

Alaska State Board of Chiropractic Examiners

Newsletter

February 2006

October 14, 2005, the board met for its regularly scheduled meeting in Anchorage.

Present were Board Members: Dr. Greg Culbert, President (Eagle River), Dr. David Mulholland, Vice President (Anchorage), Dr. Clark Davis, Secretary (Ketchikan), Dr. Rosemary Zimmerman (Girdwood), Sean Siegel, Public Member (Anchorage).

Present from the Division of Occupational Licensing: Richard Younkens, Acting Chief Investigator and Cindy Roccodero, Licensing Examiner.

Visitors are welcome.

PEER REVIEW UPDATE

The board would like to extend a welcome to Ms. Bonnie Paddock, new public member to the Peer Review Committee. Current members of the Peer Review Committee are Dr. James Heston, Dr. Daniel Holt, and Dr. Nick Williams, and Ms. Bonnie Paddock.

The board discussed the peer review process and proper procedure when a peer review request is received. Mr. Younkens stated that there are other boards who have a Peer Review Committee and a flow chart defining the peer review process. The board asked Mr. Younkens if he could prepare a flow chart for the board to help streamline the peer review request process. Mr. Younkens stated that he would provide the board with a flow chart. The board felt it was important that the Peer Review Committee have a contact or liaison. Upon some discussion the board unanimously agreed to designate Dr. Mulholland as the board liaison to the Peer Review Committee. As the board's liaison, Dr. Mulholland asked how the information would be disseminated to the Peer Review Committee. After some discussion the board agreed to the following process:

The investigator receives a peer review request, makes the determination that there are no violations of state law and forwards the request to Dr. Mulholland. Dr. Mulholland will select on Peer Review Committee member who is a chiropractic physician as the lead committee member to perform the review. To prevent one chiropractic physician as the lead committee member to performing reviews, Dr. Mulholland will alternate between the three chiropractic physician committee members. The public committee member cannot act as a lead to a peer review request because they are not familiar with the terminology used, requirements and standards of treatment. The public committee member's role is to have a view as a private citizen, one not associated with the profession and to provide input as such. Dr. Mulholland will provide the selected lead committee member with a copy of the file along with the checklist and a list of professional resources.

National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) Update

The board voted and passed a resolution to approve Dr. Zimmerman as the delegate to attend the NBCE Part IV practical examination on November 11-13, 2005.

Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Board (FCLB) Update

There is an upcoming FCLB annual meeting in May 2006, in Portland, Oregon.

REGULATIONS

If you are interested in receiving notification of proposed regulatory changes, you will need to submit a written request to be placed on the Board of Chiropractic Examiners', Interested Parties List and mail the request to:

Regulation Specialist
Division of Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806

All public notices of proposed regulatory changes are posted on the Divisions web page at: www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ

INVESTIGATIVE UPDATE

Richard Younkings, Acting Chief Investigator presented to the board the investigative report. Mr. Younkings stated that there are four closed cases, one open case, and one licensee remaining on probation. There are approximately 200 active licenses. The board thanked Maggie McQuaid for the good job she has done on clearing up the backlog of investigations and complaints. There had been a question and concern that the Alaska Back Pain Center, operated by a medical licensee was advertising in the chiropractic section of the Yellow Pages. Dr. Zimmerman reported that the Alaska Back Pain Center is no longer in business it will not be necessary to contact the Alaska Medical Board.

COMPLAINTS/PUBLIC RECORD

All complaints must first go through the Division's Investigator (907) 269-8184 and not through the board.

Anyone may make a complaint against a chiropractor. The Division investigates all complaints.

The cost of investigations is directly reflected in the licensing fees for chiropractors.

Licensing information is public record (except that which is required to be kept confidential by state and federal law).

Information regarding current licensees, including mailing addresses, license actions are available on the Divisions' website:
www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ.

Click on "Professional License Search" and fill in the boxes necessary for the individual licensee.

MEETING AND EXAMINATION DATES

2006 Tentative Meeting Schedule



July 14
September 22

The public is always welcome to attend.

2006 State Chiropractic Examination Schedule



July 14
October 13

Applications and all supporting documents must be postmarked no later than 45 days before the scheduled examination date.

