



ACUPUNCTURE AND EASTERN MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 19, 2025

Committee Members Present: Lisa vanHaagen, AEMP, Chair
Kristine McGinley, L.Ac., AEMP, Vice-Chair
Christina Jackson, AEMP
Yiwen Su, AEMP
Phillip Padelford, Public Member

Staff Present: Adriana Barcena, Program Manager
Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Britni McLucas, Deputy Credentialing Manager
Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)
Catharine Roner-Reiter, Supervising Staff Attorney
Cassandra Gerard, Program Support

Others Present: Dr. Chaiya Sherman, WAEMA
Sharonne O'Shea

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The open session of the business meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Lisa vanHaagen, Chair.

1.1 Introductions of committee members and staff.

- The committee members, staff, and audience were introduced.

1.2 Public Comment – The public will have an opportunity to provide comments. If you would like to comment during this time, please limit your comments to two minutes. Please identify yourself and who you represent, if applicable, when the Chair opens the floor for public comment.

- No public comments were directed to the committee at this time.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

- A motion was made to approve the May 19, 2025 agenda as presented.
- The motion was seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the May 19, 2025 agenda.

1.4 Approval of November 18, 2024 meeting minutes

- A motion was made to approve the November 18, 2024 minutes.
- The motion was seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the November 18, 2024 minutes.

1.5 Approval of January 27, 2025 meeting minutes

- A motion was made to approve the January 27, 2025 minutes.
- The motion was seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the January 27, 2025 minutes.

2. CREDENTIALING REPORT – Britni McLucas, Deputy Credentialing Manager, presented to the committee.

- Ms. McLucas shared active and pending status counts of Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine practitioner licenses.
- Ms. McLucas reviewed the applications received, expired credentials, and overall processing timelines from October 2024 through March 2025.
- Ms. McGinley requested data on previous years to identify trends for applications received.
- Ms. McLucas will update the committee with her findings in a future meeting.

3. 2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – the committee received an update on legislation that may impact the profession – Adriana Barcena, Program Manager

- Ms. Barcena shared the 2025 legislative session ended April 27, 2025.
- Engrossed second substitute house bill (E2SHB) 1686, regarding creating a health care entity registry, is a bill that may have an impact on the Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine profession.
- The Department, in consultation with the Health Care Authority, the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, the Office of the Governor, the Office of Financial Management, and stakeholders, must develop a plan and provide recommendations on how to create a registry of the health care landscape in Washington.
- The committee will continue to receive updates on E2SHB 1686.

4. NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE (NCCAOM) MONTHLY UPDATES – the committee received an update from meetings that occurred from February - April – Kristine McGinley, L.Ac.

- Ms. McGinley attended the NCCAOM town hall meeting on May 15, 2025 and provided their report.
- The Acupuncture for Our Seniors Act H.R. 1667 was reintroduced in the 119th Congress regarding Medicare coverage of acupuncturist services.
- NCCAOM has partnered with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to establish a classification for Acupuncture as a recognized profession on a national level.
- NCCAOM is in the process of creating an Acupuncture Injection Therapy Certificate of Qualification to provide a national standard for injection therapy training.
- A 17% response rate from NCCAOM diplomats was received from a job analysis survey that was conducted in 2024. The survey data is used for NCCAOM board exams, school curriculum, informing policy makers, and improving validity in public and private sectors.
- NCCAOM is planning to relocate their national office to the Washington DC area to increase influence and advocacy.
- NCCAOM is updating their name to National Certification Board for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (NCBAHM) which may lead to regulatory bodies reviewing practice acts or statutes for cohesiveness.
- Ms. McGinley will share the details of the 2024 job analysis survey with the committee once received from NCCAOM.
- The committee discusses how a national standard scope of practice may affect practitioners.
- Ms. Crawford explained the State may consider a national standard in the scope of practice, but it is not required.

