

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NATUROPATHY
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Thursday, September 26, 2024
VIA WebEx
10:00 AM

GENERAL SESSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
(Open Session)

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

Board Members Not Present: Dr. 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
Gillian Coffey, Health Communications Manager, BHPL, DPH
Mark Waksmonski, SARP Coordinator, BHPL, DPH
Edmund Taglieri, PSUD Supervisor, BHPL, DPH
Sophia Emidy, Regulatory Affairs Intern, BHPL, DPH
Tracy Tam, Assistant Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Kayla Mikalauski, Management Analyst II, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Alex Datalo, Program Coordinator, Multi-Boards, BHPL

I. Call to Order

At 10:07 AM Dr. Paul Herscu, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order. Dr. Herscu reminded board members the meeting was being recorded and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

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

II. Approval of Agenda

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Herscu asked board members to review the September 26, 2024, Regular Session Agenda

and make a motion to approve when ready. Board members were asked to disclose any recusals with the agenda. No recusals were noted.

ACTION:

Dr. Anne Frances Hardy made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Dr. Mattia Migliore. The vote was carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:
Dr. Paul Herscu: yes; Dr. Anne Frances Hardy: yes; Dr. Mattia Migliore: yes; Christina Bain: yes.
Absent: Dr. Darshan Mehta

Document: September 26, 2024, Regular Session Agenda

III. **Approval of Minutes**

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Herscu asked board members to review the July 30, 2024, Regular Session Minutes and make a motion to approve when ready.

ACTION:

Dr. Mattia Migliore made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Dr. Anne Frances Hardy. The vote was carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Dr. Paul Herscu: yes; Dr. Anne Frances Hardy: yes; Dr. Mattia Migliore: yes; Christina Bain: yes.
Absent: Dr. Darshan Mehta

Document: July 30, 2024, Regular Session Minutes

IV. **Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program Discussion**

DISCUSSION

Ms. Gillian Coffey, Health Communications Manager, provided a presentation on the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) as follows:

In Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022 - An Act Addressing Barriers to Care for Mental Health, comprehensive legislation continuing the process of reforming the way mental health care is delivered in Massachusetts, ensuring that people get the mental health care they need when and where they need it. Within the legislation URAMP is established as a voluntary program for monitoring the rehabilitation of licensed health care professionals who seek support for their mental health or substance use or who are referred to the program by a licensing board. The legislation establishes three key components to the service: the Advisory Committee, Rehabilitation Evaluation Committee (REC), and the URAMP Operational Team.

The primary goal is to promote patient safety while respecting a licensee's condition. This is a monitoring program with a focus on public protection, it will remain confidential (unlike disciplinary proceedings), and allows disciplinary proceedings to be dismissed without prejudice when the incident(s) are found to be a direct result of the licensee's substance use disorder (SUD) or Mental Health Disorder (MHD), and the licensee successfully is admitted to URAMP. Upon admission of a licensed health care professional into the program, the licensing board may dismiss any pending investigation or complaint against the participant that arises from or relates to the participant's mental health or substance use. The licensing board may change the participant's publicly available license status to reflect the existence of non-disciplinary restrictions or conditions.

In Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022, a board of registration that is required to establish a similar rehabilitation program by another requirement of this chapter shall fulfill that requirement by formally adopting the program in lieu of establishing its own. The Bureau has two existing alternative-to-discipline programs: the Pharmacy Substance Use Disorder (PSUD) Program and the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP). They are both successful programs designed specifically for their professions. URAMP unites the current SARP and PSUD programs but also expands the scope to be available to licensees under all 21 boards, to increase the scope of admissions, and to ensure the confidential monitoring program will help licensees practice safely. Over time, because of these factors, the alternative to discipline caseloads are forecasted to at least double.

The URAMP Advisory Committee will assist the department in the development and implementation of the program. The Rehabilitation Evaluation Committee (REC) consists of members with a knowledge base in mental health and substance use disorder. The REC will review admissions and make recommendations for individualized plans; review and approve gradual return of practice, return of privileges and successful graduation for successful progression in program; review and approve plans for participants that have non-successful compliance; and review and approve non-successful discharge and license surrender for repeated non-successful progression. URAMP staff will manage in-program administrative matters pursuant to Bureau policies and the URAMP staff action policy. REC and URAMP staff lead the program for BHPL, allowing licensing Boards to focus on their core mission. Any changes to a restriction or condition shall be subject to the approval of the participant's licensing board to review and approve de-identified reports upon successful program completion. URAMP is expected to launch by the end of the year.

