

GEORGIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
Conference Call
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 6th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
September 15, 2021
9:00 a.m.

The following Board members were present:

Michael Brinson, President
Dean Stone, Vice-President
Carrie Ashbee
Michael Azzolin
Young Chang
Cecil Cordle
Chuck Page
Bill Prather

Staff present:

Eric Lacefield, Executive Director
Dennis Troughton, Director, GDNA
Michael Karnbach, Deputy Director, GDNA
Tommy Roe, Special Agent, GDNA
Nicholas Aderibigbe, Special Agent, GDNA
Max Changus, Assistant Attorney General
Elizabeth Simpson, Assistant Attorney General
Alexis Cromartie, Assistant Attorney General
Kimberly Emm, Attorney
Brandi Howell, Business Support Analyst

Visitors:

Becca Hallum, Georgia Hospital Association
Loray T. Childs, Health Pathway Pharmacy
Diane Sanders, Kaiser Permanente
Shauna Markes-Wilson
Brittani Grinstead
Samantha Ricks

Open Session

President Brinson established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Mr. Lacefield asked the visitors on the call to send an email via the “Contact Us” portal on the website if he/she would like his/her name reflected as being in attendance in the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

The Board recommended tabling consideration of the Public and Executive Session minutes until later in the meeting.

Vice-President Stone made a motion and Mr. Azzolin seconded and the Board voted to enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of receiving legal advice as authorized under O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1(e)(2)(c), 50-14-2(1). Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Carrie Ashbee, Michael Azzolin, Michael Brinson, Young Chang, Cecil Cordle, Chuck Page, Bill Prather, and Dean Stone.

Executive Session

The Board received legal advice regarding O.C.G.A. § 26-4-42.

No votes were taken in Executive Session. President Brinson declared the meeting back in Open Session.

Open Session

Report of Licenses Issued

Vice-President Stone made a motion to ratify the list of licenses issued. Mr. Azzolin seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Petitions for Rule Waiver or Variance

Rule Waiver Petition from Tuynh Van Nguyen: Mr. Azzolin made a motion to grant the petition as the Board accepted Mr. Van Nguyen's Pennsylvania license as the initial license. Vice-President Stone seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Rule Variance Petition from Samantha C. Ricks, RPH030503: Vice-President Stone made a motion based on the special circumstances related to Ms. Ricks' employment at St. Vincent de Paul, which is a community pharmacy that provides medications to low-income patients at no-cost. The Board also finds that Ms. Ricks has provided adequate justification for the variance since the pharmacy is only open during a limited time and requires a pharmacist in charge to be operational. Mr. Page seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Rule Waiver Petition from Hana Plus Pharmacy, PHRE010262, Health Pathway Pharmacy, PHRE009907, and Ocilla Pharmacy, Inc., PHRE010957: Mr. Azzolin made a motion to grant each petition. Vice-President Stone seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Rule Waiver Petition from Taylor Regional Hospital, PHRE010894: Mr. Chang made a motion to deny the request for a waiver of Rule 480-13-.05(2)(a)(3) as a Class A or Class I or II electronic balance are not required if the facility is not compounding onsite using components which must be weighed. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Correspondences

Correspondence from George A. Stein on behalf of Geoffrey Levy, Apothecary ATL, LLC: The Board initially considered this correspondence at its August meeting and voted to deny the request for a waiver of O.C.G.A. § 26-4-110(g). In an email dated September 7, 2021, Mr. Stein requested the Board reconsider its decision. Ms. Emm stated that Mr. Stein has also provided information from the Georgia Secretary of State's website on all the businesses that are utilizing "Apothecary" in its name. Mr. Azzolin responded by stating that the law states it is unlawful for place of business to use the title "Apothecary". He inquired as to whether or not the Board could issue a cease and desist letter to the businesses that are in violation of O.C.G.A. § 26-4-110(g). Mr. Changus responded that the Board can send a letter informing the businesses of O.C.G.A. § 26-4-110(g). He added that he assumed some of the businesses were unaware they were in violation of the law when setting up the company and it would be appropriate to put them on notice. Mr. Cordle inquired if the Board should also bring this matter to the attention of the Secretary of State's office. The Board agreed. With no further discussion, Mr. Page motion for the Board to uphold its original vote of denial for Mr. Stein's request for a waiver of O.C.G.A. § 26-4-110(g). Ms. Ashbee seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Correspondence from Jeffrey D. Myers, Hamilton Health Care System: Mr. Myers' correspondence expressed concerns regarding "white bagging" and "brown bagging". Mr. Azzolin stated the Board's previous discussion concerned whether there was a violation of Title 26 relative to steering. He stated that he does not know the specifics of this particular issue; however, the

