



**COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** July 8, 2020

**Location:** Teleconference

**NOTE:** Pursuant to Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20, dated March 17, 2020, neither public nor teleconference locations are provided.

**Committee Members Present:** Ricardo Sanchez, Public Member, Chairperson  
Ryan Brooks, Public Member, Vice Chairperson  
Shirley Kim, Public Member  
Dr. Seung Oh, Licensee Member

**Staff Present:** Anne Sodergren, Executive Officer  
Norine Marks, DCA Staff Counsel  
Debbie Damoth, Administration Manager  
Bob Dávila, Public Information Officer

**a. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum**

Chairperson Sanchez called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Chairperson Sanchez and members Kim and Oh were present. A quorum was established. Vice Chairperson Brooks joined the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

**b. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda; Matters for Future Meetings**

Steve Gray requested items for future agendas:

1. The Board should reach out to CARA and other consumer groups for input on possible changes to the Notice to Consumers poster.
2. If the Notice to Consumers poster is retained, it should include information about putting the purpose of a medication on the medication label, and that patients have the right to ask for that from the prescriber or the pharmacist.
3. Licensees should be informing the public of the problem of driving under the influence of not only alcohol but also prescription drugs. Likewise, that should be on the poster and, under new law, has to be in writing and include boats and vessels.
4. A discussion about reporting more details about media inquiries – not only what was asked but also the Board's response. Licensees, stakeholders, etc., need to know what media are asking about and what they believe the public is concerned about.

**c. Approval of the January 29, 2020, Communication and Public Education Committee Meeting Minutes**

M/S: Oh/Brooks

Aye: Brooks, Oh, Sanchez.

No: None.

Abstain: Kim.

**d. Discussion and Consideration of Communication Plan Regarding SB 159 (Wiener, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2019) Related to HIV Preexposure and Post Exposure Prophylaxis**

Chairperson Sanchez said that at the January 2020 committee meeting, members discussed how the Board could educate pharmacists to initiate and furnish HIV preexposure and postexposure prophylaxis (HIV PrEP and PEP). Members discussed partnering with schools, professional groups, and stakeholders to create fact sheets and videos explaining operational issues to licensees. The committee also suggested using the Board's website, subscriber alerts and newsletter.

The chairperson reported staff met with Please PrEP Me, an advocacy group, and discussed collaborating on messages about SB 159 to increase awareness and encourage participation by pharmacists. He noted Please PrEP Me went on hiatus June 30, 2020; however, staff will continue to reach out to other groups and will report back to the committee.

Danny Martinez of CPhA reiterated CPhA is willing to assist with SB 159 communication and education efforts. Keith Yoshizuka, president-elect of CSHP, announced CSHP will host and record two training sessions to produce a training webcast for pharmacists. He said he would welcome the Board's help in getting the word out.

**e. Discussion and Consideration of Providing Information about Possible Consequences of DUI Conviction on License Renewal Notices**

Chairperson Sanchez said that at the January 2020 committee meeting, members suggested publishing Script articles to educate licensees about possible professional consequences of DUI convictions. He noted at the January 2020 and May 2020 Board meetings, members asked what percentage of disciplinary cases involve DUIs and asked the committee to discuss educating licensees about DUIs as part of the license renewal process.

The chairperson reported staff research into closed cases from July 1, 2019, to June 26, 2020, found nine pharmacists were disciplined by the Board for violations of BPC sections 4301(h) and 4301(l), which are related to DUI incidents. However, a review of each case found only three of the nine cases involved DUI convictions. The remaining six involved activity covered by BPC sections 4301(h) and 4301(l) other than driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. By comparison, staff found that 21 pharmacists received citations and/or fines for violations of BPC sections 4301(h) and 4301(l) during the same period.

To target pharmacists with information about DUI convictions, staff said the committee could consider recommending the Board print information on inserts to be included with license renewal notices. Alternatively, because a growing number of licensees renew online rather than by mail, the inserts could be included with pocket licenses mailed upon renewal.

Member Oh said including the information with pocket licenses would be more efficient because more licensees are expected to renew online rather than by mail. He also suggested including a link to DUI information on the online license renewal webpage.

Steve Gray said the Board should advise licensees and applicants they can be disciplined even if they plead no contest or have their DUI conviction expunged. In addition, he said the Board should discuss whether a DUI conviction for medical or recreational marijuana also qualifies for license discipline.

#### **f. Update on Communication and Public Education Activities by Staff**

##### **1. The Script**

Staff reported the most recent issue of the newsletter was published in March. Planning for the next issue is expected in summer. Staff also reported plans to develop an online survey pharmacists can take to receive one hour of CE credit, as directed by the Board.

##### **2. Projects**

###### **a) Online Registry of Services**

Staff reported working with DCA to complete a registry for the Board's website that consumers can search to find pharmacies furnishing medications and services authorized by state law. The registry is expected to be rolled out in the summer.

Member Oh asked if the registry would provide a means for pharmacies to update information in the registry about the services they offer. Mr. Dávila said the system would enable pharmacies to update their information.

Danny Martinez of CPhA asked for a list of the services to be included and whether the Board or DCA would host the registry. Mr. Dávila said the services include naloxone, birth control, travel vaccinations, HIV PrEP/PEP, and other services authorized by state law. He also said the registry will be hosted on the Board's website with DCA assistance.

Steve Gray reminded the committee to make the registry available for signup by pharmacists practicing individually and not associated with a pharmacy or hospital.

###### **b) Notice to Consumers Poster**

Staff said efforts to survey consumer groups regarding possible changes to the Notice to Consumers poster have been delayed during the declared state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. More information is expected at the next committee meeting.

**c) Disciplinary Case Summaries**

Staff reported plans to begin publishing summaries of licensee disciplinary cases separately from the Script to enable more timely publication.

**3. Board-Provided Training**

Staff reported developing a WebEx meeting format to provide the prescription drug abuse CE training previously provided at all-day events. Participants will log in to the meeting to participate in the training and will take a quiz at the end to receive CE credit. Staff also reported the 2020 Pharmacy Law webinar will be posted online in July.

**4. News Media**

Staff provided a list of recent news media inquiries.

**5. Public Outreach**

Because of shelter-in-place orders during the COVID-19 emergency, staff reported no outreach activities by inspectors or staff since the last committee meeting.

**g. Future Meeting Dates**

Chairperson Sanchez announced the final committee meeting of 2020 is set for Tuesday, October 27.

**Adjournment**

At 1:51 p.m.