EXAMINATION CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

The board indicated that it would like to return to interviewing examination candidates. Ms. Roccodero reminded the board that it had agreed to the director's request to eliminate the oral interview. The board stated it felt that it was important for applicants to meet it, place a face to the board and to let the applicants know that the board is available to them. Ms. Roccodero suggested that future board meetings be held the same day of examinations and invite the candidates to meet the board during public comment period. The board requested Ms. Roccodero to encourage candidates to meet the board during its public comment period.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE)

CE Requests for Approval

A continuing thank you to Dr. Fred Risch for his ongoing review of request for board approval of continuing education courses.

Requests for CE approval are received by the licensing examiner, who indexes the courses and forwards them on to Dr. Risch.

Dr. Risch reviews the “Continuing Education Program Request for Approval” forms, course schedules and descriptions, credentials of the instructors, number and type of credit hours, and makes a recommendation to the board.

The board, in a mail ballot or at a meeting, then reviews Dr. Risch’s recommendations and votes on course approval.

Approved courses are listed on the Division’s web site:
<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ/pchi.htm>.

This process may be assisted in the future by the upcoming PACE program.

It is the INDIVIDUAL CHIROPRACTOR’S RESPONSIBILITY to check the web site or with Licensing Examiner, Cindy Roccodero (cindy_roccodero@commerce.state.ak.us)

Requests are to be submitted in advance in a legible handwriting or typed.

The board has determined that by accepting PACE approved programs it would reduce the licensing examiners and Dr. Risch’s workload considerably and also reduce its operating budget. The board stated that upon request they will continue to review continuing education requests for approval from those programs who choose not to go through PACE.

See past newsletters for further PACE information. It is the INDIVIDUAL CHIROPRACTOR’S RESPONSIBILITY to check with the web site or the licensing examiner at license@commerce.state.ak.us, PRIOR to taking a CE course REGARDING it’s APPROVAL. Retroactive request may not be accepted. Individual study requests must be made in advance.

NEW BUSINESS

In regard Continuing Education Audits a review of the Disciplinary Guideline for Noncompliance was discussed. The board noted that licenses will expire on December 31, 2006. Following that, the board will conduct another audit of its licensees to determine if the licensees are complying with the continuing education (CE) requirement.

At its June 24, 2005 meeting the board asked Steve Winker, Paralegal to provide it with a copy of his chart titled, “General Guideline of Disciplinary Sanctions for Memorandums of Agreement Where Licensees Who Have Failed to Meet Continuing Education Requirements are Identified Through the Audit Process. The board wanted to review the chart to assist in creating a disciplinary guideline for licensees who are not in compliance with its CE requirements. Upon review of the chart the board by unanimous vote, requested Mr. Winker to process noncompliance CE audited licensees as follows:

Licensee will be required to complete deficient CE

Mandatory audit for the next two renewals

Letter of reprimand

License suspension until satisfactory documentation of deficit CE is received

Civil fine of \$3,500 maximum comprised of two elements; \$2,500 fine for falsification of the application, plus \$200 per credit hour lacking to a \$1,000 maximum (all or part of this amount may be suspended based on the gravity of the offense at the boards discretion).

INTERNATIONAL CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION (ICA) REQUEST

The ICA requested all state boards to open reciprocity for chiropractic physicians who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The Board stated that if the chiropractors wanted to come and practice in Alaska they would have to comply with present statutes and regulations. The board is not opening reciprocity.

BOARD PURPOSE STATEMENT

It is the objective of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners to foster professional standards consistent with the best interests of the public and to do so in accordance with the laws of the state.

The board does not represent chiropractors; that is a function of professional societies or associations. However, the board does try to work with these organizations towards common goals.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Workers Compensation is the process of being changed to to SB130 of the last legislative session. Contact Alaska Chiropractic Society Vice President, Dr. Bill Pfeifer for updates at family@ptialaska.net

BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners is to foster higher professional standards relative to the practice of Chiropractic in the state of Alaska consistent with the best interest of the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

The values we embrace are equity, honesty, responsibility and collaboration.

Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners

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