

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

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

**Board Members Present**

Dr. Leonard La Russa, DPM, Chair  
Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM, Vice Chair  
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. Sarvepalli Jokhai, 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 1:01 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** The Board accepts the agenda as presented.

**Open Session Minutes**

**1. January 24, 2020 Board Teleconference Minutes**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the January 24, 2020 open session teleconference minutes as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify January 17, 2020 – April 17, 2020**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa 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.

**Correspondence – Announcement from the Georgia Department of Public Health and New Reports from Georgia Department of Public Health Drug Surveillance Unit (DSU)**

The Board accepts the correspondence provided regarding DSU, as information.

**Correspondence – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Temporarily Closing Offices to the Public March 18-April 1**

The Board accepts the correspondence provided regarding USCIS, as information.

**Correspondence – A Word of Appreciation – La Trenda Tyler-Jones, Division Director, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Secretary of State**

The Board accepts the correspondence provided from the PLB Division Director, as information.

**Discussion – U.S. Department of Health & Human Services – Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth**

The Board accepts the correspondence provided regarding Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth, as information.

### **Discussion – Concessions for Education During Declared Emergencies or Disasters**

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer BR 500-5-.01 Continuing Education Hours. Amended to Dr. Giovinco to draft an amendment.

### **Discussion – Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB)**

- 1. Member Board Webinar – COVID-19 – Licensing & CME Update**
- 2. 2020 Q1 Newsletter**
- 3. Licensure Request Info Results & NBPME Testing Announcement**
- 4. 2020 Annual Meeting Invite – RSVP**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Giovinco seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Dr. La Russa to attend as the primary delegate and Dr. Giovinco as an alternate delegate to represent the Board at the FPMB 2020 Annual Meeting.

The Board accepts the correspondence provided regarding FPMB, 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 and the status of renewal applications, to include 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**

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders 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. Giovinco and Ms. Sanders.**

**At the conclusion of the Executive Session on Friday, April 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.**

<b>OPEN SESSION</b>
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### **Executive Minutes**

#### **1. January 24, 2020 Executive Session Teleconference Minutes**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the January 24, 2020 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.

**Board Rule 500-4-.02. Inactive License**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept rule as amended and refer to Legal Services to post the amendment to Joint Secretary Rule 295-15-.01 for hearing on June 2, 2020; and post the rule for a Public Rules Hearing before the Board during the July 10, 2020 Board meeting.

**Complaint Status Report**

**POD200002** Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to Investigations for hand service of a subpoena for records on the Respondent.

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

**Adjournment** With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 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:** July 31, 2020

LEONARD LA RUSSA  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**