

MINUTES OF THE MEETING FOR THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS SUBCOMMITTEE ON DRY NEEDLING

DATE & TIME: February 17, 2021

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1. **Meeting called to order by Keoni Kins, Subcommittee and Board member, at 7:05 AM.**

Subcommittee Members Present: Keoni Kins, Board Member; Kyle Moore, Board Member; Steve McCauley, Public Member.

Staff Present: Michelle Cothrun, Executive Secretary.

2. **Public comment.** No members of the public present. Michelle Cothrun confirmed that the Board office has not received any public comment via email or other means. No public comment.

3. **Review and discuss the election of a Subcommittee Chair to run meetings for the Subcommittee on Dry Needling. (For Possible Action)** Keoni Kins mentions that at the previous Board meeting, it was discussed briefly that Kyle Moore might take on the role of Subcommittee Chair. Keoni asks Kyle if he would have the capacity to take on the role. Kyle is happy to with the understanding that he has a full schedule. All Subcommittee members are willing to work around each other's schedules.

Keoni Kins motions to nominate Kyle Moore as the Subcommittee Chair. Steve McCauley seconds the motion, and it passes. Kyle chairs the meeting from this point forward.

4. **Review and discuss the adoption of guidelines and the process for the review of submitted documentation to best determine if a licensee fulfills the education and training required by the new dry needling regulation. (For Possible Action)** Kyle Moore begins a discussion on whether undergraduate education fulfills the requirements for didactic education. The language of the statutes indicates that undergraduate education could fulfill the requirements. Steve McCauley states that the profession of Athletic Training is in a transition between a bachelor's and master's degree. In reviewing the minutes from the last Board meeting, he agrees with Tedd Girouard's comments that the curriculum at UNLV is essentially a Master's level education.

Steve's main concern is composing a list or guideline for reviewing these applications. He states that a scorecard is needed, mainly for the licensees that may be denied. Approvals are straightforward; however, denials can be

problematic for the Board if, for instance, a licensee that has been dry needling gets denied. Keoni Kins agrees with what Steve is proposing in making a clear list of what the Subcommittee is looking for to document and expedite the review process. Clear instructions for our licensees will ensure they submit paperwork that is useful to the Board, which will make the review process efficient.

Keoni believes that the Board could get pushback on accepting bachelor's entry level degrees, and even at entry level graduate coursework. Appropriate, post-professional continuing education units are valid to support the didactic education. Both Kyle and Keoni state that they have reviewed all the applications so far and they are surprised at the lack of post-professional continuing education. Keoni has flagged a few that only submitted Bachelor level education. Michelle explains that she steered applicants away from listing continuing education and advised them to list college courses instead.

Steve's scorecard idea should be the first task. Kyle agrees and wants to stay close to the domains of study listed in the statute. Licensees could feel limited if the list gets too specific. He reiterates that the form applicants submit requests they include a description on how their coursework relates to dry needling. Keoni agrees and advocates for a two-stage process. The initial stage of this process would be that the Subcommittee reviews their application. Some applications may be flagged because they do not give enough information to make a recommendation for Approve or Deny to the Board. If there are questions or requests for more information, they will get communicated through Michelle. Giving the applicant an example what the Subcommittee is looking for may help.

The Subcommittee considers the wording of the Dry Needling statute and regulation, which include the domains of study. Michelle reiterates that the regulation states "may" and not "shall" regarding graduate-level education. Shall is mandatory. Steve states that three of the domains of study are straightforward: human anatomy relevant to Dry Needling, the use of sterile needles, and the control of blood borne pathogens. However, the last domain, circumstances under which performing Dry Needling on a patient may or not be appropriate, is the domain the Subcommittee needs to create a set of guidelines. He proposes that the fourth domain should satisfy the domains in athletic training education as set forth by the BOC. Keoni agrees and likes using a framework that is already well known and accepted in our professional practice.

