



Washington State Department of Health  
Board of Naturopathy  
Business Meeting Minutes

**May 13, 2022**

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On Friday, May 13, 2022, 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  
Brooke Fotheringham, Public Member  
Dr. Dean Neary, ND  
Krystal Richardson, ND

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Susan Gragg, Program Manager  
Renee Fullerton, Executive Director  
Joan Simmons, Administrative Assistant  
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General  
Heather Cantrell, Policy Analyst  
Bill Kellington, Supervising Staff Attorney

**GUESTS:**

Amy Brackenbury	Jennifer November	Ose Okojie
Angela Ross, ND	Juleah Tabak	Rachelle McCarty
Audra Mehan Vaccarella	Laura Farr	Shannon Hirst
Billie Dickinson	Les Witherspoon, ND	Shelby Weidmann
Brandy Ross	Leslie Emerick	Tammy Mills
Chrysalis Sabatinos	Lidia Wiersum	Teresa Evans
Deborah Gleisner	Lisa Chavex	Teresa Neff
Elias Kass	Lorinda Sorensen	Traci Pantuso
Elizabeth Holmes	Marissa Boyd	Victoria Lofdahl
Jennifer Meyn	Melissa Johnson	

**OPEN SESSION**

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 8:33A.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.

1.2 Approval of May 13, 2022 agenda

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the May 13, 2022 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.3 Approval of February 11, 2022 business meeting minutes

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the February 11, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.4 Approval of April 8, 2022 special meeting minutes

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the April 8, 2022 special meeting minutes with the correction to edit the agenda date under 1.2 from February 11, 2022 to April 8, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. **Continuing Education Rule Workshop #2**

The board held another rule workshop to solicit additional input, and discussed previously received input, on potential amendments to the continuing education rules in WAC 246-836-080.

The board discussed several of the options provided by stakeholders and determined to approve the general clarifying updates as presented during the meeting. In addition, several of the significant amendment requests were discussed. The board decided to refer the discussion points back to the rules committee (Drs. Aschtgen and Neary) along with the board's Assistant Attorney General, Luke Eaton. The committee will bring a draft proposal to either a special meeting or to the August 12<sup>th</sup> business meeting, along with a preamble regarding the purpose of category designations, as well as the issues regarding costs and limits inherent with the existing naturopathic organizations' offerings.

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 Colon hydrotherapist implementation

Ms. Gragg updated the board the rules were adopted and filed on May 9<sup>th</sup> and will go into effect July 1, 2022.

3.1.2 Non-surgical cosmetic procedures

Ms. Gragg updated the board that staff and the committee are gathering information and will provide the updates in next meeting.

3.1.3 WAC 246-836-080 – continuing education

Ms. Gragg will craft rules language which could be covered in a future meeting. See agenda item 2.0.

3.2 Nitrous oxide

The board received an inquiry regarding nitrous oxide from the Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists prior to the February 11, 2022 meeting that was deferred to this meeting and the board considered a draft response.

Ms. Gragg shared with the board the drafted response to the inquiry which was collaborated with Mr. Eaton.

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve DOH staff to send the response with minor non-substantive changes as suggested by Mr. Eaton. The motion was seconded and passed.

3.3 Dry Needling

The board received an inquiry regarding dry needling prior to the February 11, 2022 meeting that was deferred to this meeting. The board considered a draft guideline clarifying the use of dry needling in naturopathic practice.

Staff will incorporate the feedback and work with Mr. Eaton to present at the August meeting.

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

4.1 COVID-19 Impact Follow-up

Dr. Aschtgen asked if the state of emergency is still in effect. Ms. Gragg confirmed SOE is still in place until/unless the Governor rescinds this decision. Ms. Fullerton shared meeting space for DOH locations are not yet open, although the board and staff can begin meeting in person in non-DOH facilities.

4.2 2022 Legislative Session

The board was provided a summary report on proposed legislation that may be of interest to the profession.

Ms. Gragg also informed the board of House Bill 1329 that addressed public meetings which ensures public individuals the opportunity to interact with public agencies for decision making process. The benefit of having used virtual meetings, boards and commissions have had an increase in the number of public individuals able to participate in board/commission meetings.

4.3 Senate Bill 5229 (passed in 2021) Health equity continuing education requirement  
The board reviewed the latest draft of the model rules as the Department of Health works to implement Senate Bill 5229 by establishing minimum standards for health equity content in health profession continuing education.

Ms. Gragg informed the board a rule workshop is scheduled for May 23, 2022 where additional input will be provided, and the proposed rule draft may change based on input. Any changes will be shared with the board.

4.4 Correspondence/Inquiries

None.

5. **Program Reports—DISCUSSION—Renee Fullerton, Executive Director; Susan Gragg, Program Manager; Luke Eaton, AAG Adviser**

Ms. Fullerton, Ms. Gragg, and Mr. Eaton provided updates regarding department issues and issues specific to the naturopathic physician profession, such as:

5.1 Budget report

Ms. Gragg shared the budget with the board and expenses are being met. A fee study will be done at the end of the year to look at a possible fee reduction. Overall, the budget looks to be in good shape.

5.2 Statistics reports

Total active licenses = 1625 as of May 1, 2022

Active cases = 66 as of May 2, 2022. 6 are marked for closure, 12 are in assessment, 10 are in investigation, 25 are in RBM/legal review, and 13 are in pending service.

5.3 Continuing education audit report

None.

5.4 Recruitment report

Dr. Aschtgen welcomed two new board members, Dr. Richardson, ND and Ms. Fotheringham, Public Member.

Ms. Gragg informed the board of current recruitment efforts.

6. **Open Forum—DISCUSSION—Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair**

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 naturopathic medicine and that are not related to topics for which a rules hearing was or will be scheduled.

The current board members encouraged the new board members to reach out to DOH staff and attorneys for any question they may have.

Ms. Fullerton shared with the board of her transitioning to new position and thanked the board for their service. The board in turn, shared their gratitude to Ms. Fullerton for her service in the professions.

There were no public comments.

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

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

7.1 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.

7.2 The business plan will be up to date for the August meeting and the status of where we are in the process.

8. **Settlement Presentations—Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair**  
None.
  
9. **Adjournment of public meeting**  
The meeting adjourned by approved motion at 11:41 A.M.