

NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE

April 2022 News Blast

North Dakota Board of Medicine

4204 Boulder Ridge Rd Ste 260

Bismarck, ND 58503

(701) 450-4060

2022 Meeting Schedule

January 28, 2022

April 22, 2022

July 29, 2022

October 21, 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The April meeting of the Board of Medicine was held in person at the Board office in Bismarck. This was the first, non-virtual meeting in over a year, and it was nice to see everyone in person rather than over a computer monitor. New members - Mandi Johnson, MD (Grand Forks) and Robert Kemp, MD (Williston) - were able to meet other Board members for the first time.

In addition to its regular business of licensing and investigating complaints, reports were received from the Board's four standing committees - Budget, Information Technology, Laws/Rules/Legislative, and the Professional Health Program (PHP) – which have been hard at work between the regularly scheduled Board meetings. The Committees reported on the independent audit of the Board's budget and finances, proceeded with improved IT and security measures for Board's data and programs, adopted proposed changes to administrative rules, and improved and continued collaboration with the ND PHP.

Three members of the Board will complete their terms in July and were recognized for their dedicated service to the ND BOM. Outgoing members include Dr. Brenda Miller (Bismarck), Dr. Thomas Carver (Minot), and Dr.

Raj Potluri (Fargo). In addition to regular Board meetings, Investigatory Panel meetings, and standing committee meetings, Board members typically spend about 12 hours in preparation for each meeting. The gratitude of the Board as well as the citizens of North Dakota were expressed to the outgoing members for all the hard work performed during their respective terms.

The week following the Board meeting, the annual meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) was held in New Orleans. The FSMB is the national organization with membership from all US medical boards. The FSMB has many roles including setting standards and guidelines for individual state board operation as well as giving a national voice for medical regulation. Five (5) members of the ND BOM attended the meeting, including myself, Rup Nagala, MD (Oakes), Mandi Johnson, MD (Grand Forks), Executive Director, Sandra DePountis, JD, and Deputy Executive Director, Lynette McDonald. Dr. Nagala serves on the nominating committee of the FSMB. There were several interesting and educational presentations at the meeting, with the subject of misinformation/disinformation in medicine the most prominent and pertinent to the recent pandemic. Although this has been a difficult subject for most medical boards, the discussions and presentations better explained the legal boundaries and difficulty in ascertaining what is truly misinformation/disinformation. Several aspects of the information received at the meeting will be helpful and useful for the ND BOM.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in July and will be a virtual meeting.

Sincerely, Robert P. Sticca, MD, FACS

UPDATES TO NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

During the Board's meeting, updates to the Administrative Code Title 50 were reviewed and approved. The updates remove outdated and redundant language and provide clarification on licensure. The Board will now begin the process of submitting the rules for approval to the Legislative Administrative Rules Committee in compliance with North Dakota Century Code chapter 28-32. Please access the Board's website at www.ndbom.org to review the proposed changes. A hearing will be held in compliance with the law to receive input on the amendments on June 6, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Board office in Bismarck. If you wish to submit written comments, please send to the Board Office by June 16, 2022.

APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the April 22, 2022, meeting, the North Dakota Board of Medicine approved 116 Physician licenses, 14 Physician Assistant licenses, and 14 Genetic Counselor licenses. Seven (7) Letters of Qualifications for State of Principal Licensure and 112 non-principal licenses were issued through the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact. The Board interviewed 1 applicant 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 43 cases were reviewed: 4 cases were referred for formal disciplinary action; 6 Confidential Letters of Concern were issued; 4 cases were held over for further review; all other cases were dismissed, or no further action taken. During the meeting, the Board issued Orders for disciplinary action on 2 licenses and issued 5 Orders of Completion.

The Board received updates from its respective committees. The PHP committee reported that it would be collaborating with the PHP's Board of Directors to issue written policies and procedures. The Budget committee reviewed the office's current finances and based upon review, did not recommend any changes to the licensure fees. The Laws, Rules, and Legislative Committee reported updates to administrative rules for clarification and discussed continued review of the Board's laws for the upcoming legislative session. Finally, the IT Committee gave an update on a Cyber Security Assessment and Audit performed to assess the Board's IT vulnerabilities in order to move forward with updating its systems. Based on the report, the committee recommended the Board continue its relationship with its current vendors and attempt to address any deficiencies outlined in the report.