concern would be whether the pharmacy side is an affiliate with the insurance company and were they following the insurance directive to provide the drug back to the pharmacy or to the actual hospital. He further stated that if that is the case, the Board may need to look into whether the pharmacy violated the anti-steering law. Mr. Azzolin stated that he believed the Board should look into how these drugs are being provided as he has seen where the drugs are provided and the labels do not meet the labeling requirements; therefore, the labeling requirements should also be looked into. He suggested the Board discuss further at its October meeting.

President Brinson commented that he would like to have a complaint from a patient, be sent to the Board. Mr. Azzolin responded by stating that the problem with that is the medication never gets to the patient. President Brinson responded that on the brown bagging part he thinks it does, where with white bagging it does not. He continued by stating that there is a lot of misinterpretation between white bagging and brown bagging. Mr. Azzolin stated that, unless the hospital agrees to do the mixing, he does not see how it would be appropriate for the medication to be sent to the hospital and the hospital be mandated to mix it if the hospital did not agree to do such. He continued by stating that the hospital deserves the opportunity to say it does not agree that you are providing the medication unmixed, for the hospital to mix and prepare for the patient. President Brinson commented that he thinks a lot of hospitals are doing this. It is one of those issues that unless the Board receives a lot of feedback from hospital directors, the Board would put this matter on hold until it received additional information.

Mr. Prather commented that Board's purpose is to protect the public and it needed to do something about this situation as the patients are at risk. Mr. Azzolin responded by stating that one way a patient could be harmed is if the medication is sent, and while in transit, the vial busted which caused a delay with the patient receiving the medication.

Vice-President Stone stated that he does not agree with white or brown bagging. He added that he believes the hospitals are doing it because they want to take care of the patient; however, he stated that the Board must figure out how to stop it as there is potential for patient harm to occur. Mr. Azzolin commented that the Board needs to look into the anti-steering aspect of the law and the rights of the hospital relative to accepting that medication and being forced to use its own resources to mix or prepare that drug. He stated that these are not just dangerous drugs, but also hazardous drugs. He inquired as to who would be held liable. Mr. Azzolin asked if it would be the pharmacy that sent the drug, the pharmacy that dispensed the drug, or the pharmacy that mixed it and did it incorrectly. He stated that he would welcome feedback from Ms. Emm or Mr. Changus regarding the matter. Mr. Changus suggested the Board table the matter to allow him time to review prior to the October meeting as this was a complex situation. President Brinson stated that he would like for Directors of Pharmacy to submit his/her take on this practice and what he/she would like for the Board to do.

Director Troughton commented that GDNA had reviewed this matter for the last several months and could not find a rule violation. He inquired as to whether the Board wanted GDNA to evaluate what is going on and see how the system works step by step. He added that the hospitals agree to this, but there would be nothing else GDNA could do in absence of a violation. Mr. Azzolin responded that the hospital pharmacy could not agree to do it; however, if they did, there could be an oncology patient waiting on an infusion that may not receive his/her medication, for example. Director Troughton agreed with Mr. Azzolin's point; however, he stated whether he personally likes it or not is insignificant as he is speaking from GDNA's standpoint and what GDNA could do as the Board's investigators. There being no further discussion, the Board agreed to table this matter until its October meeting.

Correspondence from Robert M. Brennan: The Board considered this correspondence requesting confirmation regarding the application of Board Rule 480-24-.04(7)(d), which requires emergency kits placed in nursing homes to be inventoried monthly by a pharmacist from the provider pharmacy. In Mr. Brennan’s letter, he wished to confirm that his client could conduct monthly inventories of emergency kits at its Macon pharmacy location through a secure process utilizing MedBank medication storage units in nursing homes that incorporate MedBank’s software and Smart “CUBIE” secure container technology. In response to his inquiry, the Board directed staff to respond by stating that this would be permissible as long as all applicable rules and regulations regarding such were being adhered to.

