

VERMONT BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE
Special Meeting
Minutes of the October 7, 2024, Board Meeting
280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671
Remote via Teams

Unapproved

- **Call to Order; Call the Roll; Acknowledge Guests:**

Dr. Rick Hildebrant, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:13 PM

Members Present:

Rachel Gaidys, MD; Matthew Greenberg, MD; Rick Hildebrant, MD; Suzanne Jones, PA-C; Patricia King, MD; Stephanie Lorentz; Ian Odigie, DPM; Judy Scott; Margaret Tandoh, MD; Peter Ireland, MD; Scott Tucker.

Others in Attendance:

David Herlihy, Executive Director; Justin Sheng, AAG; Ron Hunt Administrator; Lauren Layman. VDH Counsel; Stephanie Winters; Heather Shouldice; Dr. Steven Moore

- **Other Business:**

- **Consideration of a Board position on the participation of naturopathic physicians in the processes being reviewed by the Technical Advisory Group convened pursuant to Act 158 of 2024**

The Chair led a discussion of the issue under consideration. All 11 members present commented. The first member commenting outlined differences between the education and training of MDs and naturopathic physicians (NDs).¹ That member observed that while the ND curriculum covers many subjects covered in allopathic medical education and training, there is very little hospital experience in the ND curriculum and no requirement for residency. Another member made the comment that the law on the medical aid in dying (MAID) process is still quite new and should not be changed at this time by adding NDs. A member noted that the materials about

¹ For clarity, it is noted that “naturopathic physician” is abbreviated as “ND.”

ND education provided by Dr. Steven Moore on behalf of VANP reflected little attention to geriatrics and end-of-life care in the naturopathic curriculum. It was noted that Vermont law requires MDs to have CME on end-of-life care each licensing cycle. One commenter mentioned that there is a limited number of physicians who participate in the MAID process. Some members referred to comments submitted in writing by two members who could not attend. Many of the commenters addressed the issue as two separate matters, expressing an opinion on DNR/COLST and a separate opinion on MAID. The Chair suggested having two motions, one on the subject of DNR/COLST orders and another on the subject of which professions are allowed to act as a clinician in the MAID process, as set forth in Chapter 113 of Title 18, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Patient Choice at End of Life.

Dr. King made a motion for the Board to take a position supporting inclusion of NDs as clinicians who can sign DNR/COLST orders, subject to the additional recommendation that for an ND to sign as a clinician for such orders they should be required to have additional education on the subjects of: the medical interventions to sustain life that occur when a “code” is called in a hospital; Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS); and the other interventions that appear on the Vermont Department of Health DNR/COLST form. S. Jones, PA-C seconded the motion. The motion passed: 11-0-0.

Dr. Ireland made a motion for the Board to take a position opposing the inclusion of NDs as clinicians who can act as a physician for the MAID process, as set forth in Chapter 113 of Title 18, Vermont Statutes Annotated. Dr. King seconded the motion. The motion passed: 9-1-1.

- **Adjourn:**

Dr. Hildebrant declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.