



Washington State Department of Health
Board of Naturopathy
Business Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2023

On Friday, May 12, 2023, the Board of Naturopathy held a board meeting via Webinar. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were sent to individuals requesting notification of meetings.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair
Krystal Richardson, ND, Vice Chair
Amira Ahdut, ND, LAc
Brooke Fotheringham, Public Member
Elias Kass, ND
Joanne Hillary, ND
Vacant, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Lana Crawford, Program Manager
Harold Wright Jr., Executive Director (absent)
Davis Hylkema, Program Associate
Joan Simmons, Administrative Assistant
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General
Bill Kellington, Supervising Staff Attorney
Heather Cantrell, Policy Analyst

GUESTS:

Adam Geiger
Alex Tan
Alexis McKeown
Allison Apfelbaum
Angela Ross
Angela Tombarge
Billie Dickinson
Carey Morris
David Deichert
Derek Simpson
Elizabeth Schnippel
Erin Sweet
Heidi Codino
Heidi Ochsner
Hoan Chung
Jamie Doughty

Jamie Doughty
Jana Nalbandian
Jeb Shepard
Jen Blasi
Karen Appel
Kasra Pournadeali
Kathryn Carlson
Katie Shaff
Kim Iller
Kristi Zimmer
Kristina Conner
Laura Farr
Laura Galati
Lauren Gresham
Les Witherspoon
Lily Stokely
Lisa Price

Mandy Gulla
Marissa Boyd
Marlon Basco
Mary Koehnke
Michelle Brown-Echerd
Paul Anderson
Randall Carpio
Shannon Hirst
Stacie Wells
Stella Kondilis
Summer Beattie
susan mueller
Teresa Richter
Travis Thurston
Vivian Sovran

OPEN SESSION

1. **Call to Order/Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m.

1.1 Introduction of board, staff, and audience.

Dr. Chad Aschtgen, Chair, led roll call of board members and staff. He then offered an introductory statement explaining the procedure of the remote meeting and instructions for the public comment period. Mr. Davis led roll call for members of the public.

1.2 Approval of agenda

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the May 12, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.3 Approval of February 10, 2023 business meeting minutes

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the February 10, 2023 business minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. **Open Public Comment – DISCUSSION – Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair**

Members of the public were welcomed to introduce themselves and share comments not related to an agenda item at this time.

No comments were offered.

3. **Old Business—DISCUSSION/ACTION—Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair**

3.1 Rule Project Updates

The board was updated on rule projects currently in progress.

3.1.1 Non-surgical cosmetic procedures

The board reviewed a recommendation from the rule committee regarding the nonsurgical cosmetic procedure project.

Dr. Ahdut reported the CR-102 is still in review for approval.

MOTION: A motion was made to hold a special meeting to address the nonsurgical cosmetic procedures rules before the August meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

3.1.2 CE/HE [WAC 246-836-080](#) – continuing education

The board received a report from the rule committee regarding the continuing education project.

Dr. Richardson reported the subcommittee's goal was to discuss changes to the rules for continuing education. She noted that a special meeting needs to be held prior to July 5, 2023, if the board does not come to a conclusion or vote on these rules at today's meeting. She shared the proposed rules language to the board and provided a summary of the public subcommittee meeting.

After some discussion the board invited public comment. Many comments were received which the board took into consideration in further discussion.

MOTION: A motion was made to hold a special meeting before July 5, 2023. The motion was seconded. After further discussion the motion was **withdrawn**.

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the amendments the board has reviewed and discussed on page 1 through page 5 stopping before subsection (5), then starting and approving pages 9 through 12. The motion was seconded and **passed**. (See minutes addendum for final approved language.)

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the changes as they are delineated on the document the board is reviewing today, specifically in category 1 and category 2. The motion was seconded and after discussion the motion was amended.

AMENDED MOTION: A motion was made for the movement of the language “(E)The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and its recognized accreditors (F) The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC); or (G) The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).” into category 1 under the listed entities for accepted continuing education. The motion was seconded. With a tied vote of vote of 3-3 the motion did not pass. (In favor: Drs. Richardson, Kass, and Ms. Fotheringham. Opposed: Dr. Aschtgen, Ahdut, and Hillary)

MOTION: A motion was made to hold a special meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 5-1. (Abstained: Dr. Aschtgen)

Ms. Cantrell informed the board that due to the deadlines, by having the special meetings the board will likely need additional special meetings to approve language and hold a rule hearing in order to complete draft language in time for the health equity piece.

3.2 2023 Legislative Session

3.2.1 2023 Legislative Update Calls

The Board received a report on the weekly legislation update calls.

Mr. Kellington shared there were bills that moved forward that relate to all professions and provided some examples. He will provide a list for Ms. Crawford to prepare for the August meeting.

