

NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE

May 2021 News Blast

North Dakota Board of Medicine

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Bismarck, ND 58503

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2021 Meeting Schedule

February 19, 2021

May 21, 2021

August 20, 2021

November 19, 2021

BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Board was able to hold its May meeting in person at its office in Bismarck, ND. During this meeting, the Board voted in new officers. After serving two years as the vice-chair of the Board, Dr. Robert Sticca was nominated to serve as the new Chair of the North Dakota Board of Medicine. Dr. Rup Nagala, previously serving two years as Chair, was nominated to serve as the Vice-Chair for the Board. Ms. Vaune Johnson, who serves as a public member of the Board, was nominated to serve as the treasurer.

Investigative Panel A nominated Dr. Thomas Carver to serve as the Chair of the Panel, and Dr. Michael Quast to serve as Vice-Chair. Investigative Panel B nominated Dr. Catherine Houle to serve as Chair, and PA-C Jay Metzger to serve as Vice-Chair.

The Board, along with letters from Governor Doug Burgum, expressed thanks and appreciation to two members whose terms are expiring in July 2021. Dr. Darin Leetun fulfilled a vacant term and Dr. Sara Solberg filled two full terms with the Board. Their expertise and guidance will be greatly missed by the Board, and we wish them well in the future!

MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the May 21, 2021 meeting, the North Dakota Board of Medicine approved 87 Physician licenses, 15 Resident licenses, 8 Physician Assistant licenses, and 27 Genetic Counselor licenses. 12 Letters of Qualifications for State of Principal Licensure and 101 non-principal licenses were issued through the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact. The Board interviewed two applicants for licensure. The Board received reports from Investigative Panel A and Investigative Panel B regarding the number of complaints reviewed and acted upon. The combined reports showed that a total of 59 cases were reviewed: 4 Confidential Letters of Concern were issued; 6 cases were held over for further review; 2 new cases were referred for formal action; 1 stipulation resolving formal action was approved; 3 contested cases were reviewed with guidance on future action provided; all other cases were dismissed or no further action taken. The Board issued 1 Order of Completion for a disciplinary case meeting required rehabilitation.

The Board discussed a proposed contract for continued services with the Professional Health Program (PHP).

The Board also reviewed and updated its Operations Manual providing further guidance regarding which applicants require interviews before the Board and what disclosures and information require further review by an investigative panel. The Board appointed a committee to review further policy updates including how the Board will handle complaints regarding physician sexual misconduct, when competency evaluations will be required, and updates on referrals to the PHP. The Board also reviewed its current application requirements and made some modifications that will hopefully help expedite the licensure process.

The Board received the following updates from its committees:

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee reported on bills it took formal positions on during the 2021 Legislative Session. All bills in which the Committee communicated concerns were ultimately either defeated or amended, removing language that raised the concerns.

Regenerative Medicine Committee

The Committee was tasked with reviewing guidelines to practice in the growing field of regenerative medicine. The Committee reviewed several guidance documents, and ultimately recommended the comprehensive Stem Cell Workgroup Report, adopted by the FSMB, titled “Regenerative and Stem Cell Therapy Practices – Report and Recommendations of the Workgroup to Study Regenerative and Stem Cell Therapy Practices” be utilized as guidance by the Board in investigative complaints regarding this practice. A link to the report is found at the end of this newsletter.

NEWS

Update Contact Information

To ensure receipt of correspondence from the Board, all licensees and applicants are responsible for providing accurate and current address and other contact information. Failure to keep this information up to date results in the inability to receive official notices or requests, including pending action and complaints, which can lead to default or adverse action against a licensee or application. To change your address and other contact information, visit the Board’s website:

www.ndbom.org – and under Quicklinks – access “Change of Address.”

Dr. Nagala elected to FSMB Nominating Committee

During the annual meeting of the FSMB House of Delegates this year, Board member and past chair, Dr. Rup Nagala was elected to serve on the FSMB’s Nominating Committee from a list of very qualified candidates. The Committee is responsible for interviewing and submitting a roster of candidates for vacancies on the Board of Directors and other committees. We congratulate and thank Dr. Nagala for taking on this national role.

COVID-19 Update

As many of you are aware – Executive Order 2020-05.1 which authorized the Department of Health to certify medical practice in North Dakota without requiring a North Dakota license, has been rescinded. The Board urges those who practiced under the former certification to begin the application process for licensure if continued practice in the State of North Dakota is desired.

We again want to provide our continued support and thanks to all practitioners for your tireless work and expertise in treating patients with COVID-19 and combating this virus.

INFORMATIONAL LINKS:

CDC’s Clinical Pocket Guide to Tapering Opioids:

https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/clinical_pocket_guide_tapering-a.pdf

Interstate Medical Licensing Compact:

<https://www.imlcc.org>

FBI Informaiton on Wire Fraud Scheme against Health Care providers:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/4487d704801/038c165a-5863-4b69-8630-b461754c7cc7.pdf>

FSMB Stem Cell Workgroup Report:

<https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/fsmb-stem-cell-workgroup-report.pdf>

ND DHS updates to Child Abuse and Neglect hotline and reporting:

<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/cps/>