

Osteopathic Medical Board of California

DATE REPORT ISSUED: January 18, 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 first update that the Board has for you is that our legal counsel has been once again reassigned. The Board was informed by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) that it would be receiving a new counsel in December of last year and since then we have gone through a total of three reassignments. This isn't typical, but it does happen. I must take some time to personally thank Michael for all his amazing help this past year as he made the transition into my new role extremely smooth despite the changes.

With that said the Board welcomes Mr. Yuping Lin as our newest counsel. Mr. Lin obtained his bachelor's from the University of California San Diego in 2014 and attended law school at the University of California, College of the law, San Francisco from 2015-2018. He previously worked as Deputy Attorney at Caltrans and joined the DCA in October 2023 and in November he joined the OMBC family. Please join me thanking Mr. Kanotz for his many years of service and welcome Mr. Lin into his new role.

In terms of office personnel, the Board currently has 1 vacant position, but is happy to announce two internal promotions, a new hire, and a reclass and redirect to make a limited term position permanent this quarter.

I will start off with Ms. Machiko Chong's old position of Administrative Analyst. This position was reclassified and redirected to make Ms. Chong's current position as Staff Services Manager over the licensing program permanent. As you are aware Ms. Chong was hired as the Board's licensing program manager in April of 2023 on a limited term basis. Having Ms. Chong assume the responsibilities as our licensing program manager has proven to be a huge success and for that reason the Board took her old position and reclassified and redirected it to give her permanent status. All of Ms. Chong's old duties will be absorbed by the management team.

The second set of updates are a direct result from Ms. Sabrina Rowell's retirement. Ms. Mia Quinn who was our Management Services Technician over the enforcement and admin units was promoted into Ms. Rowell's vacated position as Staff Services Analyst in our licensing program and Ms. Andrea Harmon, who was the Board's receptionist, has also been promoted and took Ms. Mia Quinn's vacated position. The recruitment process to backfill for our receptionist position has started and we hope to do interviews soon.

The last update that the Board has is that Ms. Andrea Geremia who was briefly the Board's probation monitor left state service early November. The Board conducted interviews in December and offered the position to Mr. Ralph Correa. Mr. Correa comes to the Board as a retired police officer with over 20 years of law enforcement experience and 3 years of having worked as a probation monitor for the Medical Board of California.

Please join me in congratulating everyone into their new roles and welcoming Mr. Correa to the OMBC Family.

Office Operations:

Telework:

The OMBC continues to manage ongoing telework schedules for office staff. Board staff continues to be on a three day in office and two days at home schedule. This schedule continues to be effective and productive to office operations and there are no immediate concerns for any change.

Lease Agreement:

The Board is still working with our facilities department at the DCA and the Department of General Services (DGS) to renew our lease agreement and hopes to finalize this process in the upcoming months. The Board is requesting some minor office improvements such as turning the Board's copy room into another manager office, moving the copy machines over to the file rooms, adding insulation to some walls to help reduce noise and adding staff key card access to our doors so that we can have more office security.

Strategic Plan:

The Board met in September to conduct its 2024-2028 strategic planning session. The DCA Solid Team met with Board members and leadership and completed its planning session, later today the members will get the opportunity to vote on adopting this Plan.

Technology:

BreEZe Updates: The Board continues to be very active in working with our BreEZe team to make process improvements for Board programs. Management and staff continue to meet with DCA's BreEZe team daily and discuss progress on their individualized projects for each unit and as usual we will provide these updates in the program reports later today.

Social Media Accounts: The Board continues to utilize its social media accounts to post informational material for both our consumers and licensees, the Board is advertising its Board meetings, outreach events, and notifying both our consumers and licensee of any operational changes such as going live on BreEZe with our physician surgeon application, CURES updates, and expediated licensure pathways.

Board's Website: The Board is happy to announce that after asking for a new website for the past several years we have finally produced, and we went live on November 1st. So far, the Board has received great feedback and plans to do a better job of maintaining current content and keeping it organized and running efficiently for all of our stakeholders.

Communication:

Executive Director had calls and email exchange with Board president Dr. Cyrus Buhari 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 is extremely excited to introduce the very first issue of our Board's newsletter titled OsteoScope. This first issue is our winter 2023 newsletter, which is published on our webpage and can be located under our forms and publications tab and is also printed for distribution. The Board plans to share this newsletter with our Board members, our schools, associations, and other stakeholders. The original thought was to publish a new issue at least twice a year, however if we get enough content, we may produce a new issue quarterly.

The Board is also happy to announce that it completed its first school presentation in November. The Board was invited to join Dr. Wagner and Dr. Whitlow and help host a professional identity seminar at Touro University. I have to say that it was an amazing experience, students were extremely engaged and had lots of questions about the enforcement process. They were walked through the entire enforcement process and the do's and don'ts to stay out of trouble. We look forward to returning soon and getting invited to do the same presentation at other schools.

In terms of conferences the Board attended the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California's (OPSC) CME by the Bay from October 5-8, 2023, conference in Monterey, CA, ran a booth, and provided a presentation of Board updates.

Due to the budget situation, at this time the Board is not planning on conducting any outreach.