

**899 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
2ND FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

October 5, 2023

9:48 AM – 11:11 AM

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES
(IN-PERSON AND WEBEX)**

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

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| Introduction: | | |
| 1005-O-01 | <p><u>Approval of the Open Session Meeting Minutes for:</u></p> <p>August 3, 2023</p> <p>Motion: Board Member, Benjamin Miles moves the Board to approve the August 3, 2023 open session meeting minutes.</p> <p>Seconded by: Board Member, Dr. Allison Hill.</p> <p>Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Abstentions: None.</p> <p>Motion Carried</p> | |
| <u>Consent Agenda</u> | None. | |
| <u>Chairperson Report</u> | <p><u>Interprofessional Workgroup</u></p> <p><u>The Interprofessional Symposium</u></p> <p>Dr. Allison Hill attended the interprofessional workgroup symposium, on behalf of the District of Columbia’s Board of Pharmacy. Dr. Hill reports the following as discussed at the symposium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The infrastructure of DC Health, presented by the Chief of Staff, Dr. Jacqueline Watson. • Case Studies, which emphasized the need to change pharmacy practice. <p>The symposium was insightful as other health professionals discussed their duties and all health professionals were informed of the goals and direction for health care in the District of Columbia.</p> <p>Board Chair, Dr. McCants commends DC Health for establishing the Interprofessional Workgroup. The workgroup was created to foster cohesiveness among the health care professionals and between DC Health’s licensing boards.</p> | <p>Dr. Tamara McCants</p> <p>Dr. Allison Hill</p> |

The Mission of the District of Columbia's Board of Pharmacy

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.

The Board protects and improves public health by ensuring that the residents of the District of Columbia get the best health care possible.

The Board is aware of the recent walkouts and protests that are occurring within the pharmacy community, particularly by those who are now on strike at Kaiser Permanente. The Board is aware that pharmacists are highlighting poor working conditions that consequently put the public at risk.

Board Chair, Dr. McCants asks the question: What can be done within the pharmacy community to serve the District's citizens better?

Howard University College of Pharmacy Student, Kent Patterson, Jr. answers by stating the following:

- We can start by reviewing the working conditions of pharmacists, particularly the shift hours worked by, and the scheduling of pharmacists.

Carolyn Rochelle Price, Executive Director of the Washington DC Pharmacy Association (WDCPhA) states the following:

- The workplace environment has been a concern of the WDCPhA for some time. The association encourages pharmacists of the District to express their [thoughts] so that WDCPhA knows how to represent them.
- The WDCPhA will hold its third Annual Citywide Pharmacy Confab at the Anacostia Arts Center in Washington, DC on October 6 – 7, 2023. It will be a conversation among pharmacists who express their concerns on workplace conditions, mental health conditions, etc. The WDCPhA would like the discussion to continue as it is passionately concerned about these matters. To join the conversation, attend the Confab and/or please submit an email to wdcpha@gmail.com.
- The WDCPhA is in the process of finalizing the movement for provider status for the District's pharmacists. The legislation has been written and the WDCPhA is working with APhA and the DC Department of Health Care Finance, other local and national governmental agencies as well as pharmacy agencies to secure provider status for pharmacists in the District of Columbia.

Board Chair, Dr. McCants invites all pharmacy leaders in the District of Columbia to a conversation concerning the workplace environment and solutions on moving forward. All pharmacy supervisors, pharmacy managers, the Howard University College of Pharmacy, the Washington

DC Pharmacy Association, Washington Metro Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and the state pharmacy associations are all invited to participate.

Mr. Don Zowader comments that the Kaiser Permanente strike involves 75,000 employees. He asks the Board for the number of patients at risk as a consequence.

Board Chair, Dr. McCants states that while the Board does not have data to support a precise answer, a 75,000-employee strike may affect three (3) to five (5) times the number of patients.

