



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

**ACUPUNCTURE AND EASTERN MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, July 26, 2024

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

Staff Present: Adriana Barcena, Program Manager
Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)
Catharine Roner-Reiter, Supervising Staff Attorney
Cassandra Gerard, Program Support
Mikala Lord, Policy Analyst
Jeff Orwig, Finance Officer

Guest Presenters: Sue Hall, Case Manager
Elizabeth Geisler, Deputy Project Director

Others Present: Kathryn Pierce
Susan Shultz

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The open session of the business meeting was called to order at 9:08 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.

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

1.3 Approval of July 26, 2024 Agenda

- Ms. Barcena requested to amend the agenda to include item 5.2 Scope of practice – Washington State Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Association (WAEMA).
- A motion was made to approve the July 26, 2024 agenda with requested amendments.
- The motion was seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the July 26, 2024 agenda as presented.

1.4 Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2023

- A motion was made to approve the January 22, 2024 minutes.
- The motion was seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the January 22, 2024 minutes.

2. **HEALTH CARE ENFORCEMENT LICENSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (HELMS)** - the committee received HELMS update from Ratna Craig.

- Ms. Geisler introduced herself as the HELMS Business Deputy Project Director and presented a brief overview of the project on Ms. Craig's behalf.
- The presentation included a summary of the business readiness activities and how the project is organized. The new system will transform the licensing and enforcement processes by replacing legacy systems that are no longer sufficient.
- The first portion of HELMS was released in April 2024. The next release is scheduled for February 2025.
- Ms. Geisler answered questions from the committee and provided resources for additional information.

3. **WASHINGTON RECOVERY AND MONITORING PROGRAM (WRAMP)** – the committee received a presentation from Sue Hall, Case Manager.

- Ms. Hall provided a summary of the Washington Recovery and Monitoring Program (WRAMP) within the Department of Health. The program monitors any health care provider that is not a doctor, nurse or pharmacy person that has a substance use disorder.
- Ms. Hall explained how health care providers can enroll in the program and the necessary requirements.
- The committee asked questions and discussed methods of distributing information about WRAMP to health care professionals.

4. **NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE (NCCAOM) MONTHLY UPDATES** – the committee received updates from meetings that occurred February-June 2024 by Ms. McGinley. The committee may vote on whether they would like to continue receiving updates from these meetings.

- Ms. McGinley provided the committee with updates from NCCAOM and the American Society of Acupuncture.
- The topics reviewed included Medicare for seniors, NCCAOM job analysis and diplomate requirements for recertification.
- Ms. Ginley also shared about the Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (AHM) Coalition. The purpose of the coalition is to collaborate and cooperate with the acupuncture profession on a national level.
- There was a motion to allow Ms. McGinley to attend monthly NCCAOM/ASA meetings to report back updates to the committee.
- The motion was moved, seconded and unanimously passed.

5. RULE PETITION – The committee reviewed and discussed rules petitions.

5.1 CEU – Katherine Pierce

- The committee reviewed and discussed the petition received from Ms. Pierce.
- The petition requested a new framework for continuing education for allowance of recorded webinars.
- The committee and program staff confirmed there are no restrictions for number of hours that can be counted towards recorded webinars.
- Ms. Barcena confirmed the webpage will be updated to reflect the correct information.
- After discussion, Ms. Pierce withdrew her rule-making petition.

5.2 Scope of practice – Washington State Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Association (WAEMA)

- The committee reviewed and discussed the petition received from WAEMA requesting rule amendments to clarify use of ozone and whether oxygen and ozone could be used in regular treatment or just emergencies.
- Susan Shultz, WAEMA representative, shared ozone is a substance that is substantially the same as oxygen and is currently used in 9 states for therapeutic purposes.
- Ms. Knieps shared current statute states oxygen services may only be used for emergency purposes and makes no description of ozone.
- The rule request cannot be permitted at this time and would require legislative change.
- Ms. Shultz will follow up with the program and staff for the allowance of ozone as a permitted treatment as it may be considered a homeopathic and nutritional substance.
- Ms. Shultz asked if ultrasounds may be used as a diagnostic tool within the scope of practice.
- Ms. Knieps stated ultrasound may be used as a safety precaution if it is not invasive or used for treatment.

6. TRAINING – Training was provided to the committee members by Krisit Knieps, AAG.

6.1 Boards, Committees and Commissions

- Ms. Knieps reviewed the committee's role as a secretary profession and the differences between boards and commissions.
- Advisory committees may advise on policy matters and make recommendations to the Secretary for policy change or implementation.

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

7.1 Board, Commission and Committee Leadership Meeting

- Ms. vanHaagen provided the committee with a summary of the Department of Health's Board, Commission and Committee (BCC) Leadership meeting that occurred on June 18th.
- The department would like to schedule BCC meetings annually for opportunities for BCC members to network and learn about the department processes.

7.2 Interim Operating Budget Report

- Jeff Orwig, Finance Officer presented the budget report to the committee. The fund balance has declined but remains at a healthy level.

7.3 Updated credentialing and disciplinary report

- Ms. Barcena provided an updated licensing and disciplinary statistics report. The report listed the following:

CREDENTIAL STATUS	AEMP LICENSURE
Active	1,609
Inactive	40
Revoked	3
Voluntary Surrender	3
Suspended	5
Active on Probation	0

- Ms. vanHaagen requested if more details could be provided to the committee regarding complaint case reports.
- Ms. Barcena will follow up on this matter in the next business meeting.

7.4 Program update

- Ms. Crawford will provide the committee with program updates in the next scheduled business meeting.

7.5 Update on CR-102 for Point Injection Therapy

- Ms. Barcena shared the filed CR-102 for education and training for Point Injection Therapy has been scheduled for a hearing on August 1, 2024.
- The rule amendments will allow up to 8 hours of didactic education to occur through live interactive webinar.

7.6 Recruitment Update

- Ms. Barcena shared an update on recruitment for the committee's vacant public member.
- The committee received three interested applicants; however two applicants were seeking professional member positions. These applications have been stored for future recruitment.
- Ms. Barcena received one interested public member and conducted an interview.
- The applicant has been recommended and a drafted recruitment package was sent to the secretary's office.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Budget report
- Recruitment update
- HELMS update
- 2025 Meeting schedule
- Update on WAC 246-803-040 Education and Training for Point Injection Therapy

9. ADJOURNMENT

- The business meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m. on Friday, July 26, 2024.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2024.

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