



Washington State Department of Health  
Board of Naturopathy  
Meeting Minutes

**August 13, 2021**

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On Friday, August 13, 2021, 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**

Amira Ahdut, ND, LAc, Vice Chair  
Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair  
Joanne Hillary, ND  
Marsha Moody, Public Member  
Dr. Dean Neary, ND  
Deborah Wright, Public Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Susan Gragg, Program Manager  
Renee Fullerton, Executive Director  
Davis Hylkema, Program Associate  
Michelle Hartman, Administrative Assistant  
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General  
Heather Cantrell, Policy Analyst

**OTHER STAFF PRESENT:**

Carly Bartz-Overman, Drug Systems  
Director

**GUESTS:**

Summer Beattie  
Brian Carrell  
Linda Dagenais  
Kimberly Free  
Kathie Golden  
Rachelle McCarty  
Tammy McInnis  
Traci Pantuso  
Aliana Rosa  
Angela Ross  
Chrysalis Sabatinos

Trina Seligman  
Lorinda Sorensen  
Juleah Tabak  
Alex Tan  
Nina Walsh  
Shelby Wiedmann  
Lilly Ying  
Amy Melsness

**OPEN SESSION**

1. **Call to Order/Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M.

1.1 Introduction of board, staff, guests, 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.

1.2 Approval of August 13, 2021, agenda

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the August 13, 2021 agenda with amendments to correct the date in item 2.4 and correct a spelling error in 3.5.2.1. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.3 Approval of May 14, 2021 business meeting minutes

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the May 14, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. **Old Business**

2.1 Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)

Ms. Carly Bartz-Overman, Drug Systems Director, provided a presentation to the board on the Prescription Monitoring Program.

2.2 Rule Project Updates

2.2.1 Non-surgical cosmetic procedures

Ms. Fullerton and Dr. Ahdut advised the board they are working on gathering information on what will be required for training. Efforts are being made on best approaches to facilitate stakeholder engagement. This will include looking at the previous rule language to determine what adjustments should be made regarding patient safety. It is anticipated that another rule workshop will be scheduled with the date to be determined based on work needing priority such as implementation of the colon hydrotherapy profession that has a legislative deadline.

2.2.2 WAC 246-836-080 – Continuing education rules

Ms. Gragg advised the board that the CR 101 was submitted but was returned for further clarification by the office of Secretary. Ms. Gragg will resubmit the CR 101. Once approved and filed with the Office of the Code Reviser, she will schedule workshops. She asked the board if they would form a committee to facilitate the workshops. Drs. Aschtgen and Neary volunteered.

2.3 Colon Hydrotherapy implementation

The board received an update on the implementation of Senate Bill 5124 that created the colon hydrotherapist profession under the board's authority.

Ms. Gragg shared that the CR 101 has been filed and the first workshop is scheduled for August 20, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., which will be held virtually by webinar. Notification was sent through the board's GovDelivery bulk email service.

Ms. Gragg also shared that the profession webpage has been crafted and is on the Department of Health's website.

2.4 Inquiry follow-up from May 14, 2021, meeting

Mr. Eaton shared that he was not able to meet with Dr. Cope prior to her departure from the board on the inquiry regarding a practitioner renewing a patient's prescription on behalf of a colleague. He asked for another member to step in to assist him in this topic that will then be brought back to the board at their next business meeting.

3. **New Business**

3.1 COVID-19 Impact Follow-up

Ms. Gragg shared that Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 21-14 that requires all health care professionals and state employees to become fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021. Information on compliance, to include potential exemptions, will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

3.2 2021 Legislative Session

Ms. Gragg provided an update on Senate Bill 5229 that requires health equity continuing education or continuing medical education (CE/CME) for those health care professions required to complete CE/CME. The Department of Health is required to create model rules by January 1, 2023, and the boards and commissions to adopt substantially similar rules by January 1, 2024. The department is requesting interested boards and commissions to identify a member volunteer to assist in the data gathering for those model rules. No member expressed interest in volunteering so staff will keep the board informed on the progress of the workgroup.