Executive Director Report

Statistical Report on Pharmacy Professionals in the District of Columbia

Dr. Justin Ortique

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| PHARMACEUTICAL DETAILERS | 829 |
| PHARMACISTS | 2,136 |
| PHARMACY INTERNS | 347 |
| PHARMACY TECHNICIANS | 1,069 |
| PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINEES | 123 |
| PHARMACISTS WITH VAC AUTHORITY | 759 |
| PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAMS | 8 |
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Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Updates

- All pharmacists are reminded to register for the *Prescription Drug Monitoring Program* (PDMP) within ninety (90) days of licensure in the District of Columbia at <https://districtofcolumbia.pmpaware.net/login>.
- As a reminder, new licensees will receive notifications regarding registration for the program every thirty (30) days after licensure.
- Further information regarding the District’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is viewable at <https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/prescription-drug-monitoring-program>.

DCRx (DC Center for Rational Prescribing)

- The DC Center for Rational Prescribing (DCRx) will publish an announcement of a new module on *Pharmacy Mind Bearing Innovations and Patient-Centric Services*, which will focus on the various aspects on the future of pharmacy, the emerging trends as well as pharmacy access. This module will be available for review at <https://dchealth.dc.gov/dcrx> in the near future.

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| | <p>Board of Pharmacy Vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DC Board of Pharmacy is currently seeking two District of Columbia residents to serve as consumer members on the Board. • Interested parties who are health professionals or in training to become one or in a household where there is a health professional or someone training to become one are not qualified for the role of consumer member. • For further information regarding the vacancies, please go to: https://motaboardstheresumator.com/apply/1L8k6Q/Board-Of-Pharmacy | |
| <p><u>Office of Government Relations (OGR) Report</u></p> | <p><u>DC Health Director Confirmation Hearing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Committee on Health will hold a hearing on the Director of the Department of Health, Dr. Ayanna Bennett, today, October 5, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Confirmation Resolution of 2023 (PR25-0290). <p><u>Council Recess</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The DC Council has returned from recess and reconvened. The Office of Government Relations anticipates a busy fall. <p><u>PDMP Act of 2023</u></p> <p>The Committee on Health will hold a meeting on October 10, 2023 wherein the committee will vote on the PDMP Act of 2023.</p> <p><u>Pharmacists Month, 2023</u></p> <p>Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy, Dr. Ortique acknowledges Pharmacy Month and the students of pharmacy by highlighting October 5, 2023 as Student Pharmacist Day.</p> <p><u>Nomination</u></p> <p>Board Chair, Dr. McCants informs the public that Executive Director of the DC Board of Pharmacy, Dr. Ortique attended the Regional's 1 and 2 Meetings for NABP and ASCP in September, 2023. He was elected to be the District Resolution Representative at the Annual NABP Meeting in May, 2024.</p> | |
| <p><u>Senior Assistant General Counsel Report</u></p> | | |
| <p>1005-O-02</p> | <p><u>Notice of Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking to Allow Pharmacists to Administer RSV Vaccinations</u></p> | <p>Ms. Carla Williams</p> |

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| | <p>(a) Amendments to Title 17 DCMR For Pharmacist Chapter 65 section 6512.7 (Administration of Immunizations and Vaccinations by Pharmacists).</p> <p>Board Counsel, Ms. Carla Williams informs the public of the following:</p> <p>The issued emergency and proposed rulemaking thereby allowing pharmacists authorized to administer vaccinations and immunizations – pursuant to a written protocol and standing order to administer any vaccination that was ACIP recommended and on the Standard Immunization Schedule – is to be published in final today, October 5, 2023, which will make it permanent.</p> <p>The Board has subsequently issued emergency and proposed rulemaking to supplement the aforementioned rulemaking. This emergency rulemaking will allow pharmacists to administer the RSV vaccine, although it is not yet added to the Standard Immunization Schedule and will not be, until 2024.</p> <p>The Board now has emergency rulemaking in place as of September 27, 2023, which allows pharmacists to administer the RSV vaccine. This emergency rulemaking will be in effect until January, 2024. In the interim, the Board anticipates publishing and final rulemaking, which will establish the supplementary rulemaking as a permanent change.</p> <p>This supplementary rulemaking does not only apply to the RSV vaccine but is written to address vaccines recommended by ASIP and formally adopted by the Chair of the Center for Disease Control (CDC). This proposed rulemaking, therefore, will permit pharmacists in the District to use such vaccines. It is published in the register as of today, October 5, 2023 and will remain open for comments for thirty (30) days.</p> <p>Executive Director, Dr. Ortique informs the public that an e-blast was transmitted to the District’s pharmacy community, yesterday, October 4, 2023 to advise of the aforementioned permanent and proposed rulemakings.</p> | |
| <p><u>Subcommittee Reports</u></p> | | |
| <p>1005-O-03</p> | <p><u>Legislative and Regulatory Subcommittee Report</u></p> <p>The Legislative and Regulatory Subcommittee meets monthly. The committee’s review of the workplace survey is currently pending as the committee focuses on regulations concerning pharmacists prescribing oral contraceptives. In support of these regulations, the committee reviewed and revised the patient information pamphlet in September, 2023.</p> <p>The subcommittee also reviewed the public comments concerning regulations drafted by the District of Columbia’s Boards of Pharmacy and Medicine and intends to complete its review in the upcoming week.</p> | <p>Dr. Benjamin Miles</p> |