Correspondence from Cherise Adair: The Board considered this correspondence regarding the process for removing a drug from the State of Georgia’s dangerous drug list. Director Troughton explained that every year GDNA submits the drug bill to the legislature, which encompasses every new every new drug that has come onto the market. He added that GDNA is responsible for producing the list and making changes when a drug has gone from prescription to over the counter, or is removed from the market completely. Director Troughton stated that through the year drugs go from prescription to over the counter status, and typically, those changes in status are reflected in the drug bill, which is submitted by GDNA in January. He further stated that those changes go into effect when the Governor signs it into law. Director Troughton stated that the Board could do it through emergency rule; however, that is a long process. President Brinson stated that the Board would continue to let GDNA handle and submit the changes through the drug bill.

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency – Dennis Troughton

Director Troughton reported that GDNA conducted 442 inspections and received 88 complaints for FY2022.

Director Troughton discussed the HHS Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures recently released. He explained that the guidelines open the door for monoclonal antibodies treatment. He stated that it gives authority for licensed pharmacists to order and administer and qualified pharmacy technicians and pharmacist interns to administer it under supervision. He further stated that these are considered COVID Countermeasures and wanted to make the Board aware.

Mr. Azzolin stated that the guidelines read in part, *“Secretary Xavier Becerra now amends section V of the Declaration to add subsection (i) to expand the scope of authority for licensed pharmacists to order and administer and qualified pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to administer COVID-19 therapeutics subcutaneously, intramuscularly, or orally as authorized, approved, or licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).”* He stated the minutes from the September meeting reflect the Board having discussion regarding Regen-Cov and whether or not a Georgia licensed pharmacist could administer Regen-Cov subcutaneously and potentially intravenously. Mr. Azzolin stated the Board decided at that time that since a pharmacist can learn to give an IV, he/she could administer Regen-Cov via IV administration. He further stated that the guidelines did not specify IV administration as it only specified subcutaneous, intramuscular, and oral administration. He inquired as to whether there was anything preventing a pharmacist to administer intravenously. Director Troughton responded by stating that the state cannot be more restrictive than the federal guidelines. He stated Georgia could be less restrictive. Director Troughton stated that if the Board felt that IV administration falls under Georgia law, then it would be less restrictive.

Mr. Changus commented that the practice of pharmacy allows for the administration of drugs. He stated that how this interacts with the various states around the country would be dependent upon the law. He added that he is not aware of any conflict with the federal provisions and did not think federal law precluded anything that had been already approved by the board. Mr. Azzolin

responded that the interpretation from the HHS guidelines state that a pharmacist can order covid related therapeutics, which means the pharmacist can write a prescription for a covid related therapeutic that could be administered subcutaneously, intramuscularly, or orally. He added that if Regen-Cov needs to be administered intravenously, the pharmacist could not write an order for that as it is not authorized under the HHS guidelines. Mr. Azzolin stated that the pharmacist could only order the subcutaneous version of Regen-Cov, but nothing would preclude a pharmacist from administering it intravenously if a doctor ordered it. Director Troughton agreed and stated that in his interactions with entities that were discussing this matter, they were not considering the ordering and IV use by pharmacists. Mr. Changus stated that anyone interested in the matter would need to view the guidelines for themselves to ensure he/she complies.

Director Troughton introduced the Board to new agent Nicholas Aderibigbe.

Attorney General’s Report – Max Changus

No report.

Executive Director’s Report – Eric Lacefield

Continuing Education Report: Report presented. Mr. Page made a motion to ratify the below continuing education programs approved since the previous meeting. Mr. Azzolin seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

| Date of Program | Hours | Sponsoring Group | Program Title | CE Code |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------------|--|-----------|
| 08/04/2021 | .5 | Atrium Health – Navicent | Formulary Update - Tirofiban | 2021-0011 |
| 09/16/2021 | 1 | Kaiser Permanente | Preceptor Development: Learning Styles | 2021-0012 |
| 09/01/2021 | .5 | Atrium Health – Navicent | Entresto - What's New | 2021-0013 |

