

*Naturopathic
Medicine
Committee
Strategic Plan
2016-2019*



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Contents

Table of Contents	2
Committee Members	3
Message from the Chair	4
Goal Area Summaries	5
Mission, Vision and Values	6

Goal Areas

Licensing & Continuing Education	7
Enforcement	8
Legislation and Regulations	9
Administration	10
Outreach & Education	11
Strategic Planning Process	12

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Naturopathic Medicine Committee 2016-2019 Strategic Plan



Message from the Chair

As Chair of the Naturopathic Medicine Committee under the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, it is my pleasure to present our 2016 Strategic Plan. This Plan was developed with expert guidance from the Department of Consumer Affairs, SOLID Planning Unit, Noel Cornelia and Brianna Miller, as well as contributions from all of our Committee Members and our dedicated Executive Officer, Rebecca Mitchell.

The Committee will continue to focus on the following areas:

- Licensing and Continuing Education
- Enforcement
- Legislation and Regulations
- Administration
- Outreach and Education

The Naturopathic Medicine Committee thanks you for your interest in our work. Please check our website at www.naturopathic.ca.gov and keep apprised of our progress!

David Field, ND, LAc
Chair, Naturopathic Medicine Committee



Goal Area Summaries

#1 Licensing and Continuing Education

The Committee promotes licensing standards for licensees to protect consumers and allow reasonable access to the profession. The Committee also oversees and approves continuing education standards to promote excellence in practice and public safety.

#2 Enforcement

The Committee protects the safety of consumers through enforcement of the laws and regulations governing the practice of naturopathic medicine.

#3 Legislation and Regulations


Committee statutes, regulations, policies and procedures strengthen and support their mandate and mission.

#4 Administration

Through effective leadership, the Committee efficiently utilizes its resources and personnel to meet its objectives. It provides excellent customer service and consumer protection.

#5 Outreach and (Public) Education

The Committee informs consumers, licensees and stakeholders about the practice and regulation of the profession, while providing responsive customer service.



Mission, Vision and Values

Mission:

To protect health care consumers through the proper licensing and regulation of Naturopathic Doctors utilizing the vigorous, objective enforcement of the Naturopathic Doctors Act, and to promote access to quality naturopathic medical care

Vision:

To promote excellence in the safe and effective practice of naturopathic medicine

Values:

1. Consumer Protection
2. Quality
3. Transparency
4. Efficiency
5. Integrity

#1 Licensing and Continuing Education

- 1.1. Explore and adopt a continuing education (CE) approval system and coordinate with the California Naturopathic Doctors Association (including the designation of pharmacy and non-pharmacy CE) to be consistent with other states and allow for greater accessibility to licensees.
- 1.2. Facilitate licensees' ability to track their CE for increased efficiency in the license renewal and auditing process and to promote public safety by confirming compliance.
- 1.3. Create a clear naturopathic doctor-physician and surgeon (ND-MD/DO) supervision agreement template for use by NDs to conform to the law regarding pharmacy prescribing.
- 1.4. Implement a regular and efficient CE auditing system to confirm that licensees have met their respective CE requirements.
- 1.5. Update Web site information on Committee-approved CE offerings to provide current information to licensees.

#2 Enforcement

- 2.1. Identify and contract with naturopathic expert reviewers to assist with implementing enforcement actions by reviewing cases to determine a deviation from the standard of practice.
- 2.2. Strengthen penalties for illegal use of ND title to protect consumers from unscrupulous practitioners.
- 2.3. Execute timely enforcement and collection of fines to protect public safety.
- 2.4. Explore and identify policy change that implements stronger penalties for unlicensed practice to protect the public.

#3 Legislation and Regulations

- 3.1. Craft and introduce Naturopathic Medicine Committee (NMC) sponsored legislation (including additional title protection and scope expansion for allowing naturopathic doctors to practice as trained) to address consumer needs and protections, and to improve public access to primary care.
- 3.2. Review, update and announce regulations to clarify the Naturopathic Practice Act.
- 3.3. Develop the standard of practice guidelines for licensees to promote safe and professional practice and to protect public safety.
- 3.4. Open communication between the NMC, appropriate boards and associations in order to facilitate greater understanding of potential legislative and regulatory changes.

#4 Administration

- 4.1. Clarify workflow to establish clear priorities for Executive Officer and create efficiencies.
- 4.2. Create operational manual for the office and positions to prepare for staff change and provide continuity.
- 4.3. Create clear expectations for responsiveness by the NMC to staff in order to improve workflow and shorten cycle times.
- 4.4. Secure adequate staff to support the functions and duties of the Executive Officer and the Committee.

#5 Outreach and Education Objectives

- 5.1. Create a webinar and/or other educational opportunities around ethical and legal practice for licensed NDs to educate them about scope of practice.
- 5.2. Post disciplinary processes, results and cases (pending legal research and approval) to protect public safety.
- 5.3. Explore opportunities to educate legislators and health-related boards and associations about naturopathic medicine and NMC to inform, foster relationships, reduce confusion, and educate the public about naturopathic medicine.
- 5.4. Increase the frequency of online communications and Web site updates (newsletter, FAQs, social media) concerning naturopathic medicine (intravenous (IV) therapy and prescription (RX) formulary) to better educate the public and licensees.
- 5.5. Update the consumer brochure to provide current information to the public.
- 5.6. Develop outreach campaigns to educate the public about naturopathic medicine.

Strategic Planning Process

To understand the environment in which the Board operates and identify factors that could impact the Committee's success, the California Department of Consumer Affairs' SOLID Unit conducted an environmental scan of the internal and external environments by collecting information through the following methods:

- ◆ Interviews conducted with eight members of the Committee were completed during August and September 2015 to assess the strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats the Committee is currently facing or will face in the upcoming years.
- ◆ Interviews conducted with the Committee Executive Officer and support staff person, completed in of August 2015 to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Committee from an internal perspective.
- ◆ An online survey sent 550 Committee stakeholders in August 2015 to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Committee from an external perspective. 54 stakeholders completed the survey.

The most significant themes and trends identified from the environmental scan were discussed by the Committee during a strategic planning session facilitated by SOLID on January 14, 2016. This information guided the Committee in the revision of its mission, vision and values, while directing the strategic goals and objectives outlined in this 2015 strategic plan.

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This strategic plan is based on stakeholder information and discussions facilitated by SOLID for the Naturopathic Medicine Committee during the time period of July through September, 2015. Subsequent amendments may have been made after Committee adoption of this plan.