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| | <p>At the upcoming meeting, the subcommittee will determine whether substantial changes and another comment period are required for the draft regulations, or if they are acceptable for publication as currently presented.</p> <p>The subcommittee intends to return to reviewing the workplace survey after completing its review of the drafted regulations. The subcommittee is reviewing other states' regulatory considerations to inform the framework that will be established by the District of Columbia's Board of Pharmacy. The subcommittee seeks to ensure that regulations concerning the workplace environment are deliberate and acceptable before presenting recommendations to the Board, at an open session meeting.</p> | |
| 1005-O-04 | <p><u>Communications Subcommittee Report</u></p> <p>None.</p> | Dr. Ashlee Bow (Absent) |
| | <u>Presentation</u> | |
| 1005-O-05 | <p>Respiratory Season Plans</p> <p>Dr. Burris of the Health Care Access Bureau's Immunization Division asks the pharmacists attending the meeting, that by a show of hands, <i>who has and plans to administer the COVID-19 vaccine?</i></p> <p>Board Chair, Dr. McCants informs Dr. Burris that the pharmacy community is currently under duress as walkouts, protests, and strikes continue in response to the workplace environment and being overwhelmed by administering vaccinations and other work duties.</p> <p>Dr. McCants informs the public that Howard University College of Pharmacy (HUCOP) offers immunization training to all students. Therefore, the college welcomes the opportunity to be considered for vaccination events where a faculty member can serve as the supervisor to the students.</p> <p>Dr. Burris asks for the reason of the barrier in administering vaccines: <i>is it that funds are not available or is it that there are not enough uninsured individuals requesting vaccination?</i></p> <p>Dr. McCants responds by stating that independent pharmacies are required to register with the District of Columbia as vaccine providers. Therefore, the registration process is sometimes a barrier in itself, particularly where pharmacies employ only one or two professionals.</p> <p>Secondly, procuring the vaccinations may not be financially viable for some pharmacies, especially where it is unknown if the insurance company will reimburse a pharmacy for vaccinations that are much higher in cost than the average vaccine.</p> | Ms. Heather Burris |

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| | <p>Board Member, Allison Hill comments on the Bridge Access Program to inform Dr. Burris that Giant, Safeway, and Harris Teeter Pharmacies, which are not direct authorities, can benefit from enrolling in each rewards program.</p> <p>Dr. Burris informs the Board that only one pharmacy, Safeway Pharmacy, is enrolled in the VFC Program. Board Member, Dr. Hill comments that the District needs more pharmacies enrolled in the program.</p> <p>Dr. McCants informs Dr. Burris that the Howard University College of Pharmacy is committed to providing support to the District's pharmacies by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with independent pharmacies on completing applications for vaccinations. 2. Staffing vaccine events. | |
| <p><u>Matter for Consideration</u></p> | | |
| <p>1005-O-06</p> | <p>National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) New Pharmacist Exam Eligibility Service</p> <p>Executive Director, Dr. Ortique informs the public that the DC Board of Pharmacy will now utilize the <i>National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) New Pharmacist Exam Eligibility Service</i> to enhance the pharmacist licensure process.</p> <p>In this process, the applicant will first apply to NABP to sit the NAPLEX and/or MPJE and on receipt of a passing score report, apply to the District of Columbia's Board of Pharmacy for pharmacist licensure.</p> <p>The NABP asks the following of the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Does the [District of Columbia's] Board of Pharmacy require the original by exam license to be active as a basis for licensure transfer?</i> <p>Motion: Board Member, Dr. Benjamin Miles, moves the Board to adopt as its official position the following: active status of an original license is not required as a basis for licensure transfer.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Allison Hill.</p> <p>Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Abstentions: None.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>How many months is the MPJE score valid?</i> | |

