

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS**  
**Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 12, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners met via Zoom meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM, Vice 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  
Meagan Doss, Complaints/Compliance Analyst

**Board Members Not Present**

Dr. Leonard La Russa, DPM, Chair

**Office of Attorney General**

Mary Brannen, Assistant Attorney General

**Visitors Present**

Marit Sivertson, J.D., Executive Director, Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA)

**Call to Order**

Dr. Giovinco established that a quorum of the Board was present and the meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda**

The Board accepts the agenda as presented.

**Open Session Minutes – March 31, 2021 Open Session Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the March 31, 2021 open session Board zoom meeting minutes as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify: January 15, 2021 – May 5, 2021**

Dr. Jokhai 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 – Governor Active Supervision Certificates**

1. 20-11-001 signed – BR 500-2-.02. Reinstatement of Licensure
2. 20-11-002 signed – BR 500-4-.02. Inactive Status

The Board accepts the correspondence provided regarding the Governor Active Supervision Certificates, as information.

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

1. NBPME Cancels Part II CSPE for the Class of 2021
2. Podiatric Licensure Renewal Requirements – 2021-03-09
3. 2021 Q1 Newsletter
4. 2021 Annual Meeting Recap – AMA To Consider Resolution with Goal of Allowing DPMS to Take USMLE Exams
  - a) 2021 Annual Meeting Recap
  - b) Joint Task Force of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Podiatric Surgeons – White Paper

- c) Joint Task Force of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Podiatric Surgeons – American Medical Association Resolution A-21

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, and complaints/compliance matters. In addition, Ms. Price addressed the following topics with the Board:

- Amendments to Applications for the purpose of eliminating outdated requirements and improving efficiencies,

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to remove the Certificate of Education Form and the 2x2 passport photo requirement from the applications for licensure based upon them being duplicative in nature in light of the requirements to submit a secure and verifiable document and transcript.

- Georgia General Assembly and Fingerprint-based background check legislation

Ms. Price expressed her appreciation to Ms. Sivertson and the efforts of GPMA, as the background check provision was amended to eliminate the requirement to obtain the results of a fingerprint background check at renewal and only require it for initial licensure and for reinstatement of licensure.

Ms. Price asked that GPMA send email reminders to its membership regarding the importance of licensees completing the Notice of Intent to Dispense forms to upload at the time of they apply for renewal as well as the requirement for them to register with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) as over 40% of licensees are currently in violation of that requirement. Those licensees who have failed to register with the PDMP will have holds on their licenses, which may eventually lead to sanctions from the Board if not addressed before the renewal cycle ends.

Ms. Sivertson indicated that she will work with the Board office in developing language to send out to the membership concerning these matters. She also addressed the Board regarding the status of BR 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. She inquired about an email she sent requesting a review of language in the proposed amendment to the rule. Ms. Price indicated that the Board will be reviewing the rule further after receiving information concerning authority from the Attorney General's Office and will address her concerns at that time which will likely be during the next Board meeting.

Ms. Sanders 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. Jokhai 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. Giovinco, Dr. Jokhai, and Ms. Sanders.**

**At the conclusion of the Executive Session on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, Dr. Giovinco 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 Session Minutes – March 31, 2021 Executive Session Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Jokhai motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the March 31, 2021 executive session Board zoom meeting minutes as presented.

**Attorney General’s Report – M. Brannen**

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

**Miscellaneous Executive Discussion – POD180019**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the request to terminate probation at this time and the Board will reconsider the request if presented after the 2021 renewal cycle has ended.

**Complaint Status Report – J. Giovinco, DPM**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendation made in Executive Session:

**POD210004**      Schedule Investigative Interview with Cognizant and Assistant Attorney General.

**Applications for Board Review**

Dr. Jokhai motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session:

**Applicant 2918656**      Issue the license in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-35-13.

**Applicant 2886850**      Issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding criminal history.

**Applicant 2894218**      Grant request for inactive status.

The Board entered into a discussion concerning the residency requirements outlined in Board Rule 500-2-.01 based upon noting that 3-year residencies have been recommended for the profession since 2015. It was the consensus of the Board to add BR 500-2-.01. Requirements for Examination and Licensure, to the July 9, 2021 Zoom meeting agenda for further discussion of the residency requirements.

**Adjournment**      With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 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:**                      September 10, 2021

**LEONARD LA RUSSA**  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

**ADRIENNE PRICE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**