



ACUPUNCTURE AND EASTERN MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 10, 2022

Committee Members Present: Jacob Godwin, AEMP, DAOM
Inderjeet Ramgotra, AEMP, Chair
Yiwen Su, AEMP
Lisa vanHaagen, AEMP, Vice-Chair

Committee Members Absent: Lisa Miller, Public Member

Staff Present: Vicki Brown, Health Services Consultant 4
Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Sandie Pearson, Health Services Consultant 1
Jake Miller, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)
Anthony Partridge, Policy Analyst
Ross Valore, Policy Analyst

Others Present: Leslie Emerick, Public Policy Director,
Washington Acupuncture and Eastern
Medicine Association (WAEMA)
Kristine McGinley

1. CALL TO ORDER

The open session of the business meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Inderjeet Ramgotra, AEMP, Chair.

1.1 Introductions

The committee members and staff were introduced.

1.2 Determination of reasonable safety of holding a public meeting – Trina Crawford, Executive Direction and Jake Miller, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Ms. Crawford shared that HB 1329 amended the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) to require a location for public to attend meetings being held virtually or determine whether the meeting can be held with reasonable safety while under a state of emergency. The department has determined that it is not reasonably safe to meet in person through June 2022. Ms. Crawford also shared that the department no longer has

the Kent facility and that the Tumwater campus facilities are under renovations and will not be until the summer of 2023.

- 1.3 Public Comment – The public had an opportunity to provide comments. Those wanting to comment during this time were asked to limit comments to two minutes. Audience members who wanted to comment were asked to identify themselves and who they represent, when the Chair opened the floor for public comment.

Leslie Emerick, Public Policy Director, Washington Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Association (WAEMA) addressed the committee. She shared that the Board of Naturopathy is in the process of updating their dry needling guidelines. WAEMA has concerns and recently shared those with Ms. Brown and asked that she share with the committee members.

Ms. Emerick shared that Susan Schultz has asked for an updated letter regarding a licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner purchasing/ordering injectable preparations for administration in point injection therapy from a pharmacy wholesaler.

Ms. Emerick reported that migraine treatment had been approved for reimbursement from the Health Care Authority.

Ms. Emerick also shared that the Nursing Commission continues to look at medical acupuncture. They are working on draft language for an advisory opinion regarding this.

- 1.4 Approval of Agenda

The committee members reviewed and discussed the agenda. A motion was made by Lisa vanHaagen to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

- 1.5 Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2022

A motion was made by Lisa vanHaagen to approve the February 11, 2022 webinar meeting minutes as amended. Add under Item 8, Discussion on travel ban through March 15, 2022. The motion was seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the February 11, 2022 webinar meeting minutes as amended.

2. ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL (ESSB) 5229 HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS – HEALTH EQUITY CONTINUING EDUCATION

Ross Valore, Policy Analyst, provided an updated presentation on HE 5229. The bill requires the department to draft model rules for continuing education for health equity. DOH held

four listening sessions and four rules’ workshops to draft the model rules. Mr. Valore went over each slide during the presentation and then discussed the model rules.

3. ACUPUNCTURE AND EASTERN MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2021 – 2023 BUSINESS PLAN

The committee reviewed and discussed the updated 2021 – 2023 business plan. Ms. Brown shared that the business plan was the same as was presented in February. The business plan is a living document and can be edited and updated as the committee sees fit.

4. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT REPORT – Information provided to the committee by the program manager and executive director.

4.1 Interim Operating Budget Report

Ms. Crawford presented an updated budget report to the committee. Revenue continues to exceed expenditures. The positive fund balance continues to increase. This prompted a fee study to determine if a fee reduction is needed. Program staff will continue to monitor and provide updates to the committee.

4.2 Updated credentialing and disciplinary report

Ms. Brown provided an updated licensing and disciplinary statistics report showing the number of licensees as of May 23, 2022. The report listed the following:

CREDENTIAL STATUS	AEMP LICENSURE
Active	1,575
Inactive	47
Revoked	0
Voluntary Surrender	0
Suspended	0
Active with Conditions	0
Active on Probation	1

4.3 Update on rules for Senate Bill (SB) 5018

Ms. Brown shared that the final rules were filed with the Code Reviser on May 23, 2022 and will be effective on July 1, 2022.

4.4 Fee Study

Ms. Crawford presented a verbal overview of the fee study and stated that the final study should come out in the fall. They are looking at July 1, 2023 for the new fees to be effective. She mentioned the department looked back at the fee history and in 2008

the program was in the red and not bringing in enough revenue to cover expenses.

Listed below are the proposed fee ranges:

Applications – currently at \$100 to go to between \$45 to \$60

Renewals – currently at \$196 to go to between \$45 to \$60

Ms. Crawford stated the fees are being lowered to decrease the fund balance significantly in a shorter amount of time. The fees can always be raised later.

4.5 Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission and medical acupuncture – update

Ms. Crawford informed the committee that she has been in contact with the nursing commission on this topic and that they are just in the preliminary stages. There is nothing drafted as of the meeting. After discussion, Mr. Miller agreed to contact the AAG for the commission and he will then prepare an update for the next meeting.

4.6 Other

The committee discussed the next regular meeting scheduled for November 4, 2022 to tentatively be held in Kent. The committee moved to make a determination that due to the declared state of emergency from the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee cannot meet with public in attendance with reasonable safety at its November meeting. The committee will hold a remote meeting only in November. The factors considered were the high levels of transmission on COVID in the community, inability to social distance in available facilities, and the lack of ability to enforce masking and vaccination for the public.

5. CONSENT AGENDA – CORRESPONDENCE

The following item(s) and any additional correspondence received or sent is for the committee's information. If separate discussion is desired on an item, a single motion by a committee member will place the specific item(s) on the regular business agenda. If there is no motion, there will be no discussion.

There was nothing presented for the consent agenda at this time.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Determination of reasonable safety of holding a public meeting
- 2021 – 2023 Business Plan
- Budget report in new format
- Fee Study
- HELMS Update
- Continuing Education
- Health Equity Update – Ashley Bell
- NCQAC and medical acupuncture update

- Board of Naturopathy Guideline on Naturopathic Physicians performing dry needling
- 2023 committee meeting dates
- Formal time to thank Jacob Godwin for his service to the committee

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the webinar meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m. on Friday, June 10, 2022. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2022 as a virtual/webinar meeting. Updated meeting information will be posted to the acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner webpage.

DRAFT