

899 NORTH CAPITOL ST. NE – 2ND FLOOR.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

April 15, 2020

10:04 am – 11:10 am

OPEN SESSION MINUTES
(VIA ZOOM MEETING DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY)

Board of Pharmacy Mission Statement:

“To protect and improve the public health through the efficient and effective regulation of the practice of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Detailing; through the licensure of Pharmacists, Pharmaceutical Detailers, Pharmacy Interns, and Pharmacy Technicians.”

Open Session Agenda

Quorum: Yes

Introduction:		
0415-O-01	<p><u>Approval of the Open Session Meeting Minutes</u> February 6, 2020</p> <p>Motion: Board Member Mr. Alan Friedman moves the Board to approve the February 6, 2020 Open Session Meeting Minutes.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Benjamin Miles.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Dr. Tamara McCants: in favor of the motion. Dr. Ashlee Bow: Abstains from the motion. Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion. Ms. Chikita Sanders: Votes in favor of the motion. Abstentions: Dr. Ashlee Bow Motion Carried</p> <p><u>Approval of the Open Session Meeting Minutes</u> March 5, 2020</p> <p>Motion: Board Member Mr. Alan Friedman moves the Board to approve the March 5, 2020 Open Session Meeting Minutes.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Ashlee Bow.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote Dr. Tamara McCants: in favor of the motion. Dr. Ashlee Bow: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion. Ms. Chikita Sanders: Votes in favor of the motion. Abstentions: None Motion Carried</p>	
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	None	
<u>Executive Director Report</u>	Dr. White extends gratitude to all pharmacy professionals and healthcare professionals for their work during the public health emergency due to novel coronavirus (COVID-19).	

Operations During the District of Columbia's Public Health Emergency

- DC Health's headquarters at 899 North Capitol Street NE is closed to the public. All applications for pharmacy professional licensing must be mailed to the location for consideration and approval. (The mailing address, as published on the application is:
Department of Health
Health Regulation and Licensing Administration
Board of Pharmacy
P.O. Box 37803
Washington, DC 20013).
- The application process will take longer than usual due to alternate work schedules in response to the Public Health Emergency.
- Some fingerprinting sites designated for criminal background checks are still open. Applicants in need of guidance through this process may coordinate with DC Health's Criminal Background Division.

The District's website on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Information on matters concerning the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is published on the District's coronavirus website: coronavirus.dc.gov.
- All health notices and issuances released by the District of Columbia are uploaded to the website, as well as to the Board of Pharmacy's web page.
- Information on the Medical Reserve Corps is also published on coronavirus.dc.gov. Persons interested in joining the Medical Reserve Corps may begin the process by reading about the corps at coronavirus.dc.gov.
- The District's Mayor leads two healthcare provider teleconference calls per week, both of which are open to healthcare providers in Washington, DC. Information regarding these calls are disseminated via email and are available to all healthcare professionals in the District of Columbia.
- The DC Board of Pharmacy released a guidance document, as well as emergency prescription regulations of the drug, *Hydroxychloroquine*. The document was also published on the coronavirus.dc.gov website and has been disseminated to all pharmacies and pharmacists via email.
- At the request of the Board's Chairperson, Dr. McCants, Dr. White will recommend adding an alert on the Board of Pharmacy's web page when new notices are available for viewing on coronavirus.dc.gov, to DC Health's communications team.
- Dr. White emphasizes to the Board the need to go to coronavirus.dc.gov daily, for updates and new health notices.

The NABP Annual Meeting

- NABP's 116th Annual Meeting has been cancelled due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The meeting will move from the traditional in-person meeting format to a scaled-back, virtual format delivered from NABP Headquarters.

- The 116th Annual Virtual meeting, to be held Thursday, May 14, 2020, will focus on conducting the Association's annual business of:
 1. Electing candidates to fill the open officer and member positions on the NABP Executive Committee;
 2. Voting on proposed resolutions; and
 3. Discussion/voting on proposed amendments to the NABP Constitution and Bylaws.
- Voting will be conducted by secure email or telephonic roll call as appropriate.
- Meeting details will be sent to Dr. McCants, the delegate for the DC Board of Pharmacy, prior to the meeting.
- For further information, please go to <http://www.cvent.com/events/116th-annual-meeting-baltimore/custom-113-c7e67917301045a68975996f1a4dc450.aspx?RefID=Vanity/>.

NABP Passport Program

- In response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, NABP has created the Passport Program, "a temporary authorization that facilitates pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, interns, and pharmacy businesses practicing in another state."
- The program allows states to efficiently grant temporary or emergency licensure(s) to pharmacy professionals and businesses at no cost to the interested party.
- The program is available to pharmacy professionals and businesses interested in working in the District of Columbia in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Pharmacy professionals have two (2) options in gaining employment in the District of Columbia:
 1. Licensure through the standardized process;
 2. Licensure through waiver, [for temporary and emergency appointment as an agent of the District of Columbia]. Through the waiver process, pharmacy professionals in need of verification of licensure or registration may obtain such verification or certificate of good standing through the NABP Passport Program. Once obtained, the pharmacy professional may submit their credentials to their prospective employer. For further information, pharmacy professionals may go to the Board of Pharmacy's webpage.
- Mr. Friedman confirms that NABP's passport web page is navigation and user friendly.
- For more information on the program, go to <https://nabp.pharmacy/coronavirus-updates/passport/>.

Licensure Waivers in the District of Columbia

- The Mayor of the District of Columbia implemented Administrative Order 2020-01 on March 13, 2020, which "sets forth requirements under which licensure, registration or certification requirements, permits and/or fees shall be waived for healthcare practitioners who are appointed as temporary agents of the District of Columbia, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

- Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacy Interns interested in appointment as temporary agents in the District of Columbia to assist during the COVID-19 public health emergency may utilize the NABP Passport Program to expedite their verification of licensure process.

Pearson Vue Testing Sites

- Pearson VUE Authorized Test Centers have been directed to follow guidance from local governments and health authorities. As a result, the vendor has closed several testing sites in the Washington Metropolitan Area.
- Sites that remain open are limited to testing eight (8) to ten (10) candidates, due to social distancing guidelines.
- The testing vendor tentatively plans to reopen all test centers on May 1, 2020.
- The following test centers are open in the Washington Metropolitan Area and environs:

Location of Testing Site	Maximum Number of Candidates Tested
Washington, DC	8
Baltimore, MD	8
Bethesda, MD	8
Lynchburg, VA	5
Reston, VA	8
Newport News	7

- For further information on the testing centers and availability, go to <https://nabp.pharmacy/coronavirus-updates/> and <https://home.pearsonvue.com/Test-takers/Resources.aspx?ot=collapse156>.
- Dr. White suggests that this information be posted on the Board of Pharmacy’s website as information is updated frequently during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

NABP Board Member Meeting

- The NABP meets with Board members and Board staff every Friday at 12:00 pm.
- Dr. White will disseminate information regarding this meeting to all Board members.
- Dr. McCants will discuss attendance with each Board member and create a schedule to ensure the District’s presence at all meetings.

0415-O-02

Guidance from Department of Health and Human Services

- The Department of Health and Human Services has published a notice of general guidance that endorses pharmacists to screen and provide testing for [persons with symptoms of] novel coronavirus (COVID-19), especially in community pharmacies.

- At the Interprofessional Board Meeting last week, Dr. McCants inquired of the Director [of Health's] representative about the plan for expansion of testing centers within the District.
- Dr. McCants assumes that screening and testing for COVID-19 is also completed at hospitals within the District.
- The question raised by Dr. McCants regarding pharmacists conducting screening examinations for COVID-19 is: Will the Board require additional credentialing or certification to qualify pharmacists to conduct these screening examinations?
- Dr. White shares with the Board, the District's COVID-19 public screening and testing sites per the District Mayor's presentation of April 13, 2020:
 1. United Medical Center
 2. George Washington University Medical Center
 3. All Care Family Medical and Urgent Care Center
 4. Children's National Hospital
 5. Mary's Center
 6. Unity Healthcare
- The following centers also engage in screening and testing for COVID-19, but are member-specific:
 1. One Medical
 2. Medstar Health at:
 - a. Adams Morgan
 - b. Capitol Hill
 3. Kaiser Permanente
- Dr. White suggests that for pharmacists to participate in screening for COVID-19, all coordination must be completed through DC Health and clear waivers must be obtained from Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). She further suggests that the Board of Pharmacy and pharmacists must coordinate and collaborate with DC Health, Federal partners, and testing sites already operational in the District to engage in the screening process for COVID-19.
- Mr. Friedman inquires about the COVID-19 screening and testing process and Dr. Miles informs the Board that the screening process includes insertion of a swab into the nasal pharynx for 20-30 seconds; and that testing was not completed by the same healthcare professionals administering the screenings.
- Dr. McCants suggests that pharmacists are not in need of additional credentialing to conduct screenings for COVID-19.
- Dr. Miles assures the Board that screenings [at his place of employment] are completed by nursing aides and medical assistants and are therefore, attainable for pharmacists.
- Dr. McCants states that the American Pharmacists Association sought pharmacists experienced in nasal swabbing to train inexperienced pharmacists, but that she was unaware of recent updates on this matter. She further suggests that there is no information in legislation that may impede a pharmacist from conducting screenings and that [before moving forward], the Board must ensure that pharmacists observe screening for COVID-19 as an employment duty.

