



Agenda Item 10

Osteopathic Medical Board of California

DATE REPORT ISSUED: May 15, 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.

No action is needed.

Personnel:

The OMBC continues to have 15.9 authorized positions.

OMBC is happy to announce several significant changes since its last Board meeting in February. This past quarter the OMBC merged its administrative services program with its licensing program. All staff previously under the supervision of Mrs. Terri Thorfinnson were redirected under the supervision of Ms. Machiko Chong our licensing program manager. This includes our Board receptionist and our two continuing medical education staff apart from Ms. Andrea Harmon who handles complaint intake for enforcement. Ms. Harmon was redirected to the enforcement unit.

With that said Mrs. Thorfinnson officially became the Board's first Legislative & Regulatory Specialist, who will now solely focus on keeping track of all legislation that affects the Board and help draft regulations. Allowing her to solely focus on our legislation and regulations without having to supervise any Board staff.

Mrs. Cristy Livramento was promoted to staff services manager and has also become a first for the Board, Ms. Livramento officially became the Board's first enforcement program manager as of March 3, 2025. Cristy has taken over the management of both the enforcement and probation program.

OMBC would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Rebecca (Becky) Marco our retired annuitant who has assisted the Board with several regulatory packets for the past two years. Becky's two-year assignment has come to an end and her last day with the Board was on April 30th.

Director Calderon is working with the budget team and the DCA's office of human

resources to see if we can bring on a limited term special investigator to help with the cost associated with our enforcement investigations. We are hoping to receive an approval from these two offices in the upcoming fiscal year. This position will be a temporary position filled through our blanket authority until the Board can request a budget change proposal.

Lastly, Director Calderon would like to take the time to recognize Ralph Correa the Board's probation monitor who was one of DCA's recipients of this year for Superior Accomplishment Awards. Ralph joined the Board in January of 2024 and in less than a year restructured the Board's entire probation program. Within a week of being hired, Mr. Correa created electronic probationer folders for all his probationers ensuring that the Director Calderon and enforcement manager had access to such folders, so that at any point management can review the status/compliance of each probationer. Ralph created over 100 templates covering all aspects of probation. Such templates included but were not limited to the following probation topics; billing monitor reports, certification of probation records, clinical diagnostic evaluation letters/reports, community service verification, controlled substances verification forms, probationary costs, evaluation and examination, intake report, interview report, medical expert report, medical record releases and requests, noncompliance letters, non-practice notifications, notice of employers or supervisors, patient disclosure, quarterly declarations, psychotherapy, substance abuse and support group verification forms, suspension letters, third party chaperon report, voluntary surrender, and worksite monitor reports. In addition, he began meeting with each probationer and produced quarterly reports after each meeting for the record and has conducted a handful of on-site inspections. Ralph's personality is larger than life and his welcoming nature has truly brought the OMBC family together in a positive way. The OMBC team has created a bond that was once nonexistent, and a lot of the harmony is due in part to Ralph.

Executive Order N-15-25-Related to Fees for Licensees Impacted by Los Angeles Area Fires:

As previously reported in February on January 29, 2025, [Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-15-25](#), which postponed for a period of one year, renewal fees for any licensee with an expiration date occurring between January 1, 2025, and July 1, 2025, and whose residential or business address are within the impacted zip codes. Additionally, the order waives fees for duplicate or replacement licenses and provides that such replacement licenses shall be issued free of charge through January 7, 2026. It also suspends delinquency, late, and penalty fees associated with renewals for eligible licensees through July 1, 2025. Board staff worked with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) on the implementation of this Executive Order. It is important to note that renewal fees are not being waived—rather, payment may be deferred for up to one year. So far, the impact of these temporary deferrals and fee waivers on the Board have been minimal. The Board has shared this information, along with available resources, on its website and social media platforms to help ensure that licensees are aware of the relief available under the Executive Order.

Executive Order N-22-25 – Return to Office

On March 3, 2025, [Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-22-25](#), requiring all agencies and departments under his authority to implement a hybrid telework policy with a default minimum of four in-person workdays per week, effective July 1, 2025. Following the

issuance of the Executive Order, Board staff submitted information to DCA leadership regarding the logistical implementation of the return-to-office mandate. This included confirmation that the Board has sufficient space to accommodate OMBC staff to return to work in-person four days a week. Just as a reminder currently OMBC staff are coming into the office twice a week but as stated starting July 1, 2025, they will be coming into the office four days a week.

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

As a reminder, on April 1, 2025, the CURES fee increased from \$9 to \$15 yearly which equates to a \$6 increase totaling \$30.00 for our specific Board renewals which are on a two-year cycle. DCA's Office of Information Services (OIS) has implemented the updated fee into the BreZE system. Additionally, DCA distributed an outreach toolkit to all affected Boards, which allowed the OMBC to share the information about the CURES fee increase on our website, social media platforms, and through its listserv to ensure Broad awareness among licensees and its stakeholders.

