

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director Report, which included financial information for the period ending December 31, 2023 (copy of report in official Book of Minutes). Dr. Hampton made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hames and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported on the current number of active licenses (#160), along with 4 expired licenses and 4 inactive licenses (copy of report in official Book of Minutes). He submitted a list of new licensees for the Board's ratification and explained that other Boards were taking similar action to ratify licensure. Dr. Ciavarelli made the motion to ratify the Executive Director's approval of applications as presented to the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hames and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported on the status of complaints received in FY 2021 to present and he also presented a list of activities completed by the staff since the last Board meeting held in October (copy of report in official Book of Minutes). He reported that the Board's financial records were continuing to transition into the State's electronic accounting system, STAARs.

Mr. Warren presented a summary of the process for obtaining Podiatry licensure in Alabama (copy of report in official Book of Minutes). Following a review of the process and discussion about the Board's scope of practice that included the ankle, the Board concurred to amend the summary to include completion of 30 months of training in a residency program prior to submission of an initial application for licensure. Dr. Dull made the motion to approve the process for obtaining a Podiatry licensure as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hames and unanimously approved by the Board.

LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

Mr. Seiss presented the Legal Counsel Report, to include recommendations of the Investigative Committee regarding the following complaint cases:

Case 2022-006 – consent agreement presented for approval to include 8 additional CE hours evidenced by certificates of completion. Dr. Dull made the motion to approve the IC recommendation, along with approval of the CE provider training. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hames and unanimously approved by the Board, with Dr. Ciavarelli abstaining as a member of the committee.

Case 2024-001 – the IC recommended the Board close the complaint as unfounded. Dr. Dull made the motion to approve the IC recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ciavarelli and unanimously approved by the Board, with Dr. Hames abstaining as a member of the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Approval of CE Provider - Chairman Alston presented an email request regarding DEA Mate training that is offered by the Federal government as an approved provider/course. The Board discussed that this training falls within the 3-year controlled substance training. Dr. Hames made a motion to allow 4-hour credits toward CE requirements for licensure renewal. The motion was seconded by Dr. Dull and unanimously approved by the Board.

Discussion of HBO Treatment – Chairman Alston presented an email inquiring about HBO therapy. The members reviewed the Board’s Advisory Opinion No. 20 and agreed that the Board was unable to extend any further advice beyond the scope of practice that falls within the parameters of the practice of podiatry, and the presences of an MD/DO on the premises. Dr. Dull indicated that he would respond to the inquiry in accordance with Advisory Opinion No. 20.

Rules Committee Report – Mr. Seiss reported that the Rules Committee had met and the committee did not intend to create rules as a duplication of the statute and had no recommendations at this time.

Discussion of Physician Assistants – Mr. Warren reported that changes to the Board’s statute may be required regarding a podiatrist supervising a physician assistant (PA). The Board discussed training for a PA, different from an orthopedic PA, in assisting with surgery and consultations, etc.

Examination Requirements – The Board discussed changes to the licensure examination regarding the scope of practice to include the ankle. Mr. Seiss recommended no changes in the examination rule at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Alston reported that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for April 26, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Alston called for any new business and there was none. Dr. Dull made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ciavarelli and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Alston adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Johnnie L. Alston, DPM
Board Chair

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

Approved by the Board on _____ / _____ /rr
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