

Osteopathic Medical Board of California

DATE REPORT ISSUED: August 15, 2024
ATTENTION: Members, Osteopathic Medical Board of California
SUBJECT: Executive Report
STAFF CONTACT: Erika Calderon, Executive Director

REQUESTED ACTION:

This report is intended to provide the Members of the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC) with an update on personnel, and other administrative functions/projects occurring at the OMBC. No action is needed.

Personnel:

The Board now has 15.9 authorized positions as opposed to 13.9 previously reported. Two additional Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) positions were added to the Board as of July 1st, 2024, for its enforcement program due to a legislative Budget Change Proposal pursuant to SB 815. The Board started the recruitment process for these positions, conducted interviews on August 1st, and plans to have these positions filled soon.

Office Operations:

Office Organization: For the past several weeks office staff has been focusing on organizing both its licensing and enforcement file rooms and preparing for our new staff. The office is a lot more organized, and which has improved overall efficiency.

Expert Reviewer Training: On Saturday August 17, 2024, MBC will be hosting an expert reviewer training session and all of OMBC's experts were offered the opportunity to sign up and attend. I will also be in attendance to help answer any Board specific questions.

Technology:

Pocket License Update: Allowing licensees to print their own Wallet License Cards have saved the Board resources in generating, printing, and mailing of the plastic cards, which are not as common or useful as they once were. Licensees can forward the PDF version of their wallet license to their employers and other as needed as these are instantly available instead of the licensee having to wait 4-6 weeks.

Direct Online Certification Submission (DOCS) Update: The Direct Online Certification Submission (DOCS) service is a secure, fast, and reliable online document delivery system that allows medical schools and postgraduate training programs to submit certain primary-source licensing documents to the Board. OMBC submitted a request to Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) portfolio management team last year to begin the development process of this portal for OMBC and as of today the Board is awaiting the acceptance of this project. As we hear more on this the Board will provide updates.

Medical Board of California iOS App Update: At the request of President Pines OMBC has been monitoring the updates and developments of Medical Board's iOS Apple phone App. MBC originally launched this in July of 2018. Currently it is getting updates to keep up with Apple's ongoing enhancements to the iOS operating system. Failing to conform to Apple's standards for operating system updates could result in the

app being removed from the Apple Store for consumers to obtain, so these updates are being made proactively to mitigate the risk. As of May these developments were wrapping up and testing had begun. MBC hopes to wrap this project up in the second half of 2024, which means that OMBC will reach out to MBC at that time to learn more so that we can start our project to obtain our very own phone App.

CURES:

Beginning August 1, 2024, all California dispensers of controlled substances will be required to report dispensations to the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) using the American Society of Automation in Pharmacy (ASAP) version 4.2B format. Licensees who dispense controlled substances should contact their data submission software provider to confirm they are prepared for this version update. Licensees should also visit the Office of the Attorney General's CURES Website to access the Data Submission guide for Dispensers and for additional updates and informational bulletins or visit DCA's CURES information page at www.dca.ca.gov/licensees/cures_update.

Communication:

Executive Director had calls and email exchanges with Madam Board president Ms. Denise Pines to discuss pending and ongoing projects and meeting agendas.

Executive Director continues to meet periodically with the Board's Attorney General Liaison Ms. Karolyn Westfall and also communicates frequently with Ms. Gloria Castro, Senior Assistant Attorney General.

Executive Director meets monthly with Ms. Mellissa Doss, Supervising Investigator over the Health Quality Investigation Unit (HQIU) to discuss progress of pending investigations.

Board staff participated in meetings with other Local, State, and National organizations in discussing and deciding regulatory measures common to OMBC and others. These organizations include but are not limited to; Office of Attorney General (AGO), Department of Justice (DOJ), DCA, other healing art Boards, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), the Federation of State Medical Board (FSMB), the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) and the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC) and MAXIMUS.

Outreach Update:

The Board's second edition of its Board newsletter OsteoScope should be published soon, which will be posted on the Board's website for downloading and printed copies will be shared at outreach events and mailed to Board stakeholders.

On June 17, 2024, I participated on a consumer-oriented outreach/tabling event celebrating PRIDE month at the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento with the Protection and Legal Affairs Department. OMBC focused on disseminating information to help attendees connect with DCA and OMBC and learn about the different resources they have available to them. The focus was to provide consumer knowledge such as how to file a complaint, how to check a license, types of licenses, and employment opportunities. OMBC offered 15-minute presentations on OMBC and its enforcement program.

The Board has started its script on its virtual tutorial video for its consumer complaint process and is working with DCA's communication department on its development. As process is made on the video the Board will provide updates. The plan is to start an application video soon after the deployment of the consumer complaint video is out in production.

Lastly, the Board plans to attend the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPCS) 34th Annual Fall Conference which will be hosted from September 6, 2024, through September 8, 2024, in Monterey CA. The Board will be presenting a Board update and hosting a table with Board materials.