



Arizona Medical Board

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING Held on Thursday, May 3, 2021 1740 W. Adams St., Board Room 4100 • Phoenix, Arizona

Committee Members

Bruce A. Bethancourt, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Lois E. Krahn, M.D.

Eileen M. Oswald

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Bethancourt called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Committee members participated via Zoom: Dr. Bethancourt, Dr. Krahn and Ms. Oswald.

ALSO PRESENT

The following Board staff participated in the virtual meeting: Patricia McSorley, Executive Director; Kristina Fredericksen, Deputy Director; Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General (AAG); and Michelle Robles, Board Operations Manager.

C. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING FORMATS

Committee Members discussed what the Board meeting format may look like once the Board returns to in-person meetings, including social distancing or various other safety measures. Dr. Krahn discussed going forward it may be best to not have a hybrid of an in-person and zoom meeting as it is hard to focus on who's speaking and there may be a disadvantage for those not in the room. Committee members discussed utilizing Zoom for the teleconference meetings.

Dr. Bethancourt opined that there is a detachment between the attorney and their clients during virtual meetings. Ms. Oswald commented that hybrid meetings are very challenging and is not in favor but opined that the current format does not result in a feeling of detachment. Dr. Krahn opined that a Zoom format may be beneficial for those who are nervous or overwhelmed as opposed to when they are surrounded by Board members in the formal board room setting.

Board staff informed the Committee that Zoom could potentially be used for the teleconference meetings but should take into consideration that the higher case load would result in a higher number of participants. Although Zoom has the capability to hold a high volume of participants, Board staff cannot control how the participants sign-in when they join the meeting and this may result in an initial delay for identifying callers for public statements.

Ms. Smith agreed that an argument can be made for the benefits of both virtual and in-person meetings. However, due to open meeting law the Board will be eventually required to have a physical space for the public to view the meeting at some point. Ms. Smith reiterated her advice to work with ADOA on this issue. Ms. Smith noted that open meeting law cannot change without a statutory amendment. Ms. McSorley informed the Committee that ADOA has left it up to the Executive Director's on when to bring staff back into the office but still require social distance. In response to a Board member's question, Ms. Smith noted her observation that the nursing board does a combination of in-person and virtual meetings and noted that have gone well but she is not aware of the troubleshooting issues or board member feedback.

Committee Members agreed that the current format of CenturyLink teleconferences and utilizing Zoom for formal interviews on day one should remain the status quo for the remainder of 2021. The Committee can reassess what format and safety measures will be implemented once the Board returns to in-person meetings in 2022.

Ms. Smith agreed that the Committee needs to agree on how to proceed in the meantime and then decide on a plan for 2022 once there are better directions from ADOA.

Dr. Krahn suggested that once the Board returns to in-person the medical students could possibly watch a livestream of the meeting to save space in the room for those who have cases on the agenda. Committee members discussed the preference of two short days then experiencing fatigue from one 10 hour meeting. Committee members agreed to remain status quo for the duration of 2021 and to plan for in person meeting logistics in 2022 or once the Executive Order has ended. Committee members also discussed keeping Zoom or conducting a hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting available for day one of the regular session meeting to conduct formal interviews once the Board returns to in-person. Committee members also suggested having Board member training on an every other meeting basis to address issues or questions that arise for board members that require clarification.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The Board's meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.



Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director