

SC BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS ACUPUNCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 16, 2019

Committee Meeting Minutes

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building Room 202-03

110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Leslie Jafarace, Chairman of the Acupuncture Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:11 P.M. on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina. A quorum was present, and the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act by notice mailed to The State Newspaper, Associated Press, and all other requesting persons, organizations, or news media. In addition, notice was posted on the bulletin boards located at both main entrances of the Kingstree Building where the Board office is located.

Committee members present were Ms. Leslie Jafarace and, via telephone, Dr. James Hogg, Dr Emily Darr, and Mr. N. David Durant.

Staff participating in this meeting were Sheridan Spoon, Board Administrator; Adam Russell, Advice Counsel; and Debra Wade, Program Coordinator I, and Vanessa Oliver, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. John Howard, L.Ac, of Bethesda, Maryland, Auricular Therapy Instructor was present via telephone to offer information concerning the auricular therapy certification agenda item.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on May 13, 2019 were reviewed and approved by the Acupuncture Committee and the Medical Board at the August 2019 meeting.

NCCAOM

Ms. Jafarace stated that an issue emerged in California with the certification of the NCCAOM. The South Carolina statute states that an applicant has to have a NCCAOM certification to perform Acupuncture. California does not recognize the NCCAOM certification. She stated that California has their own board that it is similar to the NCCAOM. "Route 8" is a reciprocal system in California that allows an Acupuncturist with a license in California in good standing prior to or on January 31, 2019, to seek NCCAOM licensure without additional testing. This system will stay active until December 31, 2020. Route 8 would grant reciprocity with the California board and certify the applicant and they would have to continue to pay NCCAOM for certification. Mr. Spoon stated that the board will be aware of this and will let applicants know of the system. Mr. Russell advised that any applicants after December 31, 2020 deadline could only be licensed if the practice act were legislatively amended.

APPROVED CERTIFICATION COURSES FOR AURICULAR THERAPIST

Mr. John Howard, licensed acupuncturist and continuing education instructor, suggested the (ATI) Auricular Therapy Institute course created by Terry Olson, as approved training courses for Auricular Therapist. The course has a two-part written and practical exam. The applicant must submit 20-30 cases during the year. Mr. Howard stated that if you are not an Acupuncturist or a Medical Physician then the Auricular Therapist cannot use needles for this course but if taken and exams are passed an Auricular Therapist can see patients with non-invasive techniques. Mr. Howard's suggested requirements for continuing education is 55 hours, along with a practical and written exam. Mr. Howard will provide the board office with a list of courses and hours for continuing education to be presented to the Board of Medical Examiners at the November 2019 meeting.

CHAIR REPORT

The Department of Health and Human Services has issued a request for comments on the issue of whether to provide coverage for acupuncture under Medicare, with a final decision to be made in October of this year. The Committee and the Medical Board do not generally regulate matters involving billing or third-party payors. This issue is provided only as information to licensees. Any proposed action by Department of Health and Human Services will not affect a licensee's obligations under the Acupuncture Act of South Carolina.

Ms. Jafarace requested that the next Acupuncture meeting be moved to Monday, April 20, 2020. Motion made by Ms. Jafarace, all in favor, motion carried.

All remaining meetings will be changed to Mondays for the years 2020-2021.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Spoon reminded the members that Acupuncture license renewal deadline is September 30, 2019.

Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 2:03 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2020 at 1:00 pm in Room 202-03.

Respectfully submitted:

Vanessa C. Oliver, Administrative Assistant