<p>0415-O-03</p>	<p>Request for Extensions of Authorizations To Test (ATTs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Candidates for the MPJE and NAPLEX examinations, who are seeking licensure in the District of Columbia via examination, score transfer, reciprocity and re-examination are requesting extensions of ATTs because they are unable to test due to the public health emergency, social distancing guidelines and limited spacing at test centers caused by the novel corona virus (COVID-19). ➤ Dr. White requests that the Board votes formally on this matter. ➤ Mr. Friedman suggests that the Board make a general recommendation that [extensions are granted] only and during the COVID-19 public health emergency. <p>Motion: Board Member Ms. Chikita Sanders moves that the Board extends ATTs until sixty (60) days past the date that the CDC has lifted the restriction on large gatherings.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Benjamin Miles.</p> <p>***Amended Motion: Board Member Ms. Chikita Sanders moves the Board to extend all ATTs until September 30, 2020.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Benjamin Miles.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Dr. Tamara McCants: in favor of the motion. Dr. Ashlee Bow: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion. Ms. Chikita Sanders: Votes in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Abstentions: None Motion Carried</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. White clarifies the motion for Mr. Friedman as such: All Authorizations To Test (ATTs) for candidates applying for pharmacist licensure in the District of Columbia will be extended until September 30, 2020. ➤ Mr. Friedman suggests that the Board must revisit this motion as the September 30, 2020 approaches, [if CDC restrictions persist]. 	
<p>0415-O-04</p>	<p>Schedule Regarding Future Board of Pharmacy Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. McCants suggests that the Board maintain its assigned meeting scheduled, (i.e. meeting on the first Thursday of every month). ➤ Mr. Friedman supports Dr. McCants' decision to keep the Board's assigned schedule during the COVID-19 public health emergency. ➤ Dr. White informs the Board that it is approved [by DC Health] to meet via zoom meetings during public health emergencies. ➤ Dr. McCants requests copies of the Board of Pharmacy's by-laws for review and updating by all Board members. 	

	<p>Motion: Board Member, Dr. Benjamin Miles moves the Board to continue to meet as previously scheduled.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Ashlee Bow.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Dr. Tamara McCants: in favor of the motion. Dr. Ashlee Bow: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion. Ms. Chikita Sanders: Votes in favor of the motion. Abstentions: None Motion Carried</p>	
<p><u>Public Comments</u></p>	<p><u>Mr. Don Zowader, DC Public</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Zowader requests access to the minutes of this meeting (the Open Session Minutes for the Board of Pharmacy April Monthly Meeting). ➤ Dr. White informs Mr. Zowader that the minutes will be available for viewing at https://www.open-dc.gov/public-bodies/board-pharmacy within seventy-two (72) hours of today, April 15, 2020. <p><u>Ms. Jasmine Inman, Pharmacist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Inman requests from the Board an answer to the following question: "If the DC Board of Pharmacy decides to include additional requirements or certification for COVID-19 screening, when will the public be informed of [the Board's] decision?" ➤ Dr. McCants responds by stating the it is not likely that the DC Board of Pharmacy will require additional requirements or certification of pharmacists participating in screening and testing exercises for COVID-19; but if it were possible, information regarding this matter would be disseminated immediately following the Board's decision. 	
<p><u>Motion to Adjourn the Open Session</u></p>	<p>Board member, Mr. Alan Friedman moves as follows:</p> <p>"Madam Chair, I move that the Board close the Open Public session portion of the meeting and move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b) for the following purposes: to discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to § 2-575(b)(9); to seek the advice of counsel to the board, to preserve the attorney-client privilege, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to § 2-575(b)(4); and to plan, discuss, or hear reports concerning ongoing or planned investigations pursuant to § 2-575(b)(14)."</p> <p>Seconded by: Board Member, Dr. Ashlee Bow.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Dr. Tamara McCants: in favor of the motion. Dr. Ashlee Bow: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion. Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in favor of the motion.</p>	

	<p>Ms. Chikita Sanders: Not available to vote on this motion. Abstentions: None Motion Carried</p>	
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This concludes the Public Open Session of the meeting. The Board will now move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b) for the reasons set forth in the motion.

Open Session Meeting Adjourned at 11:10 am

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.

DRAFT