

ADVISORY BOARD ON ACUPUNCTURE MINUTES

Wednesday, November 30, 2005, 9:00 a.m.
6603 West Broad Street
Board Room 4, 5th Floor
Richmond, Virginia

The Advisory Board on Acupuncture met on Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions. Jody Forman, Chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum was declared.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jody Forman, MSW, L.Ac., Chair
Betsy Brooks Carr
Marie M. Stephenson, L.Ac.
Elaine Komarow, L.Ac.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert K. Su, M.D.

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Ola Powers, Deputy Executive Director-Licensing
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Regulatory Analyst
Pamela Y. Smith, Recording Secretary

GUEST PRESENT: Ann Furnis, ASVA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED APRIL 6, 2005

Ms. Stephenson moved to approve the minutes dated, April 6, 2005. The motion was seconded and carried.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Marie Stephenson moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of item 0, Regulation report and HB 455 update. The motion was seconded and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments

Dr. Harp introduced Elaine Komarow as the most recent member of the Board, replacing Young Chin Yi, L.Ac.

#0. Regulations

Ms. Yeatts presented a regulatory chart for the Board's information. She explained the possibility of a fee increase, mentioned the new regulations on Standards of Professional Conduct, and announced the regulation of licensed midwives in December 2005.

Ms. Yeatts also informed the Board that the definition of "Medical Nutrition Therapy" in HB #455 should not affect licensed acupuncturists.

#1. Election of Officers:

Ms. Stephenson moved to elect Jody Forman as Chair. The motion was seconded and carried. Ms. Stephenson moved to elect Ms. Carr as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded and carried.

#2. Executive Order 97 Revised Temporary Licenses

Dr. Harp explained the Executive Order to grant temporary licenses to individuals displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He stated that the license would be good for one year and issued as promptly as possible.

#3. Licensee Lists

Ms. Forman requested that the Board give one free copy of the current list of acupuncturists each year. She noted that this list is needed for networking and meetings. Dr. Harp explained that at this time the Department is under contract with VIPNET to provide lists.

#4. Insurance Issues and Acupuncture

Ms. Forman raised the issue as to whether or not it's within regulations for doctors who are qualified to practice acupuncture to tell their patients that their insurance will cover bills for treatment for acupuncture. Dr. Harp noted that the Board would need proof of this accusation and how the bill was presented to the insurance company, in order for the Board to say whether or not the practice was against regulations.

#5. Newsletter

Dr. Harp related that all seven advisory boards should have their own newsletter in order to better communicate with licensees. All licensees would be informed about the newsletter with a postcard. Dr. Harp also said that he hoped to have the first draft of this newsletter by the 8th of February 2006 at the next meeting. All newsworthy items need to be submitted to Pam Smith for collection.

#6. Website

Dr. Harp asked the Board members to review the online frequently asked questions, update or revise, and submit to Ola Powers. Ms. Komarow asked that question #6 be enhanced to include that licensees are responsible for reading and understanding regulations and other Board communications.

Announcements

Next scheduled meeting: February 8, 2006

Adjournment

Ms. Komarow moved to adjourn the meeting of the Advisory Board on Acupuncture. The motion was seconded and carried.