

# New York State Board of Pharmacy

June 22, 2022

New York State Education Department  
89 Washington Avenue, EB 201 & Room 146  
**Meeting Minutes**

Executive Secretary, Dina Jazrawi, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

The following Board members were present:

Nasir Mahmood, Chair  
Renee Hofman, Vice-Chair  
Steven Earle  
Heather King  
Michelle Lewis  
Christopher Wallen  
Miller Young

The following Department staff were present:

Dina Jazrawi, Executive Secretary (ES)  
Owen Donovan  
Jeffrey Fisher  
Alexander Goh  
Evan Sieden  
Ric Smarro  
David Smith  
Christopher Torelli  
David Wiech

## **Welcome and introduction**

An introduction of Board members, Department staff and members of the public was led by ES Jazrawi. Audience member, Karen Divens was introduced as the Board's newest incoming member. Ms. Divens was appointed by the Board of Regents at its June meeting. She is the first Registered Pharmacy Technician to serve on the Board of Pharmacy and her appointment begins on July 1, 2022.

## **Minutes**

The Board approved the minutes of the March 2022 meeting unanimously. (King/Hofman)

## **Report of the Chair**

Board Chairman Nasir Mahmood provided a detailed recap of the annual National Association for Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) meeting for Board discussion. Important topics discussed at the annual meeting included current pharmacy workplace environments and the challenges being faced around addressing them, the Drug Supply Chain Security Act and pharmacy technician scope of practice. Chairman Mahmood noted that New York remains a role model to other states across the country as they continue to look to New York's statutes and regulations as guidance for their own development.

The Ethics form submission and approval process was discussed. Member Earle, former Director of the Office for Diversity, Ethics and Access, stated that ethics reviews are, and have historically been, required for both Department staff and Board members.

## **Report of the Executive Secretary**

ES Jazrawi reaffirmed Chairman Mahmood's statement about New York State's numerous accomplishments within the profession of Pharmacy over the past two years.

Licensee and intern statistics were provided for the current year. Recently, the Office of Professional Discipline re-posted the downstate pharmacy consultant position.

The uptick in phishing crimes targeting both pharmacists and pharmacies was discussed; the Department has posted an advisory notice on its pharmacy homepage.

Recent concerns expressed by the hospital pharmacy community regarding the legislature's interpretation of "direct personal supervision" were discussed. A meeting to gather additional stakeholder input will be held next week.

New York State's Board of Regents has permanently adopted the amendments to section 63.9 of the Commissioner's Regulations, expanding upon and removing the sunset for vaccine administration by pharmacists. June 1, 2022, marked the effective date of the amended regulations.

In discussions around the legislative process and the bills that passed both houses, it was noted that the Department had not yet taken a position on any of the bills. The discussed bills were:

A.8519/S.8465: Removes the sunset of the law and makes permanent certain provisions of law relating to interchangeable biological products.

A.3040/S.4870: Relates to the definition of the practice of pharmacy on injections of certain medications for the treatment of mental health and substance abuse disorder.

A.5413/S.5489: Permits unregistered, nonresident establishments to ship, mail or deliver prescription drugs and/or devices to registered establishments in New York State in cases of specific patient need or a declared public health emergency.

### **Old Business**

The results of the 2022 Pharmacy Workplace Survey were reviewed and discussed. Information gathered from the survey will be helpful in guiding next steps and providing a better understanding of the workforce challenges faced by New York State licensees.

Discussion also ensued on ways to increase communication with license holders throughout the State. Owen Donovan, the Office of the Professions' Executive Coordinator for Professional Practice, advised that other State Boards have also discussed this topic, and that the Board of Pharmacy's comments/suggestions will be shared with Department leadership as the website modernization process continues.

### **New Business**

A review of the checklists currently used by pharmacies seeking registration in New York State was conducted by the Board. A discussion ensued around amending the checklists to further ensure safety. It was agreed that a panic button would be strongly recommended for new establishments seeking registration and further clarified that drive-thru windows are already required to be reinforced or gated.

### **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

ES Jazrawi and Chairman Mahmood thanked the Board for a productive meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled to be in person on October 25, 2022, the location still to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.