2022 CME AUDIT

2022 is an audit year for physician CME requirements. Physicians will be notified if selected in a random audit to submit CME verification. As a reminder, the law requires 60 AMA/AOA Category 1 CME hours every three years. For those licensed for more than one year but less than two years, 20 hours are required, and those licensed more than two but less than three years, 40 hours are required.

UPCOMING CME OPPORTUNITY – SAFESIDE: PRIMARY CARE TRAINING

Suicide is a leading cause of death with over 45,000 Americans lost to suicide each year. Primary care represents a key intervention point given that 45 percent of people who die by suicide saw their primary care doctor in the month before their death.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) has partnered with SafeSide-Primary CARE which centers around a patient centered framework for suicide prevention. In three 50-min sessions, SafeSide Primary CARE training gives primary care physicians and staff a map of best practices for responding to suicide concerns within the time and resource constraints of primary care. SafeSide-Primary CARE is co-taught by primary care psychologist and internationally recognized suicide prevention expert, Dr. Anthony R. Pisani, and a suicide attempt survivor, Kristina Mossgraber. Other faculty and team members from the University of Rochester provide subject matter expertise.

The program's learning objectives are:

- 1) Develop a sustained connection with patients to support direct conversations about suicide
- 2) Gather and summarize assessment information that is actionable
- 3) Respond to a patient's suicide risk level with appropriate interventions

4) Extend the patient's care into behavioral health or other appropriate resources and supports

The target population for SafeSide Primary CARE is all staff working in primary care settings including doctors (MD/DO), physician assistants (PA), nurse practitioners (NP), nurses, nurse assistants, office staff, and practice managers. 3.0 CME credits are available for physicians and there are also 3.0 education credits for nurses.

The North Dakota Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has been awarded \$125,000 from North Dakota Human Services Behavioral Health Division to provide SafeSide training across North Dakota for 800 primary care providers including advance practice professionals and nursing staff at no cost to the clinicians or the healthcare systems.

SafeSide is not meant to replace current initiatives or practices already in place in the clinics. It is an additional tool in the clinician system's toolbox.

Please contact the ND chapter of AFSP if you are interested in accessing the training. Please contact our area director at schristopherson@afsp.org or 701-371-1194.

NEWS

Board Vacancies 2022

Due to members' terms expiring on July 31, 2022, there will be several vacancies on the North Dakota Board of Medicine. In order to have a well-rounded Board, we encourage those with specialty areas to consider applying for appointment, including those with OB/GYN, surgical, and pediatric experience and expertise. We will also be looking to fill the D.O. position on the Board. Finally, the Board encourages those who serve rural areas or western areas of the state to consider applying so the Board will be well represented in various practice locations. To apply for appointment, please fill out the application on the Governor's website: <https://apps.nd.gov/gov/boards/Application/PersonalInfo>.

NDBOM Collaboration with ACCME

Physicians can now have CME providers report CME credit for North Dakota licensees directly to the ACCME Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS). All that is required of physicians is to request your CME provider to report your attendance. A report is then submitted to the Board certifying attendance. This will streamline CME audits, allowing physicians to utilize the ACCME database instead of self-reporting individual CME during an audit. Physicians may also create their own account at the ACCME's CME Passport: <https://www.cmepassport.org> which will allow you to find available CME, track what CME credits have been reported by providers, and generate a transcript of your credit that can be sent directly to the Board. To learn more, please access the ACCME website at <https://www.accme.org/state-medical-licensing-boards-collaboration>. For more information on the CME Passport, please access: <https://accme.org/about-cmepassport>.

Medicaid requires PDMP checks

A new federal law went into effect on October 1, 2021, which requires all health care providers to check the PDMP for a Medicaid enrollee's prescription drug history before prescribing controlled substances to the enrollee. If you have any questions regarding the new requirements or regulations, please contact Brendan Joyce at the North Dakota Department of Human Services (bjoyce@nd.gov).

2021-2022 N.D. Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program

The North Dakota Primary Care Office announces the opening of the 2021-2022 North Dakota Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program cycle. The application and new website are now live and can be accessed through the following: <https://www.health.nd.gov/nd-communities/primary-care-office>. Please visit the website for more information and contact information for any questions.

A Continued Thank-You to our Licensees

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>

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

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