



# **Board of Pharmacy**

## **Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State**

89 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor • Montpelier, VT 05620-3402  
Tel. (802) 828-2373 • [//sos.vermont.gov/opr/](https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/)

### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

#### **\*Remote Meeting\***

**Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:00a.m.**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M., by Ms. Stephanie Ibey, RPh, Chair

Members Present: Stephanie Ibey, RPh, Chair (via web); James Arisman, Esq., public member (via web); Michael Carroll, RPh (via web); Robert Carpenter, RPh, Vice Chair (via web, left prior to adjournment); William Chatoff, RPh (via web); Judith Wernecke, Secretary, public member (via web) ; and Corey Duteau, RPh (via web)

Member(s) Absent: Catherine Haraden, CPhT.

OPR Personnel Present: Carrie Phillips, Executive Officer (via web); Gabriel Gilman, General Counsel (via web); Corey Young, Licensing Administrator I (via web); Tara Grenier, Licensing Administrator III (via web, left prior to adjournment); Derek Everett, Licensing Board Inspection Coordinator (via web, left prior to adjournment) and Elizabeth St. James, Chief Prosecutor (via web, left prior to adjournment).

Guests: Stephanie Winters (via web); Michele Corriveau (via web); Emma Shouldice (via web); Jessica Adams (via web); Anthony Provenzano (via web); Lauren Bode (via web); Chad Dufour (via web); Kathleen Wobby (via web) and Nany Hogue (via web).

#### **2. Approval of previous minutes:**

The board unanimously approved the minutes from the July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 board meeting.

#### **3. Discipline: None**

#### **4. Topics for discussion:**

- a. U.S. HHS's Third Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. The board discussed and heard from Ms. Winters from Vermont Medical Society (VMS) and Ms. Hogue from Department of Vermont Health Access. OPR is to draft a standard guidance for pharmacies regarding ordering and administering of pediatric immunizations, with input from VMS, VDH and pharmacy stakeholders to be reviewed by the BOP members. Should BOP members feel the draft needs revision, a special meeting may be held to review the notice.
- b. Ms. Philips brought to the board's attention an email asking whether, in view of COVID-19 disruption to some state inspections, the board had waived the three-year inspection window permitted of out-of-state entity applicants. The board saw no compelling reason to issue a blanket waiver; instead, members recommended that potential waivers of this requirement be determined by Ms. Phillips on a case-by-case basis, and facility waiver requests will be sent to the board for consideration.

- c. Ms. Phillips presented to the board her Executive Officer report and the recent pharmacy license approvals.
- d. Mr. Gilman reported on current legislative activity, with particular attention to the status of S.220.
- e. Ms. Phillips spoke to the board about possible new pharmacy administrative rules.
  - Ms. Phillips shared with the board NH Board of Pharmacy rules prohibiting third-party companies completing application's on behalf of pharmacy entities.
  - Requiring implementation of Continuous Quality Improvement programs for all pharmacies
- f. Regulatory approaches to safe working conditions in the pharmacy
  - Consensus recommendations for Boards of Pharmacy, contained in the 2019 report from AACP, ACPE, APhA, NABP and NASPA, "Enhancing Well-being and Resilience Among the Pharmacist Workforce: A National Consensus Conference," were presented and discussed
  - Subsequent discussion of workplace conditions and potential impact on patient safety followed, along with the Board drafting of survey to be sent to Vermont pharmacists. Ms. Phillips also noted the following, to be reflected in the minutes: the mission of OPR and its boards is the protection of the public, this mission is supported by licensed professionals, patients and health care providers making OPR aware of concerns related to any regulated profession, such as pharmacy, by submitting them via [OPR's online complaint portal](#). Complaints may be submitted anonymously.
- g. Ms. Phillips and Mr. Gilman spoke to the board about reviewing closure procedures for in-state pharmacies. The board's clarification on closure is as follows:

*"For purposes of Administrative Rule 8.3, specifying the obligations of drug outlets when closing, a retail drug outlet has executed a 'planned closing' if it takes an act that reasonably and predictably will require patients to obtain prescription drugs elsewhere. It is the responsibility of both the closing pharmacy and the successor pharmacy to ensure 30-day notice is afforded to patients, as required by the Rule."*
- h. The board unanimously voted that Mr. Carpenter record, on the board's behalf, a farewell message to former NABP president, Carmen Catizone, to be delivered at the upcoming NABP District 1/2 annual meeting.

**5. Public Comment:**

None.

**6. Adjournment:**

Mr. Arisman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 P.M. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next Scheduled Meeting – Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020  
Please check the [OPR Meeting Calendar](#) for updates