licensees. He also let the Board know that applications for licensure are starting to come in. Mr. Joubert thanked the Board staff, in particular Ms. Geoghegan, for all of the hard work making the appropriate edits to the Naturopathy applications and website.

B. Appointments:

Mr. Joubert stated that he reached out to the Bureau's Deputy Director in an effort to get Dr. Metta appointed to the Board and hopefully by next month the Board should have a full complement of members.

C. Topics for Next Agenda:

Dr. Herscu had 4 specific topics/discussions he wanted to be added to agenda for the next meeting.

1. Where can those who are interested look up the Board rules and regulations?

Ms. Strachan stated that she could send them the link to the website that shows all the regulations for all of the various Boards and agencies. Ms. Strachan stated that at the end of the meeting, Ms. Geoghegan will post a link to the official version of the regulations.

2. Where do actions/topics, that are put on hold for future discussions/meetings, get stored?

This question wasn't answered right away but Ms. Strachan came back to it towards the end of the meeting. She explained that one way the Board staff keeps track of relevant discussions and topics is that they are continually added to the agenda, in the Flex Session, until they are resolved. Dr. Herscu wanted to know if there was a way to put a topic on an agenda for a future date and just let people know that is when that particular topic will be discussed. Mr. Joubert stated that he has not come across anything like that. He stated that the course of action has been to leave it on the agenda on Flex Session portion, to be carried over to subsequent meetings. Dr. Herscu asked how would a topic that was suggested to be tabled for a couple of years be remembered or memorialized until then. Mr. Joubert stated that the content of the meetings are memorialized on the archived Webex video recordings. He also stated that we maintain hard copy Board minute.

3. What should be regulatory and what should be sub-regulatory?

Ms. Strachan stated that because she has not been part of the process leading up to the regulations, so she would have to take time to familiarized herself with some of those discussions. Therefore, she cannot speak to specifically what the sub-regulatory issue are? She went on to explain that each Board adopts their own sub-regulatory guidance for determining policies, requirements, possibly trainings, and over time ways of dealing with different issues that may arise with an applicant.

Dr. Herscu stated that for the next meeting he would like to tackle sub-regulatory issues that would come up with the initial issuance of licenses. Dr. Herscu stated that because the Board staff does not know the history of Naturopathy, there needs to be some discussion about or development of a list that should help Board staff with processing some applications.

Dr. Herscu recalled that there was a robust terminology section at the beginning of the rules and regulations but legal suggested that most of it should be moved to the sub regulatory section. Particularly because it would be harder to change or modify things if it were in the regulatory section. He stated that he would like to discuss how to fill out that terminology section more? Ms. Strachan explained how sub regulatory policies are easier to adjust and adopt because the Board wouldn't have to go through a lengthy process again. She further

stated that there are several different avenues that the Board can take when it comes to deciding on what should be in their sub regulatory section.

4. What to do about continuing with the media campaign for Naturopathy? How to get out the word about the existence of Naturopathic licensure in the Commonwealth? Dr. Herscu stated that he would like to see that back on the agenda and see the documents for that particular topic brought forward for discussion in the next meeting. Mr. Joubert asked that Dr. Herscu email him the wording, in terms of the background or the language they would like to see with respect to the media campaign, and what that should look like? Mr. Joubert further stated that this would add value to larger discussions with senior leaders, as it would have in-depth background information to share with them.

V. Adjournment

There being no other business before the Board, at 1:50PM Dr. Hardy moved to adjourn the May 24, 2022 meeting, which Ms. Bain seconded. The vote carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Paul Herscu: aye; Anne Frances Hardy: aye; Mattia Migliore: aye; Christina Bain: aye. Absent: None. Abstained: None; Opposed: None; Recused: None.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration in Naturopathy is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

The Board of Registration in Naturopathy