

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS
Board Meeting Teleconference Minutes
Friday, January 24, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

The Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners met via teleconference on Friday, January 24, 2020. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Dr. Leonard La Russa, DPM, Chair
Dr. Sarvepalli Jokhai, DPM, Board Member
Ms. Judy Sanders, Consumer Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor

Board Members Not Present

Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM

Office of Attorney General

Betsy Cohen, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present

No visitors present.

Call to Order Dr. La Russa established that a quorum of the Board was present and the meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda The Board accepts the agenda as presented.

Open Session Minutes

1. December 20, 2019 Board Teleconference Minutes

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the December 20, 2019 open session teleconference minutes as presented.

Licenses to Ratify December 13, 2019 – January 17, 2020

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with Board Rules and Policies between Board meetings.

Discussion – LC338081 - Proposed Amendments to the Georgia Podiatry Practice Act

The Board accepts the correspondence provided regarding the proposed amendments to the Georgia Podiatry Practice Act, as information.

Executive Director's Report – A. Price

Executive Director's Report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, complaints/compliance matters, the status of renewal applications and the number of licenses that were lapsed. In addition, she addressed the following topics with the Board:

- **Upcoming Session of the Georgia General Assembly**
- **Annual Ethics Commission Affidavit of Public Officer Filings**
- **Mandatory Language Change on Board Websites**

Dr. La Russa motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented.

Board President's Report – L. La Russa, DPM

No report presented.

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2 (k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information pertaining to applications, pending cases, investigative reports and enforcement matters and to receive the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those Board members present: Dr. La Russa, Dr. Jokhai and Ms. Sanders.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session on Friday, January 24, 2020, Dr. La Russa declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during executive session.

OPEN SESSION

Executive Minutes

1. December 20, 2019 Executive Session Teleconference Minutes

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the December 20, 2019 executive session teleconference minutes as presented.

Attorney General's Report – B. Cohen

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's Report as presented.

Legal Services Report – Board Rule 500-4-.02. Inactive Status

The Board entered into a discussion regarding the review of all profession's Board Rules by the Joint Secretary. The recommended amendments will streamline the rule to the efforts of the Joint Secretary laws. The amendment will delete the requirement for licensees to substantiate hardship due to age or disability to apply for inactive status. The rationale is that when the applicant applies for reinstatement, the ability to operate with reasonable skill and safety will be presented for Board review.

Additionally, the amendment will eliminate the requirement to pay fees upon reinstatement for all unlicensed biennium periods for which the licensee was inactive. The fees are capricious and arbitrary thus the update will have a positive economic impact for all licensees and applicants.

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer Board Rule 500-4-.02. Inactive Status, to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Authority, and if no objections, vote to post.

Rule 500-4-.02. Inactive License

- (1) The Joint Secretary has designated a category of inactive license which the Board has determined will be available for those persons meeting the prescribed criteria which shall remain in full force for life, unless reactivated under Board Rule 500-4-02(B), and which shall incur no fees. To be eligible to be placed in inactive status, a licensee must:

- (a) ~~Demonstrate an inability to practice podiatry due to age, physical impairment, or infirmity which time is not expected to resolve;~~ [Licensees desiring to be place on inactive status must apply in writing on forms approved by the Board;](#)
- (b) Have a current active license in good standing to practice podiatry in the state of Georgia.
- (c) Must not be under administrative disciplinary action or court action or probation;

~~(d) Licensees desiring to be placed on inactive status must apply in writing to the Board and submit evidence of inability to practice.~~

- (2) Once placed in inactive status, the license holder thereafter shall not engage in the practice of podiatry in any manner in the State of Georgia. The only avenue of reactivation shall be at the discretion of the Board under conditions acceptable to the Board. Licensees seeking reactivation shall ~~be required to pay past license renewal fees based on the current renewal rate for each inactive renewal cycle-~~ submit an application and fee in accordance with the fee schedule and submit proof of 50 hours of continuing education ~~for each biennium on inactive status~~ in accordance Board Rule 500-5-.01.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 500-4-.02

Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-1-22, 43-35-9.

History. Original Rule "Inactive License" was filed on August 11, 1986; effective August 31, 1986.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 15, 1995; eff. Jun. 4, 1995.

Complaint Status Report

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Complaint Status Report as presented.

Applications for Board Review

Applicant 247352 Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to restore the license to active renewal pending status and table a decision on renewal application pending receipt of the final disposition of the criminal case. If the criminal matter is resolved and closed, renew license with a Letter of Concern regarding criminal history. If there is no final disposition at this time, refer the matter to the Board Cognizant for review and recommendations.

Adjournment With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by: Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director

Minutes approved on: April 24, 2020

LEONARD LA RUSSA
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR