



**California State Board of Pharmacy
Department of Consumer Affairs
Public Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: December 3, 2020

Location: Teleconference Public Board Meeting
Note: Pursuant to the provisions of Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20, dated March 17, 2020, neither a public location nor teleconference locations are provided.

Board Members

Present: Gregory Lippe, Public Member, President
Debbie Veale, Licensee Member, Vice President
Maria Serpa, Licensee Member, Treasurer
Ryan Brooks, Public Member
Lavanza Butler, Licensee Member
Seung Oh, Licensee Member
Shirley Kim, Public Member
Jignesh Patel, Licensee Member
Ricardo Sanchez, Public Member
Jason Weisz, Public Member
Albert Wong, Licensee Member

Staff Present: Anne Sodergren, Executive Officer
Lyle Matthews, Assistant Executive Officer
MaryJo Tobola, Senior Enforcement Manager
Norine Marks, DCA Staff Counsel
Eileen Smiley, DCA Staff Counsel
Debbie Damoth, Administration Manager

I. Call to Order, Establishment of Quorum, and General Announcements

As part of the opening announcements, President Lippe reminded everyone that the Board is a consumer protection agency charged with regulation the practice of pharmacy and that public protection shall be the highest priority for the Board. Further President Lippe noted that the meeting was being conducted consistent with the provisions of Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20.

Provisions for providing public comment throughout the meeting were reviewed.

President Lippe advised those participating in the teleconference the Board would convene in closed session after deliberating on the open session items, except adjournment.

Roll call was taken. Board Members present: Ryan Brooks, Lavanza Butler, Seung Oh, Jignesh Patel, Ricardo Sanchez, Maria Serpa, Debbie Veale, Albert Wong, Jason Weisz, and Greg Lippe. A quorum was established.

II. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda/Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Board Members were provided with an opportunity to provide comments on the summary of legislation; however, no additional comments were provided.

Members of the public were provided with an opportunity to provide comments; however, no additional comments were provided.

III. Presentation by Dr. Jill Simonian, “Cannabis Therapeutics – High Time for Pharmacy Education”

Members, received a presentation by Dr. Jill Simonian, “Cannabis Therapeutics – High Time for Pharmacy Education.” Dr. Simonian is the course chair for “Medical Cannabis Pharmacology and Therapeutics” at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC San Diego. Previously, Dr. Simonian practiced at the VA Medical Center in San Diego as a clinical pharmacist specializing in adverse drug reactions and medication safety. Dr. Simonian is currently involved with many national organizations collaborating to promote cannabis education to healthcare professionals, in addition to advocating for the standardization of cannabis products and laboratory testing in an effort to best serve the public in a safe manner.

Dr. Simonian’s presentation focused on the public safety aspects of cannabis noting an enormous gap in consumer and pharmacist knowledge in order to counsel patients and the lack of education in pharmacy schools. Dr. Simonian indicated that consumers are seeking advice for employees of dispensaries when seeking advised from health care professionals would be more appropriate.

The presentation included a history of cannabis; the endocannabinoid system; the science of pharmacology and pharmacokinetics of cannabis; therapeutic uses, including what Californians are using cannabis for; and the implications for pharmacy education and involvement.

Dr. Simonian discussed the differences between TCH and CBD as well as TCH and CBD properties include absorption, duration of action, distribution metabolism, and potential drug interactions. Dr. Simonian indicated that understanding of the properties is important for pharmacist to know.

Members were advised there is an increase in use of cannabis in various populations include seniors, primarily for pain, anxiety, sleep, and spasticity. Dr. Simonian highlighted several public safety considerations including dosing, potential drug interactions, adverse drug reactions, and the lack of product standardization.

Dr. Simonian provided members with the legal status of cannabis across the United States in 2020, including highlighting some states that require a pharmacist to be on site at locations where cannabis is sold to counsel patients, dispense the product, etc. Dr. Simonian suggested such an approach would be good in California but noted it is most likely too late. Dr. Simonian also advised members there is limited cannabis education in colleges.

Dr. Simonian offered several recommendations for the Board's consideration including advocating for education in pharmacy schools, considering protection from liability for pharmacists provided educating consumers about cannabis, the need for greater access to literature in community pharmacies and suggested creating a task force to further consider some of these issues.

In response to questions, members were advised about the challenges with dosing cannabis as well as challenges in conducting studies on the use of cannabis because it is currently a schedule I controlled substance. Members were also advised about the strict regulations of cannabis in California including track and trace requirements and third-party testing but noted the same is not true for CBD products. It was suggested that labeling standards should be required for CBD products as well.

Members publicly thanked Dr. Simonian for the presentation and generally noted the need for education in the area including is areas for dosing, patient consultation. Members also noted some of the challenges because of DEA limitations and the use of cannabis while patients are hospitalized.

Ms. Veale left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Members of the public were also provided the opportunity to provide comments. Comments included that pharmacists are afraid to talk about cannabis and suggested the need for the Board to develop a task force with the Bureau of Cannabis Control.

The meeting recessed from 10:43 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. Following the recess, a roll call was again taken. Members present: Ryan Brooks, Seung Oh, Ricardo Sanchez, Maria

Serpa, Albert Wong, Jason Weisz, Greg Lippe, and Cheryl Butler. A quorum was established.

IV. Petitions for Reinstatement of Licensure, Early Termination of Probation or Other Modification of Penalty.

Administrative Law Judge Marcie Larson presided over the following petition hearings:

- Loan M. Le, RPH 50209
- Hannah Mason, RPH 46923
- Sonya Lee Wells, RPH 41039
- Michael T. Peters, RPH 48262

Member Shirley Kim joined the meeting at 11:13 a.m. The meeting was in recess from 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Upon returning from recess roll call was taken with the following members present: Lavanza Butler, Seung Oh, Maria Serpa, Albert Wong, Jason Weisz, Ryan Brooks, Shirley Kim, Jignesh Patel, and Greg Lippe. A quorum was established. Member Veale returned to the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

The meeting was in recess from 1:56 p.m. to 2:06 p.m. Upon returning from recess, roll call was taken with the following members present: Ryan Brooks, Shirley Kim, Seung Oh, Jignesh Patel, Ricardo Sanchez, Maria Serpa, Debbie Veale, Lavanza Butler, Albert Wong, Jason Weisz, and Greg Lippe. A quorum was established.

V. Closed Session Matters

The Board recessed into closed session at approximately 3:02 p.m.

VI. Reconvene Open Session

The Board adjourned after closed session at approximately 4:18 p.m.