



Naturopathic Medicine Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dara Thompson, ND, Chair
Greta D'Amico, ND, Vice Chair
Minna Yoon, ND
Vera Singleton, ND
Bruce Davidson, PhD
Diparshi Mukherjee, DO

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Mitchell, Executive Officer (EO)
Sabina Knight, Esq., Program Legal Counsel, Legal Unit DCA
Ann Fisher, Moderator, SOLID – DCA
Sarah Irani and Shelly Jones, Co-Moderator, SOLID – DCA
Raquel Oden, Program Analyst, NMC

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: None

Agenda Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Greta D'Amico, ND, Vice Chair, Naturopathic Medicine Committee (NMC) led the first few items of the meeting. Vice Chair D'Amico, called the meeting of the NMC to order on March 24, 2022, at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present and due notice was provided to all interested parties.

Dara Thompson, ND, Chair, arrived at the meeting by 9:11a.m., with cause, and assumed the chair duties during agenda item 3 (b) and (c) and throughout the remainder of the meeting.

Agenda Item 2 Public Comment

There was no public comment during this meeting.

Agenda Item 3 Legislative Update

EO Mitchell provided an update on current status of the following bills:

a) AB 2685 – Naturopathic Medicine Committee Sunset Bill

AB 2685 – Introduced by the Committee on Business and Professions on February 18, 2022. This is the Committee’s sunset review bill. This bill will be used to make any amendments or additions to the current Naturopathic Doctors Act.

This bill in its current state is a placeholder for additional language for the Naturopathic Doctors Act and will change greatly in the weeks to come.

EO Mitchell provided a recommendation that the Committee watch this bill closely as the legislative session advances.

The Committee members took action by taking a **watch position** on this bill.

Motion – Singleton / Second – Yoon, to take a **watch position** on AB 2685, the Naturopathic Medicine Committee Sunset Review Bill. Roll call vote taken; motion carried 5-0-0. (YES – D’Amico, Singleton, Mukherjee, Davidson, Yoon / NO – none / Abstentions – none).

b) SB 994 – ND/LVN Orders

SB 994 – Introduced by Senator Jones on February 14, 2022:

Existing law, the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of vocational nurses by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California. The act defines the practice of vocational nursing as the performance of services requiring those technical, manual skills acquired by means of a course in an approved school of vocational nursing, or its equivalent, practiced under the direction of a licensed physician, as defined.

This bill would revise that definition to additionally include practice under the direction of a naturopathic doctor. Existing law, among other things, authorizes a licensed vocational nurse to withdraw blood, administer medications, and start and superimpose intravenous fluids, as described, when directed by a physician and surgeon. Existing law also authorizes a licensed vocational nurse to perform certain tests and immunization techniques, as described, when acting under the direction of a physician and surgeon.

This bill would authorize a licensed vocational nurse to perform the above-described actions when acting under the direction of a naturopathic doctor. It is important to understand that this bill will **not** broaden the scope of either naturopathic doctor or LVN licensees.

Although this is sponsored by the professional trade association, it is believed that this would provide additional protection for the consumer by allowing NDs to employ healthcare staff at a higher level than that of a naturopathic assistant, which is not allowed to do some of the more technical treatments in the NDs office.

EO Mitchell provided a recommendation that the Committee take a supportive position on this bill.

The Committee members took action by taking a **support position** on this bill.

Motion – Davidson / Second – Singleton, to take a **support position** on SB 994, ND supervision of LVN. Roll call vote taken; motion carried 6-0-0. (YES – Thompson, D’Amico, Singleton, Mukherjee, Davidson, Yoon / NO – none / Abstentions – none).

c) AB 1733 – Public Meetings

AB 1733 – Introduced by Assembly member Quirk on January 31, 2022, would make changes to the existing Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

With meetings being held remotely during the pandemic, many boards under the DCA noticed a benefit of having meetings conducted on the virtual platform. The waiver of in-person meetings allowed more public access, by removing travel barriers for consumers and stakeholders. There was also a noticeable decrease in travel costs expended on hotel, air fare and rental costs for meeting rooms.

Due to the benefits of this bill, it is the recommendation that the Committee provide a supportive stance on this bill.

The Committee members took action by taking a **support position** on this bill.

Motion – Davidson / Second – Singleton, to take a **support position** on AB 1733, Open Meetings Act. Roll call vote taken; motion carried 6-0-0. (YES – Thompson, D’Amico, Singleton, Mukherjee, Davidson, Yoon / NO – none / Abstentions – none).

Agenda Item 4 Committee’s Final Response to the Oversight (Sunset) Review Background Paper Issues

EO Mitchell provided the members with the draft of the Oversight (Sunset) Review Background Paper. There were a few minor non-substantive amendments made.

The Committee members reviewed and approved the Oversight (Sunset) Review Background Paper with the suggested amendments.

Motion – Yoon / Second – Davidson, to approve the Oversight (Sunset) Review Background Paper with the suggested amendments. Roll call vote taken; motion carried 6-0-0. (YES – Thompson, D’Amico, Singleton, Mukherjee, Davidson, Yoon / NO – none / Abstentions – none).

Agenda Item 5 Review and Possible Approval of Committee 03/08/2022 Meeting Minutes

EO Mitchell provided the Committee members with draft copies of the 03/08/2022 meeting minutes. There Committee reviewed the minutes. Member D’Amico made a few grammatical, non-substantive amendments to the report.

The Committee members approved the meeting minutes with the requested changes.

Motion – D’Amico / Second – Thompson, to approve the 03/08/2022, meeting minutes with the amendments. Roll call vote taken; motion carried 6-0-0. (YES – Thompson, D’Amico, Singleton, Mukherjee, Davidson, Yoon / NO – none / Abstentions – none).

Agenda Item 6 Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Dates

Items for next meeting include rollover items from the last meeting:

- Review Application of Genesis Medical College for IV Training Provider
- Legislative Updates:
 - o AB 2685
 - o SB 994
 - o AB 1733
- Update of Oversight (Sunset) Review
- Naturopathic World Federation information

The next meeting will be scheduled for some time between July 7th through 22nd. A doodle poll will be sent out to collect the best day/time option for the members and staff.

Agenda Item 7 Adjournment

There being no further business or public comment, Dr. Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.