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| | <p>Motion: Board Member, Dr. Allison Hill, moves the Board to adopt as its official position the following: the MPJE score is valid for one year.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Benjamin Miles.</p> <p>Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Abstentions: None.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> | |
| <p>NABP E-Newsletter</p> | <p>September 20, 2023</p> <p>FDA Advisory Panel Determines Oral Phenylephrine Ineffective in OTC Medications</p> <p>FDA Authorizes Emergency Use of Updated COVID-19 Vaccines for 2023-2024</p> <p>HHS Proposes Rule to Prohibit Discrimination Based on Disability in Health Care and Human Service Programs</p> <p>LAPPA Publishes Report on Status of Good Samaritan Fatal Overdose Prevention Laws in US</p> <p>UMass Memorial Medical Center’s Mobile Addiction Service Helped Over 1,100 Individuals Within a Two-Year Period</p> <p>September 27, 2023</p> <p>APhA, ASHP, and NABP Unveil Strategies to Bolster Pharmacy Workforce</p> <p>FDA Issues Document on Regulation of Prescription Drug Use-Related Software</p> <p>Nearly \$300 Million Awarded to 49 States, District of Columbia, and 40 Local Health Departments for Drug Overdose Prevention</p> <p>Innovations: Ten Years After DSCSA, Final Provisions Set to Go into Effect</p> <p>In 2021, 72% of Adults Who Acknowledged Having a Substance Use Problem Reported Being in Recovery or Recovering from Substance Use</p> <p>States With Less Restrictive Tele-Pharmacy Policies Experienced Fewer Pharmacy Deserts, According to Recent Study</p> | <p>Dr. Tamara McCants</p> |

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| | <p>About One in Five Adults with OUD Receive Medication Treatment, Based on the 2021 NSDUH</p> <p>Note to the Public: To receive weekly updates from NABP, please sign up by using the following link: https://nabp.pharmacy/newsroom/news/.</p> | |
| <p><u>Comments from the Public</u></p> | <p>Ms. Carolyn Rochelle Price, Executive Director of the Washington DC Pharmacy Association (WDCPhA) extends an invitation to everyone for WDCPhA’s third Annual Citywide Pharmacy Confab at the Anacostia Arts Center in Washington, DC on October 6 – 7, 2023. Ms. Price announces that Board Chair, Dr. McCants is the featured speaker on the evening of Saturday, October 7, 2023.</p> <p>Mr. Don Zowader comments that the current walkouts and protests by pharmacists are contrary to the perceived trust retained by the professionals for the past three (3) years. He comments that the pharmacists’ best ally is the patient, and that the patient’s advocacy may assist the pharmacists in securing better work environments.</p> <p>Howard University College of Pharmacy Student, Kent Patterson, Jr. states that a similar approach would drive down pharmacy. Mr. Patterson suggests that pharmacists should take a stand and that the strike will result in better management, increase the appreciation of pharmacists, and will maintain the public’s trust and the trust of patients.</p> | |
| <p><u>Motion to Adjourn the Open Session</u></p> | <p>Board Member, Dr. Allison Hill, moves the Board as follows:</p> <p>“Madam Chair, I move that the Board closes 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: Dr. Benjamin Miles.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote:</p> <p>Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Abstentions: None.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> | |

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 11:11 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.