



ACUPUNCTURE AND EASTERN MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 26, 2026

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

Staff Present: Adriana Barcena, Program Manager
Bruce Bronoske, Jr., Interim Executive Director
Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)
Kitty Einert, Program Manager
Cassandra Gerard, Administrative Assistant
Jane Zepp, Credentialing Supervisor
Haylie Kang, Policy Analyst

Others Present: Lisa vanHaagen
Laurie Solomon
Sharonne O'Shea
Leslie Emerick, WAEMA
Benjamin Boonchai Apichai
Grace De La Rosa

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The open session of the business meeting was called to order at 10:36 a.m. by Kristine McGinley, Chair.

1.1 Introductions of committee members and staff.

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

1.2 Public Comment – The public had an opportunity to provide comments.

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

1.3 Approval of Agenda

- A motion was made to approve the January 26, 2026 agenda as presented.
- The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

1.4 Approval of November 17, 2025 meeting minutes

- A motion was made to approve the November 17, 2025 minutes.
- The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

2. RECRUITMENT UPDATE – Adriana Barcena, Program Manager

- Ms. Barcena shared the Secretary of Health is reviewing the professional member appointment package.
- The committee will receive an update when the Secretary’s determination is made.

3. WASHINGTON ACUPUNCTURE AND EASTERN MEDICINE ASSOCIATION (WAEMA) LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – WAEMA provided an update on legislation that may have an impact on the profession.

- Ms. Emerick shared the bills supported and opposed by WAEMA during the 2026 legislative session.
- [Senate Bill 5588/House Bill 1589](#) – regarding contracts between health carriers and contracting providers.
- [Senate Bill 6071/House Bill 2546](#) – standardizing insurance overpayment recovery requirements.
- [Senate Bill 5254/House Bill 1496](#) - strengthening patients’ rights regarding their health care information.
- [House Bill 2106](#) - requiring carriers to provide substantive notice to healthcare providers and healthcare facilities about significant contract modifications.
- [House Bill 2184](#) – concerning occupational therapists performing intramuscular needling.
- Ms. vanHaagen commented on increasing the fee health care providers may charge for searching and duplicating patient health care records.
- [RCW 70.02.010](#) states the fee amounts shall be adjusted biennially in accordance with changes in the consumer price index.
- Ms. Kang suggested rules petitions may be submitted by public members to align [WAC 246-08-400](#) with [RCW 70.02.010](#).
- The department has received rules petitions from other professions to adjust the fee health care providers may charge to search and duplicate records.

4. 2026 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – The committee discussed 2026 legislation that may have an impact on the profession.

- Ms. Barcena shared the legislative session started on Monday, January 12, 2026.
- There are no current bills that have a direct impact on Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Practitioners.
- Ms. Barcena shared an overview of bills that are currently being monitored by The Office of Health Professions.
- [House Bill 2184](#) – concerning occupational therapists performing intramuscular needling.
- [House Bill 2261](#) – ensuring transparency in credentials and communication between patients and health care professionals.
- [House Bill 2613](#) - establishing safety and regulatory requirements for compounded medications.

5. NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE (NCCAOM) MONTHLY UPDATES – Kristine McGinley, L.Ac.

- National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) has officially changed their name to the National Certification Board for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (NCBAHM).
- Ms. McGinley attended the NCBAHM town hall meeting on January 22, 2026.
- The town hall meeting topics included handling sensitive personal health information related to substance abuse and cybersecurity updates.
- NCBAHM will provide presentation slides from the town hall meeting, and a notice of privacy practices sample form for the committee members.

6. AEMP SCOPE OF PRACTICE – The committee reviewed the needle removal FAQ.

- Ms. Barcena shared the adjustments made to the needle removal FAQ in response to the discussion at the last committee meeting.
- The committee discussed situations where students may obtain observation hours outside of a school facility including clinical observations, clinical internships, and preceptorships.
- Ms. Knieps shared the clinical training requirements in [WAC 246-803-230](#).
- The committee discussed student training completed by observation and clinical internships.
- Ms. McGinley suggested the FAQ includes only student clinicians who have completed their clean needle technique are allowed to remove needles.
- Mr. Su commented the FAQ does not clearly state the restrictions for students that are observing in a clinic outside of the school setting.

- Mr. Apichai shared students at Bastyr University must pass the clean needle technique before they are allowed to handle needles.
- Ms. vanHaagen commented in favor of including the clean needle technique requirement and suggested adding descriptions of different locations that observation hours may be obtained.
- Mr. Apichai described the locations where students fulfill observation hours and preceptorship training.
- The department staff will research further, and the committee will return to this topic at the next meeting.

7. WAEMA NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – The committee discussed and voted on the submission of a newsletter article authored by a committee member.

- Ms. Barcena reviewed the request for Ms. McGinley to write a newsletter article for WAEMA.
- Ms. Barcena explained the article will be reviewed by the department before it is submitted to WAEMA for publishing.
- Ms. Emerick shared the article will be included in a monthly WAEMA membership report.
- Ms. McGinley explained the provider referral process through the Veterans Affairs (VA) system will be the topic of the article.
- Ms. Solomon shared her experience entering the VA system as a provider.
- A motion was made for Ms. McGinley to write an article about the veteran referral process for the purposes of the WAEMA newsletter.
- The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

8. BUSINESS PLAN – The committee reviewed the 2026-2027 Business Plan.

- Ms. Barcena provided the 2026-2027 business plan to the committee.
- Ms. McGinley reviewed the business plan goals.
- Ms. Barcena will update the name of NCCAOM to NCBAHM referenced in Goal 2.
- Ms. McGinley suggested a committee member attend the 2027 annual American Society of Acupuncturists (ASA) national conference.
- Ms. McGinley suggested the committee receive training on the topics of conflict of interest, legislative and rulemaking processes, and the structure of the department.
- The committee discussed methods of improving awareness and outreach with practitioners, associations, and educational institutions.

9. ACUPUNCTURE AND EASTERN MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE BYLAWS – The committee reviewed and voted.

- Ms. Barcena provided the bylaws to the committee.
- A motion was made to adopt the committee bylaws as presented.
- The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

10. RULES UPDATE – The committee was provided an update on WSR-25-04-007.
Adriana Barcena, Program Manager

- Ms. Barcena shared the CR 102 regarding the acceptance of the Occupational English Test, is in the internal review process.
- The committee will continue to receive updates.

11. OTHER

11.1 The committee received an update on Executive Order 25-03 – Bruce Bronoske Jr., Interim Executive Director

- Mr. Bronoske shared Executive Order 25-03 guides the department’s focus towards increasing efficiency and reducing permitting and licensing processing times.

11.2 The committee received an update on Executive Order 25-06 – Bruce Bronoske, Jr., Interim Executive Director

- Mr. Bronoske shared Executive Order 25-06 directs the department to provide person-focused service and improve customer experience.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Rules and legislative update
- Disciplinary Report
- Budget Report
- HELMS update on PT-IM needling/Credentialing Report
- Needle removal FAQ
- ASA/WAEMA annual attendance
- Board, Commission, Committee (BCC) training

13. ADJOURNMENT

- The business meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2026.

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

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