3.3 2022 Meeting Dates

The Board set their 2022 business meeting dates.

**MOTION:** A motion was made to accept the following business meeting dates for the 2022 calendar year:

- February 11
- May 13
- August 12
- November 18

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3.4 Election of officers

The board held their annual election for the following positions: chairperson and vice chairperson.

**MOTION:** A motion was made to re-elect both Dr. Aschtgen as chair and Dr. Ahdut as vice chair. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

### 3.5 Correspondence/Inquiries

The board reviewed the correspondences received since the last meeting.

- 3.5.1 The board received a request to consider creating a retired active licensure status at a reduced fee (per RCW 18.130.250).

The board requested staff to gather additional information on other states and other professions regarding such a license status. This information will be brought to the board's next business meeting for further discussion.

- 3.5.2 Request regarding stem cell harvesting through:

3.5.2.1 Liposuction

3.5.2.2 Bone marrow aspiration

The board discussed the inquiries and asked Mr. Eaton and staff to request additional clarification from the inquirer, as well as gather additional information and research on the two procedures identified. The additional information and clarification received will be brought back to the board at their next business meeting for further discussion.

- 3.5.3 Request for extension of timeframe to sit for NPLEX Part II examination

Ms. Gragg shared that the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE) Naturopathic Physician Licensing Examination (NPLEX) has a policy that naturopathic physicians must complete the series of examinations within 5 years of having graduated. Individuals who are unable to complete the examinations in that timeframe must be sponsored by a regulatory entity (board) to be allowed to sit for the needed exam(s). Such sponsorship does not obligate the board to issue a license, it merely allows the individual to sit for the exam(s).

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the letter as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

## 4. Program Reports

- 4.1 Budget report

Ms. Gragg shared the budget status report as of June 30, 2021. She reported that the Department of Health may be conducting a fee study in 2022 to determine action for a possible fee reduction, given the upward trend of the board's projected fund balance.

- 4.2 Statistics reports

The Credential Count report as of July 31, 2021, shows 1577 active licensees. The Current Active Cases report shows thirty-six total active cases: ten, under investigation, two, in adjudication, twelve, pending service, and ten under RBM/legal review.

- 4.3 Continuing education audit report

There was nothing new to report.

4.4 Recruitment report

Ms. Gragg reported that the recruitment packet for Deborah Wright's and Marsha Moody's public member positions are currently with the Governor's office for appointment. Dr. Hillary is eligible for reappointment and has submitted her application to the Governor. Ms. Gragg will begin recruiting for Dr. Cope's position.

4.5 Other reports

4.5.1 HELMS

Ms. Fullerton provided an update on the implementation of the HELMS project due to the recent changes to cost and timeline. The project go live date is moving out to February 2023 as opposed to June 2022. There is a need to request approximately \$6.5 million in additional spending authority. There is currently no reduction in scope.

4.5.2 Payroll

Ms. Gragg discussed the payroll process and asked the board for their input on the new payroll forms presented.

5. **Open Forum**

The purpose of the open forum is to provide the public an opportunity to address the board on issues of significance to or affecting the practice of Naturopathy and that are not related to topics for which a rules hearing was or will be scheduled.

There were no comments or questions.

6. **Future Business**

- Discussion on request to consider creating a retired active licensure status at a reduced fee (per RCW 18.130.250).
- Information requested regarding stem cell harvesting through: Liposuction & Bone marrow aspiration
- Discussion inquiry regarding a practitioner renewing a patient's prescription on behalf of a colleague.
- Rules Project Updates

7. **Settlement Presentations.**

There were no settlement presentations to review.

9. **Adjournment of public meeting**

The meeting adjourned by approved motion at 11:05 A.M.

10. **Discipline and Licensing**

The board attended to licensing and disciplinary matters.

**Next Meeting:**

Date: November 19, 2021  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Location: TBD