



Board of Naturopathy Business Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2024
8:30 a.m.

On August 9, 2024, the Board of Naturopathy held a hybrid business meeting at Department of Health, 111 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501, Town Center 2, Room 153 with access via Zoom. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were published on the DOH website and through GovDelivery.

Board Members:

Joanne Hillary, ND, Vice Chair
Amira Ahdut, ND, LAC
Chad Aschtgen, ND
Brooke Fotheringham, Public Member
Elias Kass, ND
Vacant, Public Member

Staff:

Rachel Phipps, Program Manager
James Chaney, Executive Director
Alyssa Brazil, Administrative Assistant
Kristi Kniep, Assistant Attorney General
Margaret Pagel, Supervising Staff Attorney
Marlon Basco, Policy Analyst
Ashley May, Budget Analyst

Members/Staff Absent:

Krystal Richardson, ND, Chair
Luke Eaton, AAG
Jonathan Chamrad, Program Assistant

Guest Presenters:

Rebecca Mitchell, FNMRA

Public Attendees:

Angela Ross
Kasra Pournadeali
Kristina Conner
Erin Sweet
Carey Morris

Open Session

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Dr. Joanne Hillary, ND, Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Washington State Board of Naturopathy to order at 8:34 a.m. on August 8, 2024.

1.1 Introductions

Dr. Joanne Hillary, ND, Vice Chair, led roll call of board members, staff, and guests. She then offered an introductory statement explaining the procedure for remote attendance and instructions for public comments.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

AMENDMENT: Correction for the name Alyssa and Ashley in the staff section.

AMENDMENT: Adding an agenda item number 4.5, the Sunrise Review Discussion.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the amended agenda for August 8, 2024, business meeting. The motion was made by Brooke Fotheringham and seconded by Dr. Chad Aschtgen, then passed unanimously.

1.3 Approval of May 17, 2024, regular business meeting minutes

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the May 17, 2024, regular meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. Public Comment— Joanne Hillary, ND, Vice Chair

The board heard comments from the public. The public was given the opportunity to request items to be placed on a future meeting agenda.

Public Comment

Members of the public were invited to introduce themselves and share comments not related to an agenda item or to the rules hearing.

Comments Received:

Kasra Pournadeali, practicing physician in Marysville, WA, shared a comment regarding program funding and the practice of reducing licensee fees when there is a fund overage. Dr. Pournadeali suggested the department could use a portion of fees to sponsor continuing education opportunities for licensees, possibly partnering with organizations, and asked the board to consider further discussions and possibly a motion to look into this as an opportunity.

3. Presentation— Rebecca Michelle, FNMRA, President & Executive Director

Rebecca Michelle, FNMRA President & Executive Director of CA Board of Naturopathic Medicine presented information about the FNMRA to the board.

MOTION: A motion was made to keep their partnership with the Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

4.1 Substantial Equivalency/Jurisprudence Exam Committee.

Program staff and committee members shared information and the board discussed recommendations for rules language.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the proposed recommended language presented, with the removal of item number 4, and move to the CR-102 phase. The motion was made by Dr. Aschtgen to approve the amended language, as discussed. Dr. Ahdut seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4.2 Business Plan Committee Update.

This item was tabled, as they felt it prudent to have input from Luke Eaton, AAG, who was absent at this meeting.

4.3 Newsletter Template

Program staff updated the board on the newsletter. Ms. Phipps requested and received the board's support to publish on an ad-hoc basis, rather than quarterly. Program staff are seeking input and contributions from the board.

4.4 Continued Education

This topic is deferred until the board appointments are completed.

4.5 Sunrise Review Discussion

The board discussed the Sunrise Review Draft Report and sending additional comments. Dr. Kass and Dr. Aschtgen volunteered to draft a letter on behalf of the board. They will send a draft to program staff to review and approve prior to sending to the Sunrise Review committee.

5. New Business—DISCUSSION/ACTION— Joanne Hillary, ND, Vice Chair

5.1 Website Updates

Program staff will be updating the website to ensure content is up-to-date but is also seeking input on any specific content or changes that should be added or updated.

5.2 2025 Board Meeting Dates – proposed dates: February 7, 2025; May 2, 2025; August 8, 2025; November 14, 2025.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the following dates for the 2025 Board Meetings with the modification of May 9, 2025. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

6. Correspondence—DISCUSSION/ACTION— Joanne Hillary, ND, Vice Chair

The board reviewed and discussed correspondence received since the last meeting.

6.1 Request for clarification on naturopathic scope for use of lasers

6.2 Request for boards position on Neogene and Trigenics treatment.

6.3 NPLEX Letter

For 6.1 & 6.2, the board agreed the response provided was appropriate and no further advice or interpretation would be provided. For 6.3, the board asked Ms. Phipps to follow up with the requester and/or NABNE for additional clarity.

7. Program Reports-DISCUSSION- James Chaney, Executive Director; Rachel Phipps, Program Manager; Ashley May, Budget Analyst

- 7.1 Budget reports – *Mrs. Phipps, Program Manager and Ashley May, Budget Analyst, gave an update regarding the current budget to the members and answered any specific questions related to fees and our budget.*
- 7.2 Credentialing statistics report – *Mrs. Phipps, Program Manager, gave an update to the members. As of June 30, 2024, 1636 active naturopathic physician licenses, 82 expired in renewal, and 27 pending.*
- 7.3 Recruitment update – *Mr. Chaney, Executive Director, gave an update regarding board member recruitment; we are still waiting on appointments to be made. For board members whose terms are expiring in 2025, we will request to begin the recruitment progress at the next board meeting.*

8. Future Business

Future business items to be discussed includes:

- 8.1 Robert’s Rules of Order – Luke Eaton, AAG
- 8.2 Telemedicine

9. Settlement Presentations- Joanne Hillary, ND, Vice Chair

- There were no settlement presentations.

10. Adjournment of Public Meeting-

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. Hillary, Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

11. Discipline & Licensing-

The board will attend to licensing and disciplinary matters in closed session.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Date: November 8, 2024

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Hybrid - Virtual Zoom Meeting with a physical location at the Department of Health.