Ms. Crawford shared [SB 5411 Naturopathic Scope](#) and [SB 5481 Uniform Telehealth Act](#) did not pass and [HB 1547 Out-of-state providers](#) passed house and is now in Senate.

3.2.2 DEA Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act & You

Dr. Aschtgen provided an overview of the new training requirement to gain or renew a DEA license to prescribe controlled substances.

3.3 Colon Hydrotherapy Affiliation Agreement

Inquiry follow-up from the February 10, 2023, meeting regarding the language in the affiliate agreement between a Colon Hydrotherapist and a Naturopathic Physician.

Mr. Eaton provided an overview and answered questions from the board.

The board opened the floor for public comment. Comments shared included:

- Dr. Angela Ross, Executive Director of Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians (WANP), commented that making sure the RCW did not include an undue amount of responsibility and liability on behalf of the affiliated naturopathic physicians was a major priority for WANP to protect their doctors as well as colon hydrotherapists. She also thanked Mr. Eaton for his legal analysis on the document.
- Dr. Jamie Doughty echoed Dr. Ross' statements. She shared appreciation of Mr. Eaton's input that potentially some language mistakenly got onto the agreement, which caused questions and concerns with colleagues in the profession and feels comfortable providing the affiliate relationship for various therapists across the state.
- Dr. Kristi Zimmer stated she agrees with Drs. Doughty & Ross. She shared this has been a barrier for several colon hydrotherapists attempting to achieve affiliation and is looking forward to the removal of the language.

MOTION: A motion was made to remove the word "responsibility" and the section reading "The naturopathic physician and colon hydrotherapist are equally responsible for any act performed by the colon hydrotherapist as it relates to the practice of colon hydrotherapy." The motion was seconded and passed.

3.4 Scope of Practice Questions

Follow up discussion from the February 10, 2023, meeting addressing the scope of practice questions.

Mr. Eaton provided an explanation and recommended that the board consider a policy regarding scope of practice questions. Drs. Ahdut & Richardson will work with Mr. Eaton to draft a policy to share at the next board meeting.

4. **New Business—DISCUSSION/ACTION—Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair**

4.1 Election of Officers

The board elected officers to the following positions: Chair and Vice Chair.

Dr. Aschtgen nominated Dr. Richardson to the position of board chair.

Dr. Richardson nominated Dr. Hillary to the position of board vice chair.

MOTION: A motion was made to elect Dr. Krystal Richardson to the position of chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: A motion was made to elect Dr. Joanne Hillary to the position of vice chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed.

4.2 Future 2023 Meeting Locations

The OPMA proclamation expired, therefore a physical location is required in case the public wants to attend in person. The board discussed where they want to hold their remaining 2023 meetings.

MOTION: A motion was made to hold a hybrid meeting for August in the Tumwater/Olympia area and the hybrid November meeting to held at Bastyr University. The motion was seconded and passed.

4.3 Correspondence/Inquiries

The board reviewed and discussed any correspondence received since the last meeting.

4.3.1 Reproductive health care in naturopathic practice.

The board re-visited an inquiry from the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) regarding the Board's opinion around vasectomy and naturopathic scope of practice.

Dr. Richardson and Mr. Eaton provided a summary of this topic.

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the response from the board to the inquiry. The motion was seconded and passed 5 to 1. (*Kass abstained*)

5. **Program Reports—DISCUSSION—Harold Wright, Jr., Executive Director; Lana Crawford, Program Manager; Luke Eaton, AAG Adviser**

Ms. Crawford provided updates regarding department issues and issues specific to the naturopathic physician profession, such as:

5.1 Budget report

Ms. Crawford shared the budget with the board as of March 31, 2023 and reported the fund balance is still in an upward trend. The beginning fund balance was \$1,041,287 and the ending balance was \$1,437,386. A fee reduction could possibly to go into effect either in the fall of 2024 or spring of 2025.

5.2 Statistics reports

Ms. Crawford shared there are 1624 total active licenses and 14 active colon hydrotherapists certifications.

5.3 Continuing education audit report

None.

5.4 Recruitment report

Ms. Crawford informed the board the packet for the public member position was submitted to the governor's office and April and is awaiting appointment. Eleven applications were received for the professional positions and interviews will be held in the weeks to come.

6. **Future Business—Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair**

The board discussed agenda items identified or suggested for future meetings.

- 6.1 Follow-up regarding stem cell harvesting through liposuction and bone marrow aspiration. At the November 20, 2021, meeting, the board requested a formal Attorney General opinion regarding this topic. As the process for a formal opinion is rather lengthy, the board intends to keep this item under “future items” until such time as an update is available.
None.

7. **Settlement Presentations—Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair**
None.

8. **Adjournment of public meeting**
The public portion of the meeting adjourned by approved motion at 1:47 P.M.

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn the public meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

9. **Discipline and Licensing**
There were no disciplinary items to be discussed.