



Washington State Department of Health
Board of Naturopathy
Special Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2023

3:00 p.m.

On Friday, June 23, 2023, the Board of Naturopathy held a hybrid special meeting at Lacey Community Center, 6729 Pacific Avenue SE, Room 1, Lacey WA 98503 with webinar access via Zoom. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were sent to individuals requesting notification of meetings.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Krystal Richardson, ND, Chair
Joanne Hillary, ND, Vice Chair
Amira Ahdut, ND, LAc
Brooke Fotheringham, Public Member
Elias Kass, ND
Vacant, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Lana Crawford, Program Manager
Harold Wright, Jr., Executive Director
Davis Hylkema, Program Associate
Joan Simmons, Administrative Assistant
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General
Bill Kellington, Supervising Staff Attorney
Heather Cantrell, Policy Analyst

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Chad Aschtgen, ND

GUESTS:

Alexis Banducci
Allison Apfelbaum
Angela Ross
Blake Langley
Brandy Ross
Candace Aasan
Carey Morris
Cristina Persa
Erica Joseph
Erin Sweet
Jennifer Lush
Jennifer November
Joshua Rubinstein
Justin Steurich
Justin Taylor

Kathryn Carlson
Katie Shaff
Kristina Conner
Laura Galati
Les Witherspoon
Loraine Harkin
Lorinda Sor
Mandy Gulla
Marlon Basco
Marnie Frisch
Michelle Brown-
Echerd
Nesreen Medina
Paul Anderson
Rachelle McCarty

Rebecca Shalev
Rhian Young
Sasha Mastroianni
Shannon Hirst
Stacie Wells
Teresa Neff
Tevna Tayler
Traci Pantuso
Tressa Pinkleton
Trina Seligman
Victoria Lofdahl
Vivian Sovran
Xochitl Palomino

OPEN SESSION

1. **Call to Order/Introductions – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Krystal Richardson, ND, Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

1.1 Introduction of board, staff, and audience.

Dr. Krystal Richardson, Chair, led roll call of board members and staff. She then offered an introductory statement explaining the procedure of the remote meeting and instructions for the public comment period.

1.2 Approval of agenda

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the June 23, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. **Open Public Comment – DISCUSSION – Krystal Richardson, ND, Chair**

The purpose of the open forum is to provide the public an opportunity to address the board on issues of significance.

- Concern regarding the questionnaire that was sent out and added it was biased and very leading. They also shared concern around the recommendation that naturopathic medicine should not have any continuing education that is designated in the naturopathic profession; if done, it will decrease the integrity of the profession and its ability to maintain quality. They continued by sharing the arguments by others regarding CE is mostly about convenience, not quality.
- Concern about the recent changes for education and requirements where category 1 CME is creating a bottleneck or limits NDs. Therefore, the request to the board is to consider removing a portion of category 1 or broaden it to include everything that falls under the license, including CME through ACCME.
- Concern regarding an unclear answer as to what is naturopathic in terms of CE and scope. They added those who are practicing as primary care physicians need to stay up to date on primary care practices and therefore should be reflected in the CE requirements.
- Concern of a conflict of interest with the naturopathic requirement due to organizations approved to provide the CEs are also allowed to weigh in on the rules changes.
- Concern for the cost of required naturopathic credits creating a financial hardship.
- Multiple concerns of patient safety with the changes in categories 1 and 2.
- Multiple individuals voiced support of allowing other organizations to also provide CMEs to ensure appropriate care is provided to their patients.
- Comment stating naturopathic medicine is not about modality but about philosophy, therefore, it is about how patients are approached and their treatment as a whole person.
- Comment reminding the board of Dr. Aschtgen's class and professional respect and courtesy to leave an item open to allow for others to comment and urged the board to take a pause due to his unavailability to attend today's meeting.

3. **Health Equity & Continuing Education Rulemaking – ACTION - Krystal Richardson, ND, Vice-Chair**

The board reviewed the draft language for health equity continuing education and considered action for program staff to move forward with the CR-102 Proposed Rulemaking process.

3.1 Continuing Education Survey Results

Dr. Richardson presented the survey results comparing versions 1 and 2.

3.1.1 Summary Version 1

3.1.2 Summary Version 2

3.2 Category 1 and 2 Language

3.2.1 Rule language accepted, 5/12/2023 board meeting.

Dr. Richardson briefly shared the language that was approved at the May 12, 2023 board meeting.

3.2.2 CE option 1 focus

Dr. Richardson presented the language for option 1.

3.2.3 CE option 2 focus

Dr. Richardson presented the language for option 2. She also shared the side-by-side comparison chart between options 1 and 2 starting on page 126 of the handout.

MOTION: A motion was made to separate out the health equity piece and have it move on to the CR-102 process in order to discuss the items on the agenda. The motion was seconded and did not pass. (2-3 In favor: Drs. Hillary and Ahdut. Opposed: Drs. Richardson and Kass, and Ms. Fotheringham)

MOTION: A motion was made to proceed with the health equity portion that was approved at the last meeting and table the remaining CE information to a further date to vote as a full board. The motion was seconded and did not pass. (2 to 3 In favor: Drs. Hillary and Ahdut. Opposed: Drs. Richardson and Kass and Ms. Fotheringham)

MOTION: A motion was made to adopt option 1. The motion was seconded and passed. (3-2 In favor: Drs. Richardson and Kass, and Ms. Fotheringham. Opposed: Drs. Hillary and Ahdut)

4. **Adjournment of public meeting**

The meeting adjourned by approved motion at 4:33 P.M.

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn the public meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.