



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

ACUPUNCTURE AND EASTERN MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Christina Jackson, AEMP
Kristine McGinley, L.Ac., AEMP, Vice-Chair
Lisa vanHaagen, AEMP, Chair
Yiwen Su, AEMP
Phillip Padelford, Public Member

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

Others Present:

Elizabeth Denton, Occupational English Test
Leslie Emerick, Policy Director, WAEMA
Chaiya Sherman, President, WAEMA
Susan Shultz, WAEMA
Sharonne O'Shea
Ingrid Hudakova

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The open session of the business meeting was called to order at 10:42 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.

- Ms. Emerick, Policy Director for the Washington Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Association (WAEMA), shared the benefit under Medicaid for Acupuncture is on hold due to next year's budget cuts.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

- Ms. Barcena requested to amend the agenda to include item 8.2 – Washington State Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Association (WAEMA) rule petition.
- A motion was made to approve the November 18, 2024 agenda with requested amendments.
- The motion was seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the November 18, 2024 agenda as amended.

1.4 Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 26, 2024

- The committee discussed including the discussion of ultrasound to the minutes.
- Ms. Crawford suggested including the topic as an agenda item at the next meeting.
- A motion was made to approve the July 26, 2024 minutes.
- The motion was seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the July 26, 2024 minutes.

2. COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT UPDATE – staff provided a committee member update.

- Ms. Barcena shared the committee has been recruiting for a public member.
- The Secretary has appointed Phillip Padelford and he has accepted the position.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – the committee nominated and elected chair and vice-chair for the 2025 calendar year.

- Lisa vanHaagen was nominated and unanimously elected as Chair for the 2025 calendar year.
- Kristine McGinley was nominated and unanimously elected as Vice-Chair for the 2025 calendar year.

4. 2025 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS – the committee determined 2025 meeting dates and locations.

Meeting Date	Location	Start time
January 27, 2025	Hybrid – Tumwater	9:30 a.m.
May 19, 2025	Hybrid – Kent Commons Facility	10:30 a.m.
August 18, 2025	Hybrid – Kent Commons Facility	10:30 a.m.
November 17, 2025	Hybrid – Kent Commons Facility	10:30 a.m.

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

5. LEGISLATIVE MEET-ME-CALL PARTICIPANT – The committee determined and voted on who will be the legislative liaison and meet me call participant for the 2025 legislative session.

- The committee delegated Christina Jackson as the 2025 legislative liaison with Lisa vanHaagen as secondary.
- The committee delegated Kristine McGinley as the 2025 meet me call participant with Lisa vanHaagen as secondary.

6. NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE (NCCAOM) MONTHLY UPDATES – the committee received updates from meetings that occurred July-October by Ms. McGinley.

- Ms. McGinley outlined the main points discussed during the NCCAOM monthly meetings she attended.
- Ms. McGinley was unable to attend the September 18, 2024 meeting. She requested the recording from NCCAOM and will share with the committee once received.
- Ms. McGinley shared the October 24, 2024 meeting included a discussion with the national leaders of the AHM Coalition. The topics included advancing Chinese medicine in the United States and integrating acupuncture into the American healthcare system.
- Ms. McGinley reviewed the October 30, 2024 meeting which gave detailed information on Medicare and Medicaid acupuncture coverage.
- The committee discussed US House Bill H.R. 3133 and the differences in insurance coverage of acupuncture procedures and practitioners.
- Ms. Sherman commented that several local Medicare plans are dropping acupuncture coverage in the next year.

7. UPDATE ON DRY NEEDLING/INTRAMUSCULAR THERAPY FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN WASHINGTON STATE – the committee received an update from Ms. vanHaagen.

- Ms. vanHaagen shared the information provided by the Board of Physical Therapy on the intramuscular needling endorsement process.
- As of November 14, 2024, a total of 72 intramuscular needling endorsements have been issued.
- Three acupuncture and eastern medicine practitioners are supervising the physical therapists for the clinical review hours.
- Ms. vanHaagen shared the physical therapist intramuscular needling endorsement application packet, current fees, and intramuscular needling informed consent form.
- The committee discussed the complaint and discipline process of a physical therapist engaged in unlicensed practice of acupuncture.

8. RULE PETITION – the committee reviewed and discussed the rules petition.

8.1 Occupational English Test (OET) request to accept exam as an option for English verification for applicants who have taken required NCCAOM examinations in other languages.

- Ms. Barcena explained ibTOEFL is the only exam currently accepted and referred to [WAC 246-803-240](#).
- The committee discusses the differences in the ibTOEFL and OET exams.
- A motion was made to open rules to explore inclusion of the OET as an accepted exam.
- The motion was moved, seconded and unanimously passed.

8.2 Washington State Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Association (WAEMA)

- Ms. Barcena shared WAEMA submitted a rules petition to clarify if oxygen can be used in treatment outside of emergencies and to expand scope of practice to include ozone treatment. The petition was received July 22, 2024 and denied due to limitations in statutory authority.
- Ms. Shultz shared her appeal to the petition denial she received on September 17, 2024. She refers to [RCW 18.06.010](#) that states oxygen can be used for patient care. Ms. Shultz asks for ozone to be recognized as a nutritional substance and to consider the naturopathic scope of practice [18.36A.040](#).
- The committee discusses the appeal and considers providing feedback to the Secretary.
- Ms. Knieps clarifies this committee does not have the authority to change the RCW and the legal analysis has been provided.

9. LICENSURE – APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – the committee reviewed application and eligibility for initial licensure.

- Ms. Barcena explained the current rules for initial licensure for approved and foreign schools do not require “active practice” like those outlined for licensees with an expired license of over three years.
- The committee discussed and decided not to update the rules to align licensing requirements.
- The Secretary will review unique applications on a case-by-case basis.
- Ms. Hudakova shared her experience in obtaining an acupuncture and eastern medicine practitioner license in Washington state.
- Ms. Crawford suggested the credentialing team needs to review Ms. Hudakova’s individual application.

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

10.1 Interim Operating Budget Report

- Ms. Crawford presented the budget report to the committee. The fund balance has continued to decline as expected and no rate changes are suggested at this time.

10.2 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	1,623
Inactive	37
Revoked	3
Voluntary Surrender	3
Suspended	5
Active on Probation	0

10.3 Update on CR-103 Education and Training for Point Injection Therapy

- Ms. Barcena shared the CR-103 was submitted and is still in the internal review process.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Budget report
- HELMS update
- Power of Providers (POP) presentation

12. ADJOURNMENT

- The business meeting was adjourned at 1:51p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2025.

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