Kyle suggests the following language: In review of an applicant's application, specific to domain D, BOC standards of professional practice will be referenced for its relation to Dry Needling. Steve agrees with the proposed language and clarifies that these guidelines are for the Subcommittee to agree on for their internal review process only.

Kyle Moore motions to approve the language that was just stated for the process of the Subcommittee's review of applicants. Steve McCauley seconds the motion, and it passes.

The Subcommittee then discusses how they anticipate the reviews will take place at future meetings. Kyle recommends that all Subcommittee members review the applications to dry needle on their own and decide whether they are "Recommend to Pass" or "Investigate". The Subcommittee members can discuss briefly why they think an investigation and/or more information is required. No discussion is necessary if all members agree that an application is a pass. Keoni agrees and adds that the Subcommittee needs to collectively agree if the application requires an investigation. The Executive Secretary will keep track of the Subcommittee's notes and requests. She will email the licensee to let them know their application to dry needle was reviewed and that the Subcommittee has requested additional information. All members have access to the dry needling portion of the AirTable database, where the Executive Secretary uploads the application and supporting documents. After reviewing the additional submissions, the applications will be recommended to pass or deny. The complete list of recommendations goes back to the Board for the final approval at the next Board meeting. Lastly, there will be no exchanges or feedback with each other before the meeting so as not to influence the other members and to avoid breaking Open Meeting Law. The Subcommittee agrees on the process as stated and there is no further discussion.

5. Review and discuss proof of education and training documentation submitted by licensed Athletic Trainers to determine which licensees comply with the new dry needling regulation. (For Possible Action)

This item has been tabled until the next Subcommittee meeting.

6. Review and discuss a final list of recommendations that the Subcommittee on Dry Needling will present to the Nevada State Board of Athletic Trainers. (For Possible Action) This item has been tabled until the next Subcommittee meeting.

7. **Future agenda items. (Discussion)** Kyle Moore suggests bringing up the topic of dual credentialed Athletic Trainers and Physical Therapists to the Board and whether they need to submit a dry needling application to both Boards. The Subcommittee discussed the topic at this meeting and concluded that it depends on whether the licensee is employed as an Athletic Trainer or Physical Therapist. Their employment determines which Board has jurisdiction. There is no further discussion.

8. **Discussion and possible decision on date of next meeting. (For Possible Action)** The Subcommittee considers options for the next meeting and settles on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

9. **Public comment.** Michelle Cothrun states that no members of the public joined during the meeting. However, she received an email from a licensee, who is currently going through the process of becoming certified in dry needling, asking for clarification of the 150 hours of training. They have already taken two dry needling courses for a total of 54 hours. Even after completing these courses, they still need 96 hours, which to them seems extremely excessive. In their mind it would be pointless to redo the two Dry Needling courses two more times for a total of four times each, along with paying that amount of money to do something over again. And they looked up other states that require dry needling certification for Athletic Trainers and Physical Therapists. They found that most states require 25 to 50 hours, especially surrounding states such as Colorado and Arizona. Why does Nevada require more hours?

Michelle explained to them that the requirement is one 25 hour in person Dry Needling course and the rest is education related to dry needling. They have a bachelor's degree, not a master's, and they are very concerned they will not meet the requirements to dry needle in Nevada. The Subcommittee recognizes that other states have lower hour requirements and discusses whether undergraduate coursework fulfills the requirements or if post-graduate coursework better fulfills the education requirement. The language of the statute does not require post-graduate education.

Kyle Moore asks if that licensee has applied yet. Michelle explains that they are looking into getting certified to dry needle. Since they have taken two dry needling courses, their main concern was fulfilling the rest of the requirements. She directed them to the website for more information and to review the verification form to see how they would meet the requirements for the other domains of study. Michelle confirms that she has not received any other questions or public comment. There is no further discussion.

10. **Adjournment. (For Possible Action)** Kyle Moore motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 AM. Keoni Kins seconds the motion, and it passes.