Legal Services – Kimberly Emm

Correspondence from Jennifer C. Marquez, RPH021277: Ms. Emm discussed this correspondence regarding Ms. Marquez wanting to start her own pharmacogenomics consulting business. Ms. Emm explained that pharmacogenomics was not defined in the Board’s law or rules. President Brinson responded by stating that he saw no issue with it. Vice-President Stone commented that Ms. Marquez is a Georgia licensed pharmacist. President Brinson responded that he is not aware of any additional license requirement that would prohibit her from providing this service. Mr. Azzolin inquired if Ms. Marquez would be providing this service to a hospital or to patients in an outpatient setting. Ms. Emm responded that Ms. Marquez is going independent and would be offering her services for sale. Ms. Emm added that Ms. Marquez did state she would be partnering with some practitioners and marketing her services directly to patients. Mr. Azzolin stated that the law states if the individual is providing remote pharmacy services to a hospital, which would encompass pharmacogenomics, then it would have to be done under a licensed pharmacy. After further discussion, Mr. Prather made a motion for the Board to direct staff to respond to Ms. Marquez by stating it does not have an issue with Ms. Marquez providing pharmacogenomic recommendations to pharmacists and patients in Georgia, but recommended she refer to the law regarding genetics and any licensure requirements for such, along with any laws that would require her to operate under a pharmacy license. Additionally, Ms. Marquez would need to follow up with other state’s requirement as the Board could not advise what other states would permit. Mr. Page seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Ashbee made a motion and Mr. Prather seconded, and the Board voted to enter into **Executive Session** in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(h) and § 43-1-2(h) to deliberate and to receive information on applications, investigative reports, and the Assistant Attorney General’s report.

Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Carrie Ashbee, Michael Azzolin, Michael Brinson, Young Chang, Cecil Cordle, Chuck Page, Bill Prather, and Dean Stone.

Executive Session

Appearance

- C.L.H.

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency – Dennis Troughton

- W.
- C.C.R.
- R.P.

Cognizant’s Report – Dean Stone

- GDNA Case # T33899
- GDNA Case # A33880
- GDNA Case # B33744
- GDNA Case # B33723
- GDNA Case # A33804
- GDNA Case # A33715
- GDNA Case # A33571
- GDNA Case # A33816
- GDNA Case # A33831
- GDNA Case # B33834
- GDNA Case # B33862
- GDNA Case # A33791
- GDNA Case # B33772
- GDNA Case # A33875
- GDNA Case # B33783
- GDNA Case # B33790

Attorney General’s Report – Max Changus

Mr. Changus presented the following consent orders for acceptance:

- W.
- M.S.C.
- J.M.C.
- R.H.P.

Mr. Changus discussed the following cases:

- GDNA Case #A33521
- GDNA Case #SB33332
- GDNA Case #A33551

Executive Director’s Report – Eric Lacefield

- A.A.

Legal Services – Kimberly Emm

No report.

Applications

- D.R.B.
- J.L.O.
- W.K.C.
- W.D.L.
- J.A.M.
- K.L.J.
- M.M.
- C.X.W.
- A.T.L.
- M.B.O.
- E.N.
- R.A.W.
- P.P.K.
- T.M.F.
- D.C.A.P.
- M.W.I.
- W.
- B.R.D.
- I.W.P.
- A.C.S.
- C.L.I.
- A.C.S.
- C.L.I.
- C.L.I.
- A.B.D.C.
- K.P.
- C.H.
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- S.P.I.
- S.P.I.

- S.P.I.
- S.P.I.
- S.M.A.S.D.
- S.M.A.S.D.
- D.L.B.
- J.L.J.
- M.A.D.
- S.K.D.
- T.K.G.

Correspondences/Requests

- B.U.I.
- B.P.
- B.E.T.P.
- M.F.V.
- M.L.
- P.S.
- T.P.
- C.D.
- S.
- S.R.P.
- T.P.
- J.H.P.
- P.A.
- A.A.L.
- S.W.S.
- L.A.S.
- V.N.L.
- T.J.P.
- L.C.
- L.G.C.
- I.K.B.

No votes were taken in Executive Session. President Brinson declared the meeting back in Open Session.

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| Open Session |
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Miscellaneous

President Brinson requested the Board discuss the practical exam at the October meeting.

