

# Alabama State Board of Podiatry 2777 Zelda Rd Montgomery, AL 36106

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# MINUTES Board Meeting January 20, 2023

The Alabama State Board of Podiatry held its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, January 20, 2023. The following Board members were in attendance at the meeting: Dr. Jeffrey Dull (Board Chair), Dr. Maurice Wainwright (Vice Chair), Dr. Paul Ciavarelli (member), Dr. Johnnie Alston (member), Dr. Robson Araujo (Secretary/Treasurer attending virtually) and Dr. Michael Hames (member attending virtually). Board member absent was Dr. Angela Hampton (member). The meeting was held at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, Alabama and others attending were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Mr. Ben Seiss (Assistant Attorney General), Mr. Mike James (Investigator), Ms. Karen Harlow (Legal Assistant) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary). The meeting was called to order by Dr. Dull at 2:06 p.m. Mr. Warren called Board roll and indicated that a quorum of the members was present to conduct business.

Public Notice of this regularly scheduled meeting was submitted and published on the Secretary of State website at <a href="www.sos.alabama.gov">www.sos.alabama.gov</a>, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act, and posted on the Board's website at <a href="www.podiatryboard.alabama.gov">www.podiatryboard.alabama.gov</a>.

# APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Dull presented the proposed agenda for the January 20, 2023 meeting for the Board's approval. Dr. Alton made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ciavarelli and unanimously approved by the Board.

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Dull presented the October 28, 2022, Board meeting minutes for the Board's approval. A copy of the minutes was distributed to the members prior to the meeting for their review. Dr. Alton made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wainwright and unanimously approved by the Board.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director Report, which included financial information for the period ending December 31, 2022. He indicated that a recent Executive Order from Governor Ivey required checkbook agencies to become part of STAARS, the State's electronic financial system, and efforts are underway to enroll the Board in this system. He also reported on the current number of licensees (#157), along with the number of complaints

received in FY 2023. Dr. Ciavarelli made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alton and unanimously approved by the Board.

# ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Warren presented the Administrator's Report on activities performed by the staff since the last Board meeting held in October (report filed in the Board's Official Book of Minutes).

# LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

Mr. Seiss presented the Legal Counsel Report which included nine (9) complaint cases reviewed by the Investigative Committee (IC):

Case 2022-001 – IC recommended the case be closed as unfounded, which related to an insurance complaint. Dr. Ciavarelli made the motion to accept the IC's recommendation to close the case as unfounded. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alton and approved by the Board, with Dr. Wainwright recusing from voting.

Case 2022-002 – IC recommended the case be closed as unfounded, which related to quality of care. Dr. Araujo made the motion to approve the IC's recommendation to close the case as unfounded. The motion was accepted by Dr. Alton and approved by the Board with Dr. Wainwright and Dr. Hames recusing from voting.

Case 2022-003 – IC recommended the case be closed as unfounded, which related to a billing matter. Dr. Alton made the motion to approve the IC recommendation to close the case as unfounded. The motion was seconded by Araujo and approved by the Board with Dr. Ciavarelli recusing from voting.

Case 2022-004 – IC recommended the case be closed with a letter of concern, which related to quality of care. Dr. Araujo made the motion to accept the IC recommendation to close the case as reported. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hames and approved by the Board with Dr. Ciavarelli and Dr. Dull recusing from voting.

Case 2022-005 – IC recommended the case be closed with a letter of concern, which related to quality of care. Dr. Alton made the motion to accept the IC recommendation to close the case as reported. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hames and approved by the Board with Dr. Ciavarelli recusing from voting.

Case 2022-006 – IC recommended that an offer of consent be issued, to include educational courses on pain management and prescribing narcotics, and the matter be referred to Medical Association about the educational components. Dr. Hames made the motion to accept the IC recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Araujo and approved by the Board with Dr. Ciavarelli recusing from voting.

Case 2023-001 – IC recommended that an offer of consent be issued with a fine of \$300 for not completing CE hours prior to the renewal deadline. Mr. Seiss explained that the licensee had paid a \$300 late fee associated with the renewal process. Dr. Hames made the motion to accept the IC recommendation to fine the Respondent \$300 for not completing CE hours prior to expiration of license. The motion was seconded by Dr. Araujo and approved by the Board with Dr. Ciavarelli recusing from voting.

Case 2023-002 – IC recommended the case be closed due to no probable case regarding Respondent's bedside manner. Dr. Araujo made the motion to accept the IC recommendation to close the case. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wainwright and approved by the Board with Dr. Ciavarelli recusing from voting.

Case 2023-003 - IC recommended the case be closed due to no probable case regarding Respondent's bedside manner. Dr. Wainwright made the motion to accept the IC recommendation to close the case. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alton and approved by the Board with Dr. Ciavarelli recusing from voting.

#### RULES REVIEW AND COMMITTEE

Mr. Warren reported that the IC recommended that the Board's rules be updated. The Board discussed creating a Rules Committee for this purpose. Chairman Dull encouraged the members to review the Board's current rules and recommend changes. Mr. Warren suggested that he communicate with the Podiatric Association about the Board's rules review. Chairman Dull tabled further discussion on this matter to the next Board meeting, to allow the members an opportunity to review the Rules.

# UPDATE ON PROPOSED 2023 LEGLISLATION

Dr. Dull reported that there had been no changes to report on the proposed legislation which was being presented during the upcoming legislation session, which would begin in March.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dr. Dull reported that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled April 21, 2023.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Dull called for any new business and there was none. Dr. Araujo made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hames, and Chairman Dull adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Jeffrey Dull *Board Chair* 

Keith E. Warren *Executive Director* 

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