

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS**  
**Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, October 15, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners met via Zoom meeting on Friday, October 15, 2021. 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  
Meagan Doss, Complaints/Compliance Analyst

**Board Members Not Present**

Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM, Vice Chair

**Office of Attorney General**

Mary Brannen, Assistant Attorney General

**Visitors Present**

No visitors present

**Administrative Staff Absent**

Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor

**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 – September 10, 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 September 10, 2021 open session Board zoom meeting minutes as presented.

**Licenses to Ratify: July 2, 2021 – October 8, 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 – Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB)**

- 1. Request for Information (Radiology) Board Member Update**
- 2. 2021 Q3 Newsletter**
- 3. Invitation to Fall Member Boards Meeting - November 5, 2021**

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to appoint Dr. Jokhai as the Board Representative for the FPMB Fall Member Boards Meeting as Dr. La Russa will already be in attendance in his capacity as a Federation Board member.

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

**Discussion – 2022 POD Meeting Dates**

All Zoom meetings are scheduled for Fridays:

January 28, 2022	1:00 p.m.
April 29, 2022	1:00 p.m.
July 8, 2022	1:00 p.m.

October 14, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Jokhai motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the 2022 Board meeting dates as presented.

### **Board Member Elections**

#### **1. Chairperson**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Leonard La Russa as the Board's Chairperson.

#### **2. Vice Chairperson**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Joseph Giovinco as the Board's Vice Chairperson.

#### **3. Applications and Complaints/Disciplinary Cognizant**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Joseph Giovinco as the Board's Applications and Complaints/Disciplinary Cognizant.

#### **4. Rules Committee**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Joseph Giovinco as the Board's Rules Committee.

### **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.

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.

### **Miscellaneous Discussion**

#### **1. BR 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. Amended.**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to post BR 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. Amended. for a Public Rules Hearing as amended with input from the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association after the Board further clarified and removed unnecessary verbiage regarding live CE. The final amendment was made on the basis that the Board determined the number of hours that must be obtained live and in-person has already been established in another area of the rule and as such, did not require restatement in (2)(c)..

#### **Rule 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. Amended.**

- (1) The purpose of continuing education hours for podiatrists is to maintain and enhance the professional competence of podiatrists licensed to practice in Georgia for the protection of the health and welfare of the people of the State of Georgia.

- (2) As a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her license, a podiatrist must certify to the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners the completion of not less than fifty (50) hours of approved continuing education in the preceding two (2) years prior to the license expiration date.
- (a) No more than ~~ten-twenty-five (40-25)~~ hours shall be obtained from online courses/correspondence courses/webinar, and such courses must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).
  - (b) ~~No more than~~ **Up to** ten (10) hours ~~shall~~ **may** be obtained live (in person) from any healthcare related source.
  - (c) At least thirty (30) continuing medical education hours must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and/or the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA) ~~and must be obtained live (in person).~~
  - (d) **Every Podiatrist who maintains an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training permit, shall complete, at least one time, three (3) hours of CME that is specifically designed to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for acute pain management.**
    - (i) **Beginning the biennium ending August 31, 2023, Podiatrists must certify on their renewal application that the controlled substance prescribing CME requirement has been met. Once completed, this specific CME requirement shall not be required for subsequent renewals.**
    - (ii) **Any controlled substance prescribing guidelines coursework that meets the requirements of this rule will count toward completion of this requirement provided that the podiatrist can submit documentation of such to the satisfaction of the Board.**
    - (iii) **Completion of this requirement may count toward the CME requirement for license renewal if submitted during the biennium in which the coursework was taken.**
- (3) A podiatrist who has obtained a Georgia license ~~d~~ by reciprocity, **reinstatement** or by examination, and who must renew his or her Georgia license for the first time, shall obtain the following number of continuing education hours prior to renewal of the license:
- (a) If the license was issued **or reinstated** during the first six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from September of the odd numbered year to the end of the following February, the full fifty (50) hours of continuing education shall be required for renewal **in accordance with (2)(a-d) of this rule;**
  - (b) If the license was issued **or reinstated** during the following twelve (12) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the even numbered year to February of the odd numbered year of the licensure period, thirty (30) hours of continuing education shall be required for the license renewal;
    - (i) **No more than five (5) hours shall be obtained from online courses/correspondence courses/webinar, and such courses must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).**
    - (ii) **Up to five (5) hours may be obtained live (in person) from any healthcare related source.**
    - (iii) **At least twenty (20) continuing medical education hours must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and/or the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA) and must be obtained live (in person).**

**Podiatrist who maintain an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training permit, shall complete, at least one time, three (iv) (3) hours of CME that is specifically designed to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for pain management. Completion of this requirement may count toward the CME requirement for license renewal if submitted during the biennium in which the coursework was taken.**

- (c) If the license was issued **or reinstated** during the last six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the odd numbered year to August of the odd numbered year, the licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for that biennial licensing cycle and no continuing education hours shall be required to renew the license.

~~(4) This rule shall become effective with the 2013-2015 renewal cycle.~~

**Cite as GA Regs. 500-5-.01**

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-4](#), [43-1-25](#), [43-35-9](#), [43-35-15](#).

**History.** Original Rule entitled "General Requirements" adopted. F. Sept. 7, 1989; eff. Sept. 27, 1989.

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

**Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Continuing Education Hours" adopted. F. May 7, 2012; eff. May 27, 2012.

**Amended:** F. Sep. 4, 2015; eff. Sep. 24, 2015

**Amended:** F. Mar. 1, 2017; eff. Mar. 21, 2017

## **2. New Administrative Policy Regarding Applications**

Dr. La Russa asked for a clarification on the new administrative policy regarding applications. Ms. Price explained that the new policy went into effect August 1, 2021 and did not affect any Board Rules under the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners; however, the applications were updated to reflect the new policy. The purpose of the agency wide change is to concentrate staff efforts and resources on complete applications that were submitted in a timely manner so that those individuals may complete the process more expeditiously, get licensed and begin working. In addition, it decreases the amount of labor required to continually revisit applications that the applicants appear to have abandoned.

With the institution of the 60-day policy, the applicants must now submit all required information within 60 days of receipt of a deficiency letter regarding their application for licensure, renewal or reinstatement, or the application will be withdrawn. Should the application be withdrawn, the entire application process must be restarted with a new fee. Exceptions can be made for those applicants whose exam date is scheduled outside of the 60-day window due to availability or when the transcript delivery is delayed after the applicant has requested it timely.

**Dr. Jokhai motioned, Ms. Sanders 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, October 15, 2021, 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 Session Minutes – September 10, 2021 Executive Session Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the September 10, 2021 Executive Session Board zoom meeting minutes as presented.

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

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

**Cognizant Report – J. Giovinco, DPM**

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:

- POD210003**                      Close the case.
- POD210007**                      Table pending Cognizant recommendation.
- POD220002**                      Refer to the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency (GDNA).

**Miscellaneous Executive Discussion – POD210015**

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

Refer to the Attorney General's office for a hearing or Private Consent Order with terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session.

**Applications for Board Review**

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

- Applicant 2839381**                      May apply for Inactive Status. If fail to do so, refer to Legal Services for a Public Consent Order with a fine of \$2500 in accordance with Board Rule 500-6-.02(3)(a)(2). Fine to be paid and proof of completion of 50 hours CE submitted within 90 days of order docket date.
- Applicant 2960538**                      Issue the license.

**Adjournment**      With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:**                      Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed and edited by:**      Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:**                      January 28, 2022

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

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