Mr. Page inquired if the Board would be meeting in person anytime soon. Mr. Lacefield responded that there had been no changes at the Department of Community Health that would permit such. President Brinson commented that there had been no changes at the University of Georgia. He stated that he did not know if Mercer University or South University had any protocols in place. He continued by stating that he would like for the Board to have an in person meeting prior to the end of the year. Ms. Emm responded by stating that the Board needed to take into consideration that it would not just be board members attending the meeting. She continued by stating that the meeting would also include members of the public and an in person meeting would need to be at a venue with enough space for social distancing and would have to follow COVID protocols. Mr. Prather

stated that he would check with Mercer University for the possibility of meeting in person. Mr. Lacefield commented that Mr. Prather could check, but the Board should anticipate meeting virtually for the October meeting.

Vice-President Stone made a motion for the Board to take the following actions:

The Board received legal advice regarding O.C.G.A. § 26-4-42. The Board determined the term “initial” applies to the method of receiving the license rather than involving a determination which license was issued first by a particular state.

Appearance

- C.L.H. Request to Modify Consent Order Approved reduction of probation period by five years

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency – Dennis Troughton

- W. Follow up regarding information provided on proprietary business practices
- C.C.R. Denied Pharmacy Technician Update provided
- R.P. Pharmacy Technician Offer Voluntary Surrender

Cognizant’s Report – Dean Stone

- GDNA Case # T33899 Revoke Technician Registration
- GDNA Case # A33880 Close case and approve renewal with a letter stating that the Board is not waiving its right to take disciplinary action against the individual should the final disposition of his/her case result in a conviction.
- GDNA Case # B33744 Misfill Policy #1
- GDNA Case # B33723 Refer to the Department of Law for Pharmacy / Letter of concern to the PIC, RPH #1, and #2
- GDNA Case # A33804 Refer to the Department of Law
- GDNA Case # A33715 Null and void license
- GDNA Case # A33571 Close with letter of concern
- GDNA Case # A33816 Refer to the Department of Law
- GDNA Case # A33831 Refer to the Department of Law for Pharmacy / Letter of concern to pharmacist
- GDNA Case # B33834 Close and refer complainant to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Vaccination Administration Errors and Reporting System (VAERS)
- GDNA Case # B33862 Close with no action
- GDNA Case # A33791 Close with no action
- GDNA Case # B33772 Close with no action
- GDNA Case # A33875 Close with no action
- GDNA Case # B33783 Close with no action
- GDNA Case # B33790 Close with no action

Attorney General’s Report – Max Changus

Mr. Changus presented the following consent orders for acceptance:

- W. Public Consent Order accepted
- M.S.C. Private Consent Order accepted

- J.M.C. Private Consent Order accepted
- R.H.P. Private Consent Order accepted

Mr. Changus discussed the following cases:

- GDNA Case #A33521 Denied counterproposal
- GDNA Case #SB33332 Update provided
- GDNA Case #A33551 Update provided

Executive Director’s Report – Eric Lacefield

Board directed staff to provide a letter to the Secretary of State’s office regarding O.C.G.A. § 26-4-110(g). Additionally, request the companies that are in violation of O.C.G.A. § 26-4-110(g) to provide a waiver request to the Board for consideration, or provide proof of approval. For the companies that do not respond to the Board’s request, board staff will notify GDNA.

Legal Services – Kimberly Emm

No report.

Applications

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|--|
| • D.R.B. | Pharmacy Technician | Approved for registration |
| • J.L.O. | Pharmacy Technician | Approved for registration |
| • W.K.C. | Pharmacy Technician | Approved for registration |
| • W.D.L. | Pharmacy Technician | Approved for registration |
| • J.A.M. | Pharmacy Technician | Approved for registration |
| • K.L.J. | Pharmacy Technician | Approved for registration |
| • M.M. | Pharmacy Technician | Approved for registration |
| • C.X.W. | Pharmacy Technician | Tabled pending receipt of additional information |
| • A.T.L. | Pharmacist Intern | Approved application |
| • M.B.O. | Pharmacist Reciprocity | Approved application |
| • E.N. | Pharmacist Reciprocity | Approved application |
| • R.A.W. | Pharmacist Reciprocity | Approved application |
| • P.P.K. | Pharmacist Reinstatement | Denied application |
| • T.M.F. | Pharmacist Examination | Denied application |
| • D.C.A.P. | Non-Resident Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • M.W.I. | Non-Resident Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • W. | Non-Resident Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • B.R.D. | Non-Resident Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • I.W.P. | Non-Resident Pharmacy | Approved application |
| • A.C.S. | Non-Resident Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • C.L.I. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • C.L.I. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved application |
| • A.C.S. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • C.L.I. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • A.B.D.C. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • K.P. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • C.H. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • C.H. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • C.H. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • C.H. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • C.H. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |

