



Washington State Department of Health
Board of Naturopathy
Special Meeting Minutes
Rules Adoption Hearing

April 8, 2022

On Friday, April 8, 2022, the Board of Naturopathy held a special 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

STAFF PRESENT:

Susan Gragg, Program Manager
Renee Fullerton, Executive Director
Davis Hylkema, Program Associate
Joan Simmons, Administrative Assistant
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General
Heather Cantrell, Policy Analyst
Tami Thompson, Regulatory Affairs
Manager, DOH

GUESTS:

Jamie Doughty, ND
Henriette (Heidi) Ochsner
Angela Ross, ND
Tim Zimmer
Kristi Zimmer
Nedra Goedert

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.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 and instructions for the public comment period.

Mr. Hylkema led the introduction of public members.

1.2 Approval of April 8, 2022, agenda

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the April 8, 2022 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. **New Business**

WSR # 22-06-025 – Colon Hydrotherapists

The board considered public comments and possible adoption of proposed rules to implement Senate Bill 5124 (Laws of 2021) that created the colon hydrotherapist professions.

Ms. Gragg provided the board with a presentation on several items which included rule making overview, current position of this rule in the process, colon hydrotherapy implementation rules, fee rules, as well as comments and feedback received from the Washington Association of Colon Hydrotherapy (WAACH). No comments were received on the DOH website.

There were no testimonies from the public. The public hearing concluded at 1:36 PM.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the following changes to the proposed rules at the hearing (added language in blue and underlined):

- A. WAC 246-836-300(2): “A naturopathic physician who has a registered affiliation relationship with a colon hydrotherapist and desires to terminate such relationship must provide a minimum of 60 days' notice to the colon hydrotherapist prior to submitting documentation to the board rescinding that relationship. If a colon hydrotherapist employee or naturopathic physician employee within a practice is terminated from employment, then any affiliation relationship with that terminated employee is immediately suspended and rescission is effective once documentation is submitted to the board.”

Rationale: The board determined to include the added phrase and the additional sentence for clarity purposes regarding when notification of affiliation terminated occurs.

- B. Concerning accepting national certification, registration, or other credentials as qualifying for the issuance of a Washington colon hydrotherapy certification.
- WAC 246-836A-020(5): “A colon hydrotherapist who is currently certified, registered, or has otherwise been credentialed by GFACT, I-ACT, or NBCHT is considered to have met the education and training requirements in this section.”

Rationale: The board determined that the colon hydrotherapy procedure has not changed substantially over the past few decades and individuals who have demonstrated sufficient proficiency by obtaining national credentials shall qualify to apply for the certification in this state.

- WAC 246-836A-030(3): “A colon hydrotherapist who is currently certified, registered, or has otherwise been credentialed by GFACT, I-ACT, or NBCHT is considered to have met the examination requirement in this section.”

Rationale: The board determined that the colon hydrotherapy procedure has not changed substantially over the past few decades and individuals who have demonstrated sufficient proficiency by obtaining national credentials shall qualify to apply for the certification in this state.

- C. WAC 246-836A-050(2): “A colon hydrotherapist who has a registered affiliation relationship with a naturopathic physician and desires to terminate such relationship must provide a minimum of 60 days' notice to that naturopathic physician prior to submitting documentation to the board rescinding that relationship. [If a colon hydrotherapist employee or naturopathic physician employee within a practice is terminated from employment, then any affiliation relationship with that terminated employee is immediately suspended and rescission is effective once documentation is submitted to the board.](#)”

Rationale: The board determined to include the additional sentence for clarity purposes regarding when notification of affiliation terminated occurs, as well as for consistency with the rule language changes made in WAC 246-836-300(2).

Remaining public opposition to the rules as adopted has been mitigated by discussion with the board at the adoption hearing that should there be problems following final implementation of these rules with the issues identified below, the board may initiate additional rulemaking to address such difficulties:

- a. The number of available supervising naturopathic physicians providing oversight for training programs;
- b. The number of naturopathic physicians available to enter into affiliation relationships with colon hydrotherapists; and
- c. Colon hydrotherapists needing more than two training programs to obtain appropriate training.

Ms. Fullerton informed the board Marsha Moody's term has ended with this being the last meeting as a board member. Ms. Fullerton and the board thanked Ms. Moody for her dedication and hard work as she served on the board.

3. **Adjournment of public meeting**

The meeting adjourned by approved motion at 2:32 P.M.