Dr. Herscu asked what the expected number of URAMP caseloads will be, with specificity to the Board of Registration in Naturopathy, which consists of under 100 members. Mr. Taglieri answered that PSUD and SARP currently consist of 80 caseloads,

and they anticipate the volume to double with the inclusion of all 21 boards. Mr. Taglieri stated each board can anticipate between 3-4 caseloads and the Naturopathy board can anticipate 1 URAMP caseload.

Dr. Hardy asked if participants of these programs acknowledge that there is a problem. Mr. Taglieri answered yes, participants are in acknowledgment.

Dr. Hardy asked if the board will be notified when an individual enters the URAMP program. Mr. Taglieri answered no, the board will not be notified. Mr. Taglieri stated that individuals can self-admit to the URAMP program, or more commonly a complaint is made to the board against an individual. The complaint is reviewed by board staff and the investigator to determine if it is a case of substance use disorder or mental health disorder. The case would then be referred to URAMP. URAMP would then work with the individual to ensure they are accepting of their condition and are ready to work toward recovery. Mr. Taglieri stated URAMP also requires a mental health evaluation to be conducted by a therapist to substantiate a diagnosis and affirm that the individual is ready for recovery, prior to admitting them into the program. Mr. Taglieri goes on to state that once admitted to the program, the case against the individual will be dismissed without prejudice and therefore not brought to the board's attention. Mr. Taglieri stated that the board will be notified upon an individual's successful completion at the 3-5-year mark or if the individual chooses to withdraw from the program or is noncompliant and needs to be terminated. At which time the case against the individual would be reactivated and presented to the board for disciplinary action.

Mr. Edmund Taglieri, PSUD Supervisor, explained that URAMP staff are authorized to modify/ease a participant's program requirements for return to practice and compliance monitoring. Mr. Taglieri presented a chart detailing the return to practice conditions.

Mr. Mark Waksmonski, SARP Coordinator, presented return to practice condition examples in the SARP program.

Dr. Hardy asked if the therapists are part of the program or an individual's personal therapist. Mr. Taglieri answered that they are the individual's personal therapists. Mr. Taglieri stated that URAMP has a list of credentials that the therapist is required to have, the URAMP mental health evaluation form is in-depth and URAMP staff ensure the evaluation by the therapist is legitimate.

Dr. Hardy asked if this program is predominantly for substance use disorder or if it includes healthcare providers with mental health conditions. Mr. Taglieri answered that the mental health component is new to the program. Mr. Taglieri stated that URAMP staff use the mental health evaluations in combination with the Rehabilitation Evaluation

Committee's mental health driven specialties to help determine if the mental health referral is a good fit for the URAMP program and what the best course of action is for these individuals.

Ms. Bain asked how this would present in the profession of Naturopathy as controlled substances are not prescribed and there is no involvement with pharmaceuticals. Mr. Taglieri answered that typically the avenue of referral will be with the patient filing a complaint against the practitioner. An example being that the doctor smelled of alcohol or may have seemed impaired while they were providing treatment, and the patient did not feel safe in the exam room. Mr. Taglieri states that another avenue of referral could be practitioner reporting concern for another practitioner, or the practitioner could self-report, however this is rare and counts for very few of the referrals.

Document: URAMP Board Introduction Presentation

V. Flex Session

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Joubert stated that due to the Thanksgiving holiday, a proposed date and time for the next board meeting will be provided. Mr. Joubert asked the board to share topics to be discussed at the next board meeting.

Dr. Herscu stated he was presented with the following question by a colleague to be brought to the board. With the understanding that prescription marijuana in any form falls outside the scope of practice, are Naturopathy doctors permitted to provide patients with advice on recreational, non-prescription therapeutic cannabis use.

Mr. Joubert acknowledged Dr. Herscu's topic and will add it to the next meeting agenda.

VI. Adjournment

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

Absent: Darshan Mehta

Let the records show the meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration in Naturopathy is scheduled for to be determined via WebEx.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Board of Registration in Naturopathy