5. UPDATE ON DRY NEEDLING/INTRAMUSCULAR THERAPY FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN WASHINGTON STATE – Adriana Barcena, Program Manager

- Ms. Barcena shared the Healthcare Enforcement and Licensing Management System (HELMS) is in the building phase and it is uncertain if the intramuscular needling endorsement applications can be tracked within the system.
- Staff will continue to monitor this item and update the committee as new information is provided.
- Ms. vanHaagen asked if the status of applications received could be provided by the Board of Physical Therapy program manager.
- Ms. Crawford explained the HELMS system criteria was built before this particular reporting function was requested.

- Ms. McLucas explained the overall functionality of the HELMS database is still in progress. She will contact the HELMS team regarding the ability to monitor intramuscular needling endorsement applications received.
- Ms. vanHaagen shared that she attended a HELMS introduction session. She learned HELMS will not provide an area to store records of continuing education credits. Practitioners will be able to upload proof of continuing education credits in case of an audit.

6. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT REPORT – information was provided to the committee by the program manager and executive director.

6.1 Interim Operating Budget Report

- Ms. Crawford presented the budget report and explained the fund balance is slightly lower than the targeted amount.
- A fee increase may be recommended depending on the annual budget analysis.
- The committee reviewed the license status counts and credentials expired from January 2023 to April 2025.
- Ms. vanHaagen asked if applications are typically received from applicants from within Washington State.
- Ms. McLucas will provide information regarding in-and-out-of-state license applications at a future meeting.

6.2 CR 101 Update: WAC 246-803-103 Application requirements for applicants from foreign schools; WAC 246-803-240 Examinations-Occupational English Test

- Ms. Barcena shared on January 22, 2025 the Department of Health in consultation with the Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Advisory Committee filed a CR-101 as WSR 25-04-007 with the code reviser's office proposing to consider amendments to WAC 246-803-130, Application Requirements for Applicants from Foreign Schools and WAC 246-803-240, Examinations, to allow the acceptance of the Occupational English Test.
- Ms. Barcena explained the rule amendment would allow both the Occupational English Test (OET) and ibTOEFL exams to be an accepted examination for English verification for applicants who have taken required NCCAOM examinations in other languages.

7. RULES WORKSHOP – The department and committee reviewed WAC 246-803-103 Application Requirements for Applicants from Foreign Schools and WAC 246-803-240 Examinations to begin the rules drafting process.

- Ms. Barcena shared the recommended rule language from the Department of Health staff.

- In addition to the rule language amendment, approved examination companies will be posted publicly on the website
- Ms. O'Shea asked if an examination pass rate requirement will be included in the rules.
- The committee discussed an acceptable passing rate based on current examinations.
- Ms. Barcena shared an example of passing score requirements from the Board of Nursing.
- Ms. Crawford explained the department's credentialing unit verifies passing exam scores through sole source verification.
- The committee discusses what percentage would be an appropriate standard for passing an exam.
- Mr. Su commented diversified populations serving the public should be carefully considered, especially relating to using Eastern medicine.
- Ms. McGinley commented that communications from the Department of Health regarding regulations and guidelines are provided in English.
- Ms. Barcena will contact OET to see if a comprehensive exam score is available.
- Mr. Su suggested a standard passing rate should not be above other professions' standards.
- Ms. Knieps shared that fluency in English is required in [RCW 18.06.090](#).
- Ms. Crawford explained interested parties will have opportunities to provide feedback on the changes before the rules go into effect.
- Ms. Sherman commented WAEMA is interested in the topic and will continue to follow the process.
- The committee determined an 89% passing score requirement for all examinations will be included in the draft rule language.
- Foreign school applications will include the passing score requirement.
- The draft rule language will be distributed to interested parties to gain feedback and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Budget report
- HELMS update
- Rules update
- Disciplinary Report
- Discuss needle removal by assistants

9. ADJOURNMENT

- The business meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2025.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2025.

Updated meeting information will be posted to the Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine practitioner webpage.

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