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| • C.H. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
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| • S.P.I. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • S.P.I. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • S.P.I. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • S.M.A.S.D. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • S.M.A.S.D. | Wholesaler Pharmacy | Approved for renewal |
| • D.L.B. | Pharmacist Certification of DTM | Approved application |
| • J.L.J. | Pharmacist Certification of DTM | Approved application |
| • M.A.D. | Pharmacist Certification of DTM | Approved application |
| • S.K.D. | Pharmacist Certification of DTM | Approved application |
| • T.K.G. | Pharmacist Certification of DTM | Approved application |

Correspondences/Requests

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|------------|--|-------------------|
| • B.U.I. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • B.P. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • B.E.T.P. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • M.F.V. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • M.L. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • P.S. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • T.P. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • C.D. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • S. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • S.R.P. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • T.P. | Notice of Discipline | No action |
| • J.H.P. | Request for the Board to accept 4 th exam score from out of state and allow the individual to apply by score transfer | Approved request |
| • P.A. | Request for 5 th attempt at MPJE | Approved request |
| • A.A.L. | Request for 8 th attempt at MPJE | Approved request |
| • S.W.S. | Request for 4 th attempt at MPJE | Approved request |
| • L.A.S. | Request for extension of intern license | Approved request |
| • V.N.L. | Request for extension of intern license | Denied request |
| • T.J.P. | Correspondence | Letter of concern |
| • L.C. | Correspondence | Letter of concern |

- L.G.C. Appearance request Denied request
- I.K.B. Request for waiver of application fees Denied request

Vice President Stone seconded and the Board voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Mr. Chang, who recused himself from the vote regarding GDNA Case #A33521.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Lacefield reported that the board office began utilizing a new online payment processor. He explained that the State had been subsidizing the convenience fees; however, they are no longer doing such. Mr. Lacefield stated that, starting September 1st, any applicant that submitted an online application or renewal application would be required to pay a convenience fee, along with the application fee. Mr. Cordle inquired as to the cost of the convenience fee. Mr. Lacefield responded by stating the fee is 3.15%.

Mr. Cordle asked about the status of board staffing as it was mentioned at the last meeting that there had been issues with COVID-19. Mr. Lacefield responded that the office is still short staffed, but we are currently making headway and doing the best we can under the circumstances.

Approval of Minutes: Vice-President Stone made a motion to approve the Public and Executive Session minutes from the September 15, 2021, Conference Call with the changes noted. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

HHS Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures: Mr. Azzolin discussed the HHS authorization for pharmacists to order COVID-related medications. He used an example of a patient that came into the drug store, took a rapid test, and tested positive. He asked if the guidelines authorized a pharmacist to order the patient Ivermectin, Z-pack, or monoclonal antibodies, and if the patient had long-term symptoms from COVID, could the pharmacist order an inhaler and dispense it, for example. Director Troughton responded by stating the guidelines were just released on the September 9, 2021, and he had not seen a list, but knew administration of monoclonal antibodies were permissible. Director Troughton discussed COVID Countermeasures. Mr. Azzolin responded that the Board needed to define what would be considered Covid Countermeasures. Director Troughton stated that GDNA will do further research to see if it could find additional information from HHS on what it considers COVID Countermeasures. Ms. Emm commented that there is a Ninth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 that had been released that stated the COVID-19 therapeutic must be authorized, approved, or licensed by the FDA. She continued by stating that Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine are not FDA approved. After further discussion, Director Troughton suggested waiting for the list to be provided, but he would research and report back to the Board.

October Meeting: Mr. Azzolin asked Ms. Howell for the due date as to when board members should submit discussion topics for inclusion on the October meeting agenda. Ms. Howell responded by stating topics should be submitted to her by Friday, October 1st. Mr. Lacefield added that when board members submit topics to please provide the reason why he/she requests to discussion it, along with any documentation.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy will be held via conference call on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Community Health’s office located at 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 6th floor, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Minutes recorded by Brandi Howell, Business Support Analyst I
Minutes edited by Eric Lacefield, Executive Director