

**Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners
Teleconference
Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

The emergency meeting was called to order by Kent Moore, D.C., President, at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members present:

Harold Gunter
Gregory Ungerank, D.C.
Michael Courtney, D.C.
Sarah Hays, D.C.
Jack McCoy (called in at 1:02pm)
Tanya Holt, D.C. (called in at 1:05pm)

Staff present:

Laurie Mayhan, Executive Director
Brad Nye, Assistant Attorney General

Guests present:

Matt Gilmore, ADH Boards and Commissions Coordinator

BUSINESS ITEMS

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Board has received several inquiries from licensees about guidance during the coronavirus pandemic. In response to that this meeting has been called to discuss the guidance that has been provided by the Department of Health and the Governor. The chairman wants to make sure the whole board is interpreting that chiropractic clinics may remain operational as long as they are screening employees, patients and visitors and sanitizing their clinics more frequently. Some members thought the board should put out a statement regarding whether or not the clinics could remain open. The board was advised that links to the CDC and ADH have been posted to the agency's website and guidance is also posted on the Department of Health's website regarding any closures or other directives. Dr. Courtney recommended that in addition to possibly sending the ADH links to the licensees by email, that it is also advisable that licensees remove magazines that could be contaminated as well as the sign in sheet that everyone touches. Licensees may need to utilize an individual sign in sheet per patient instead of a common sign in sheet. Dr. Moore also mention that toys should be removed. Dr. Courtney motioned that the board send out an email to all the licensees notifying them of the ADH recommendations as well as the removal of magazines and toys and to utilize separate sign-in sheets for each patient. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Directive given to Ms. Mayhan to draft the email and include the links to ADH and additional recommendations made by the board.

Continuing Education onsite requirements

Dr. Moore asked the board if they would consider waiving the onsite CE requirement for 2020 and allowing it to be taken all online. Dr. Courtney felt that this decision not be made until June because if this particular virus is like the flu virus as the weather gets sunnier and hotter it will tend to dissipate in which case it could be quite possible that by May this could be over by June in which everything would be normalized for the second half of the year. Dr. Courtney motioned for the purpose of discussion. Motion seconded by Dr. Holt. Motion passed. Dr. Courtney stated, for the purpose of discussion, that in the statute 17-81-312(b)(2) the board has the right to waive the CE requirements for any other valid reason. The board could always change that on a one-time bases for an emergency. On the other hand, if the board can revisit this in June in case the CDC doesn't lift the gathering limit of 10 or less persons and decide at that time to go forward with requiring CE by distance learning methods for the rest of the year.

April Meeting

Dr. Moore asked the board if they would be ok with having the April 7th meeting by teleconference due to the CDC guidelines of having gatherings of 10 people or less. It was also asked that since a hearing and new licensee orientation is scheduled for the same day, that they be postponed but still license the applicants approved for orientation. Dr. Holt moved to have a teleconference for the April meeting and move the hearing to the July meeting as well as license the approved applicants with the contingency that they attend the July orientation. Motion seconded by Mr. McCoy. Motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. McCoy moved to adjourn. Dr. Holt seconded. Motion passed. The Board adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Board minutes approved: April 7, 2020