

DIVISION OF
CUSTOMER SERVICES
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF PHARMACY
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

URI College of Pharmacy
Avedisian Hall
Room 207

7 Greenhouse Rd
Kingston, RI

8/19/2021

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Thomas Bourque Jr, Paul Capuano, Eugenio Fernandez, May Gauthier-Sarmiento, Anita Jacobson, Edward Misto, Brian Musiak, Lorraine Quirk, Stacey Ranucci (Chairperson)

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Ragosta (Chief Administrative Officer)
Joshua Vallee (Chief Compliance Officer)
Colleen McCarthy (Board Legal Counsel)

STAFF MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

1. Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Pharmacy was held (in person) on August 19, 2021 at URI College of Pharmacy. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 8:31AM by Stacey Ranucci. A motion to open the meeting was made by Lorraine Quirk and seconded by Brian Musiak, the motion unanimously passed.

2. Presentation of the June 17th, 2021 Open Session Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Paul Capuano and seconded by Lorraine Quirk to accept the June 17, 2021 open session minutes. The motion unanimously carried with Eugenio Fernandez and Edward Misto abstaining from this vote due to this being their first board meeting.

3. Chief Administrative Report: Peter Ragosta, RPh

- A) Thank you to URI for providing your facilities for today's meeting and for District meeting planning room.
- B) Welcome New Board Members – Eugenio Fernandez (replaces Bob Iacobucci) and Ed Misto (replaces Leo Lariviere)
- C) Last in-person meeting was 2/20/20 – day of celebration for being in person today
- D) New legislation passed in 2021 General Assembly cycle
 - RPh administration of medications approved – passed GA and signed into law; RIDOH will be drafting Regulations in consultation with the BOP
 - Potential options include medications for OUD, antipsychotics, vitamin B12, anticoagulants, HIV prevention medications, other injectables TBD
 - Still a need for CMS to recognize pharmacists as providers
 - Free APhA training available to members and non-members
 - Language for payment for this service will be an important consideration
 - Copay for insulin now limited to \$50 with no deductible requirement (OHIC will draft Regs) – not BOP oversight.
 - Pharmacists now allowed to discuss reimbursement and lower cost options with consumers without being penalized by PBMs.
- E) Vaccine updates
 - Shelf-life of Pfizer vaccine expected to extend by mid-August, in ultracold storage, pending FDA
 - Booster doses for COVID vaccine approved for people with immune suppressing conditions and federal recommendation for 8-month booster doses for everyone is expected to receive FDA authorization soon
 - Pregnant or breast-feeding patients encouraged to be vaccinated per CDC saying it is safe.
 - Some increased risk of GBS with J&J vaccine however numbers are small and like other vaccines' risk
 - PREP act extended flu vaccine administration to pharmacy technicians
- F) Mono-clonal antibody update
 - People are potentially waiting too long to get treated and go to hospital, lots of mono-clonal antibodies available, and are effective against Delta variant
 - Some preparations of MABs can be administered SQ in different quadrants of the body

- EUA is 12 years of age and up for MABs, immune compromised definition has been opened more broadly
- G) DEA form 222 has been updated to a single sheet versus the triplicate form effective October 18, 2021.

4. Chairperson Report

- a) Request for MJPE Exam questions review by BOP volunteers.
 - Bryan Musiak volunteered to help review questions
 - NABP District 1&2 Meeting is Sept 7th to 10th in Annapolis – Board members encouraged to attend if possible
 - RI will be hosting the District 1&2 Meeting on Oct 5th to 7th 2022 in Newport at the Viking Hotel for NABP District Meeting

5. Special order of business

- a) COVID-19 update:

Paul Capuano, RPh introduced the discussion regarding 216-RICR-20-15-8 Emergency Regulations from RIDOH that mandate vaccination by October 1st for licensed healthcare workers and employees, and states **pharmacists** and **technicians** explicitly as licensed professionals, but not **pharmacies** (healthcare facility explicitly named)

- Request for more specific language that added pharmacies for clarity so employers can determine how to deal with personnel issues for non-compliers.
- Board questioned if ancillary employees such as janitors, cashiers, shelf stockers, etc were affected by mandate.
- Board questioned what will be considered proof of vaccination and how this will be enforced
- Language states individuals that are licensed by RIDOH, leading board to consider that this includes pharmacists and technicians in the vaccine mandate. Board asking RIDOH to confirm as best as possible if this is the case.

6. Old Business:

No old business reviewed.

7. New Business:

- a) New Licenses: New licenses were reviewed. A motion to accept all new licenses was made by Edward Misto and seconded by Thomas Bourque. The motion unanimously carried.
- b) New Pharmacist-In-Charge – no new PICS were present at this meeting.
- c) BOP Calendar: The next scheduled BOP meeting will take place on September 16, 2021. Location TBD.
- d) Collaborative Practice Agreements, Standing Orders, Drug Protocols or other similar agreement/document review (proposed and approved agreements).
 - i. Presentation of CPAs from Lifespan by Dr. Ruth Daapah-Afryie (see attached PPT presentation)
 - a) RIDOH requires all participants in collaborative practice to sign the CPA document as per current regulations.
 - b) Board moved to accept the elements contained in the multiple Lifespan CPAs in a motion by Bryan Musiak and seconded by Lorraine Quirk, with the caveat that signatures of all participants and date of signing will be included for each CPA before being forwarded to BMLD and Director of Health for approval. Board of Pharmacy has recently discovered and makes note that these CPAs have been taking place without the approval of RIDOH for several years.

8. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was made by Lorraine Quirk and seconded by Tom Bourque to close the open session and open the closed session at 10:22 am. The motion unanimously carried.

Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct. And pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 of the Rhode Island General Laws, for purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure the proceedings will be held in closed session. Said individuals have been notified in advance by writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting.

9. Motion to return to Open Session

At 10:43am a motion was made by Lorraine Quirk and seconded by May Gauthier to return the meeting to open session. The motion unanimously carried.

10. Final actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

No cases were reviewed in closed session

11. Motion to seal the minutes of the Closed Session

A motion was made by Lorraine Quirk and seconded by Brian Musiak at 10:45 am to seal the minutes of the closed session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General laws. The motion unanimously passed.

12. Adjournment

The next Board of Pharmacy meeting will take place on September 16, 2021, the location TBD. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul Capuano and seconded by Lorraine Quirk at 11:48am. The motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Jacobson, RPh
Secretary
RI Board of Pharmacy

Peter Ragosta, RPh
Chief Administrative Officer
RI Board of Pharmacy