Communication:

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).

Director Calderon had calls and email exchanges with Board President Denise Pines to discuss pending and ongoing projects and meeting agendas.

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

Director Calderon continues to meet periodically with members of the Consumer Watchdog group to gather their input on improving enforcement practices and procedures.

Enforcement staff continue to meet monthly with the DCA's Division of Investigations HQIU office to discuss progress of pending investigations.

Lastly for communications, our committee meetings have started, and Board leadership will continue to meet frequently with our designated committee members, additionally 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 such as (MBC, BRN, BOP, PAC, PTBC), 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 who is now handling the

Board's diversion program.

Outreach Update:

The [OMBC's third edition](#) of its newsletter OsteoScope (Spring 2025) was recently published and posted on OMBC's website. This interactive communication tool is designed to keep applicants, licensees, and consumers informed by sharing updates and relevant Board-related information.

The OMBC continues to post Board content regularly on all of its social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and X. The Board continues to keep its website current which includes posting relevant legislation, frequently ask questions, publications, and enforcement actions.

On February 27-March 2, 2025, staff attended the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPCS) 65th Annual Convention, in Newport Beach. OMBC hosted a table throughout the conference and answered licensing and enforcement related questions as well as provided a Board update to all attendees. Board President Pines and Vice President Dr. Patel attended the conference along with staff and interacted with OPSC leadership and its members.

On April 24-26, 2025, Director Calderon attended the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Annual Meeting hosted in Seattle, Washington along with President Pines and vice President Dr. Patel. Director Calderon was able to attend several presentations from Thursday through Saturday. These presentations included Beyond the Noise: Fostering Critical Thinking in an age of information overload presented by professor and research director Timothy Caulfield from University of Alberta. A Dissection of an Evaluation-Physician Competency and Capacity to Practice Medicine presented by Alexios Carayannopoulos, DO who is on the Board of directors at FSMB and the chief of the departments of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Rhode Island Hospital and Newport Hospital and Dr. Shami Goyal, MD who currently serves as the Chief Medical Officer for Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Beyond the Stethoscope: The Evolving Definition of the Practice of Medicine presented by Dr. Andrea Anderson, MD who is on the Board of directors at FSMB and Suzanne Fenzel, JD who is the Senior Assistant General Counsel District of Columbia Board of Medicine. Director Calderon also attended the Executive Directors forum and was able to collaborate with her peers nationwide and discuss matters such as issues revolving licensing and enforcement. On Friday, Director Calderon attended the American Society of Osteopathic Medical Regulators (ASOMR) Annual Meeting and was able to hear an update from NBOME and the AOA. Attended a presentation on Practical Tips for Handling Crisis Communications, Media Requests and Public Information Campaigns led by Jerica Stewart, Chief of Communications State Medical Board of Ohio, Joe Knickrehm Vice President of Communications of FSMB, and Nicole Krishnaswami, JD the Executive Director Oregon Medical Board. That afternoon, President Pines had the pleasure to participate in a forum of difficult cases. Which was a very interactive case study discussion, which allowed representatives from other Boards to opine on how the OMBC adjudicated its enforcement case and discuss what they would have done in their jurisdictions if presented with a similar case based on their legislation and regulations. On Saturday morning the OMBC among other state licensing Boards received a special

recognition from Stephanie Simmons, MD the Chief Medical Officer with the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes Foundation. This remarkable achievement was given to the OMBC because it has taken steps to verify that our licensing applications are free from overly broad and invasive mental health questions. The OMBC received its Wellbeing First Champion Badge for 2025. Which we will post on our website, newsletter, and publicly recognize our achievement through our social media platforms.

On May 3rd, staff attended the 4th Annual Latina Maternal Health Fair which was hosted at the California State University in Bakersfield California. The health fair had many vendors from across Kern County including Nurse/Family Partnership, Perinatal Outreach Program, Clinica Sierra Vista, CSUB Nursing Program which provided 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 CPR training was available. Director Calderon was not able to attend in person but recorded a presentation which was shown during the health fair, and enforcement program manager Mrs. Livramento, probation monitor Mr. Ralph Correa, and licensing program manager Ms. Chong were in attendance to answer questions and host a table with informational material both in English and Spanish on the consumer complaint process.

Lastly, there is a future event coming up that the Board plans to attend and that is from July 23-27, 2025, staff is planning to attend the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians of California (ACOFPCA)'49 annual conference in Anaheim California, where once again the Board will present a Board update and host a table.