



Naturopathic Medicine Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2015

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

David Field, ND, Lac, Chair
Tara Levy, ND, Vice-Chair
Koren Barrett, ND
Michael Hirt, MD
Thyonne Gordon, PhD
Gregory Weisswasser, ND
Myles Spar, MD
Tabatha Parker, ND

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**STAFF
PRESENT:**

Michael Santiago, Esq., Legal Counsel
Ileana Butu, Esq., Legal Counsel
Rebecca Mitchell, Executive Officer (EO)
Raquel Oden, Executive Program Analyst

Persons of Interest

Rebecca May, DCA
Kerrie Webb, Medical Board of California, Staff Legal Counsel
Yeaphana LaMarr, DCA, Legislative and Regulatory Review
Judith Wolen, CNDA/Capital Partners

1. Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Roll Call was taken and quorum was established.

1. Chair Report – David Field, ND, LAc:

Dr. David Field thanked all the members of the Committee, staff and the guests of the public for being present. Dr. Field stated that this is an exciting time for the Committee and the naturopathic profession. The California Naturopathic Doctors Association

(CNDA), has introduced a co-sponsored bill with the Committee, in which the Committee is looking forward to its progress through the legislature as this bill would further assure the safety of the public and allows the public access to safe, quality naturopathic care.

2. Update: Formulary Sub-Committee Report – Koren Barrett, ND, Sub-Committee Chair

Dr. Barrett reported that there were no changes to the previous recommendations that were submitted to the Committee. However, because the last recommendation was given a year ago, the Formulary Sub-Committee wanted to be certain that the recommendation was still appropriate. After meeting, the subcommittee decided to submit an addendum to the Formulary Subcommittee Report to the Naturopathic Medicine Committee (Rev. 01/27/2014). This addendum states that the recommendations presented to the Naturopathic Medicine Committee on 01/27/2014 is still supported and that it is recommended that Physician and Surgeon supervision be eliminated. The formulary should be exclusionary and include “all Legend drugs and scheduled drugs with the exclusion of Schedule I and II drugs”. This is consistent with the current formulary under Physician and Surgeon supervision.

Motion: Barrett / Second: Levy. Roll call vote to adopt the Formulary Subcommittee report taken, motion carried 8-0-0. (**YES** – Field, Levy, Barrett, Hirt, Gordon, Weisswasser, Spar, Parker / **NO** – none / **ABSTENTIONS** - none) No public comment on this item.

3. Minor Office Procedures – David Field, ND, Committee Chair

Dr. Field reported that having been a member of the panel that presented the original Minor Offices Procedures report to the Legislature in 2007, he is aware of modernization to the climate of naturopathic practices since that time. NDs have a vast interest in, and are currently working with the underserved, urban, and rural areas of the community.

With the lack of medical insurance coverage and the entire change in the scene of medical care, it seems appropriate in terms of both protecting public safety and providing full-scope naturopathic services, that NDs be allowed to perform minor procedures as taught in naturopathic medical schools.

The revision to the Minor Office Procedures Report (Rev. 02/23/15), relates to the report entitled Findings and Recommendations Regarding Minor Office Procedures, submitted by the Naturopathic Medical Bureau, January 1, 2007, to the California State Legislature, as requested in SB 907 (Burton).

While the original report lays out the environment for the practice of Naturopathic Medicine in California in 2007, laws and circumstances have changed. This brief revision will address these issues.

Recommendations are:

1. First, the title of the report should read, “Findings and Recommendations Regarding Minor Procedures”. (The rationale of excluding the word “office” from

the title is based upon consultation from Congressional office staff when preparing this report. It is suggested that by using the word “office”, it may inadvertently place a limit on an NDs ability to perform minor procedures when not in their office, i.e., in an emergency situation.)

2. Business and Professions Code Section 3640(d), should be modified to read, “Utilize routes of administration including, but not limited to; oral, nasal, auricular, ocular, rectal, vaginal, transdermal, intradermal, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intra-articular, intra-tendinous, intra-ligamentous, and other areas of the body, excluding ventral and dorsal body cavities. (The rationale is to model the scope of minor procedures after the Committee’s Formulary principle, which was adopted over a year ago, providing an exclusionary geography in terms of where on the body an ND may perform a procedure. This is also based on recent statutory language that was developed in Hawaii. The Hawaii Legislature mandated this language be established to exclude the body cavities, which allows a broad enough scope that is within and consistent of an NDs training.)
3. The report section entitled “Consultant Recommendations” should be modified to read, “Removal and Biopsy of Clinically Benign Skin Lesions”. (The rationale is that an ND should have the ability to remove skin tags and biopsy potential melanomas, which the Committee would recommend be referred out for expert excision.)

The Naturopathic Medical Committee appreciates the Legislature’s action to follow the recommendation in the Bureau’s original report; to allow licensed naturopathic doctors to perform laboratory testing with these brief revisions, the report, “Findings and Recommendations Regarding Office Procedures”, shall be submitted to the Legislature. The updated syllabi for Minor Surgery as taught in 2014-2015 at the National College of Naturopathic Medicine, is included with the report.

Motion: Barrett / Second: Levy. Roll call vote to adopt the “Findings and Recommendations Regarding Minor Procedures” report taken, motion carried 8-0-0 (**YES** – Field, Levy, Barrett, Hirt, Gordon, Weisswasser, Spar, Parker / **NO** – none / **ABSTENTIONS** - none) .

Dr. Gregory Weisswasser inquired if the background of Naturopathy should be included again in this report. Dr. Field stated that it would be desirable to include some of the background information. The Committee is not currently proposing this as statutory language, as it does not have the resources to submit language to the Legislature. What the Committee anticipates from this report is an expression or intent of the Committee.

4. **Establish Future Meeting Dates & Locations**

The next meeting will be scheduled tentatively for Monday, March 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., in Sacramento. Teleconferencing will be made available for the upcoming meeting.

5. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- Discuss/Action on Disciplinary Guidelines and SB 1441 – Uniformed Standards for Substance Abusing Licensees

- Take Position on Proposed Statutory Language

6. Adjournment

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Motion: Weisswasser / Second: Parker. Motion carried to adjourn.