



Agenda Item 9

Osteopathic Medical Board of California

DATE REPORT ISSUED: February 13, 2025
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. Director Calderon will also be performing an annual review of OMBC's completed objectives from its 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as requested by the Members during the strategic planning session.

No action is needed.

Before reporting on OMBC's administrative functions, Director Calderon would like to formally address the Board's efforts in response to the governor's state of emergency involving the palisades fires and its survivors.

At this time, the OMBC has shared several social media posts on its social media accounts by the Governor's Office, Cal OES, Department of Health and Human Services, and Listos California both in English and Spanish to alert our consumers and licensees of resources available to them. In addition, the OMBC sent an email to all its licensees regarding an All-Plan Letter issued by the Department of Managed Health Care and waivers issued by the Board of Pharmacy. These relate to access to care, including medical drugs/devices, which also included a link to the Board of Pharmacy's webpage with their other wildfire waivers. Director Calderon also shared this information with the Executive Directors of Osteopathic Physician and Surgeons of California (OPSC) and American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians of California (ACOFCA).

The OMBC shared information with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) communications office regarding the volunteer physician registry to share with appropriate state departments and sent emails to licensees encouraging them to sign up for the volunteer physician registry and to visit <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/wildfire-recovery/encouraging> and consider responding to volunteer opportunities.

OMBC staff are working on an individualized basis with impacted licensees on probation to help ensure they meet the terms of their disciplinary order (e.g., alternative locations for interviews with their probation monitor Ralph and sites for biological fluid sample testing). In addition, licensing renewal staff and our administrative services staff are also working on an individualized basis with impacted licensees pursuant to the Governors Executive Order that DCA received.

Lastly, the OMBC has allowed continuances for scheduled administrative hearings, as needed.

Personnel:

The OMBC continues to have 15.9 authorized positions and is happy to announce that there are no current vacancies.

Office Operations:

The OMBC continues to work diligently on office and program specific improvements as well as its organization.

Diversion Program: Due to the OMBC's recently lived circumstances of having its prior contractor for over 20+ years pull from its diversion contract, as a safety measure the OMBC recently executed a contract with Phamatech, Inc. Phamatech, Inc. is a global manufacturer of rapid diagnostic devices and a provider of laboratory testing for medication monitoring, illicit drugs, alcohol, and pharmacogenetic testing. They will provide scheduling, observation, collection, and analysis of urine, blood, and/or hair follicle testing, or similar drug screening approved by the OMBC for designated licensees.

Along those lines, Director Calderon and the OMBC's probation monitor Ralph Correa attended OMBC's first Diversion Committee Meeting (DEC) with the new diversion program contractor Premier Health. The OMBC typically meets at the Department of Consumer Affairs, Division of Investigation's San Dimas Field Office. The OMBC is happy to announce that its first meeting was a huge success. The OMBC is very pleased with the clinical case manager and compliance monitor it received.

Fictitious Name Permits (FNPs): As previously reported, the Administrative Services Program moved all licensure transactions online with the last one being the OMBC's initial FNP. Unfortunately, this application turned out to be an extremely complicated application for licensees and their staff to execute online due to the complexity in ownership and liabilities related to corporate practices. It has created several issues for the OMBC causing delays in processing times, so it has been decided to deactivate the application from the online portal temporarily until OMBC staff can work with our BreEze team to see if we can improve the buildup on the application. For now, the OMBC reverted to accepting paper applications for our FNPs.

Along those lines of the OMBC's FNPs the staff recently concluded a compliance check of all permits. Staff contacted all licensees that had permits with delinquent statuses in attempt to get these permits renewed and or cancelled if the licensee was found to no longer be operating the business. The OMBC's goal is to help educate our physician on renewing such permits in timely fashion in December of each calendar year. At this time the OMBC doesn't plan on issuing any citations however each year staff will monitor the permits and may issue citations at a later time if we see continued issues with renewals.

Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) Update:

Director Calderon represents the prescribing Boards as part of the CURES Executive Stakeholder Committee and continues to meet regularly with DCA's leadership staff and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Most recently the committee worked on updating its interagency agreement which sets forth the co-governance, funding, and invoicing process of CURES by DOJ and DCA.

As a reminder, effective April 1, 2025, CURES fees will be going from \$9 to \$15. DCA's office of Information Services (OIS) will be working on implementing the CURES fee increase into our BreEze database and will be reaching out and working with all the healing art Boards individually whose licensees must pay into CURES. Our applications will be updated to reflect the new fee increase and DCA will develop an outreach toolkit to share information with licensees and our stakeholders.

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.

Enforcement staff continue to meet monthly with the Department of Consumer Affairs Division of Investigations HQIU office to discuss progress of pending investigations.

Lastly for communications, 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), Department of Consumer Affairs (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), International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA), Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC), American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians of California (ACOFPCA), and lastly Premier Health.

On January 28, 2025, the Executive Director attended OPSC Board Meeting and provided an OMBC update to their Board of directors.

Outreach Update:

The OMBC's third edition of its newsletter OsteoScope will be published soon and posted on OMBC's website and shared with all our stakeholders.

The OMBC continues to post Board content regularly on of social media platforms.

February 27-March 2, 2025, staff plans to attend the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPCS) 65th Annual Convention, in Newport Beach. Staff will host a table throughout the conference and answer licensing and enforcement related questions as well as provide an OMBC update to all attendees. Board member Dr. Patel committed to attend.

April 24-26, 2025, staff plans to attend the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Annual Meeting which will be hosted in Seattle Washington this year and Madam Board president Pines and Dr. Patel will be present.

On May 3rd, staff plans to attend the 4th Annual Latina Maternal Health Fair which will be hosted at the California State University in Bakersfield California. The health fair plans to have many vendors from across Kern County including Nurse/Family Partnership, Perinatal Outreach Program, Clinica Sierra Vista, CSUB Nursing Program which will be providing services like blood pressure testing, other Kern County departments, CAPK WIC, Community Action Partnership of Kern Head Start Program, Bakersfield Pregnancy Center, Bakersfield Police Department Community Services, and there will be CPR training available.

Lastly from July 23-27, 2025, staff plans to attend the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians of California (ACOFPCA)'49 annual conference in Anaheim California.

Annual Review: 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

The OMBC adopted its 2024-2028 strategic plan on September 23, 2023. As we know a strategic plan is a written document that outlines an organization's long-term goals, the strategies it will use to achieve them, and the actions needed to implement those strategies, essentially in our case serving as a roadmap for the OMBC's future direction over a defined period of 4 years; it includes elements like our vision, mission, core values, objectives, and specific action plans to measure our success. DCA's Solid Team has provided this OMBC with an action plan tracker that allows the OMBC to track its progress through and excel spreadsheet allowing us to have a visual of the completed objectives.

The chart listed below shows that OMBC staff have already completed 90% of its overall Administrative Objectives, 33% of its Regulations and Legislative Objectives, 77% of its Enforcement Objectives, 74% of its Licensure Objectives, and 49% of its Outreach and Communication Objects in each goal item within the first year of the strategic plan.

Goal (completed percentage):



