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**LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES  
March 6, 2025**

**LOCATION:**

1625 North Market Boulevard  
Suite 102  
Sacramento, CA 95834

**Remote Access** via Web Ex Teleconference

**Staff Present**

**Benjamin Bodea**, Executive Officer  
**Brennan Meier**, Legal Counsel  
**Jay Herdt**, Licensing Manager  
**Kristine Brothers**, Policy Coordinator  
**Enrico Garcia**, Administrative Coordinator  
**Marisa Ochoa**, Central Services Manager, Remote

**Members of the Committee Present**

**Dr. Amy Matecki, M.D., L.Ac., Chair**  
**Gregory Leung**

**Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting commenced at 1:19 p.m.  
Roll call taken. All members present.

**Item 2 – Chair's Opening Remarks**

Chair Amy Matecki (Chair Matecki) welcomed members, staff, and the public to the California Acupuncture Board (Board) Licensing Committee meeting.

**Item 3 – Review and Possible Action on Acupuncturist Scope of Practice for Consumer and Patient Safety, Access, and Clarity on the Following Matters:**

To start the discussion, the Board's legal counsel reminded the public that the Board's role is centered on public protection through enforcement of the Acupuncture License Act. While the Board can suggest clarifications or propose regulatory updates, any formal scope changes must be enacted by the legislature.

**a. Asian Massage/Tui Na/Manual Therapy**

Chair Matecki opened the discussion on the term Asian Massage and its implications for scope of practice and public perception. Although Asian Massage is recognized as part of the acupuncture scope of practice, discussion from the public indicated the terminology remains consistently misunderstood. The confusion stressed the need for its name modernization and advocacy that Manual Therapy is a more accurate and respected term. A public member urged the Board to push for legislative updates to

align with current clinical practices. Another public member acknowledged that stakeholders would need to lead the effort, with the Board playing a supportive role by reviewing proposals for safety and public interest. The Licensing Committee (Committee) clarified that while the Board cannot unilaterally change statutory language, the Board can facilitate the process by collecting input from the profession and supporting legislative initiatives when appropriate.

#### **b. Trigger Point Acupuncture/Dry Needling**

The dialogue then moved to trigger point therapy and dry needling. Executive Officer Benjamin Bodea (E.O. Bodea) reminded the public that dry needling has been previously discussed by the Board most recently in 2017, and soon after was invited to a Physical Therapy Board meeting to provide this guidance there. In California, dry Needling is treated as the unlicensed practice of acupuncture when performed by unlicensed individuals or other medical professionals who are not expressly permitted by law. E.O. Bodea also emphasized the importance of submitting written complaints for such unlicensed practice.

#### **c. Modern Device Point Stimulation – Heat, Magnets, Light, Lasers, Sound Therapy**

The committee next discussed acupuncture scope of practice as it pertains to current point stimulation techniques using heat, magnets, light, lasers, and sound therapy. E.O. Bodea noted that while heat and magnets are already included in the scope of acupuncture, light, laser, and sound therapy are not explicitly recognized. Concerns were raised that while practitioners are already using such devices, the lack of official guidance creates uncertainty and risk of disciplinary action. A public member emphasized the need for guidance from the Board so practitioners will not unknowingly violate regulations. The Board's legal counsel clarified that while the Board can create regulations, any changes to the statutory scope of practice must come from the legislature. The Board's primary mandate is public protection, not professional advocacy. However, the Committee acknowledged the importance of being informed by the profession and encouraged practitioners to gather data, document safety, and work collaboratively with the Board toward legislative or regulatory change.

#### **d-f. Bleeding/Therapeutic Blood Withdrawal/Needles/Acupotomy**

The discussion then proceeded to therapeutic blood withdrawal, the different types of needles that are used in acupuncture and newer procedures such as Acupotomy. Chair Matecki expressed a desire to understand more from the profession on these topics.

A public member expressed hesitance about including it in scope without more research and data. Committee members and stakeholders acknowledged the complexity presented by scope of practice issues in an environment of evolving clinical/medical practice.

The Item discussion indicated a need for continued public and stakeholder engagement. The Committee reaffirmed its openness to hearing from the profession

and reiterated its role as a partner and not a barrier in advancing clarity, modernization, and public understanding of acupuncture and related practices.

#### **Item 4 – Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda**

Board Member Gregory Leung (Leung) expressed appreciation of the issues raised by the stakeholders as well as their input.

The first public speaker expressed concern over foreign transcript evaluation standards. The second speaker shared the technical issues they experienced during their licensing exam raising concerns about the integrity and reliability of the exam process.

The last public speaker advocated for better recognition and regulation of Tuina. E.O. Bodea clarified that only one foreign transcript evaluator is currently approved by the Board and applicants should ensure they use the approved evaluator.

#### **Item 5 – Future Agenda Items**

Member Leung asked to discuss the qualifications of acupuncture assistants, for the profession to continue to provide the Board updates on changes in the use of acupuncture devices, and their efforts to modernize the scope of practice.

#### **Item 6 – Adjournment**

Chair Matecki adjourned the meeting at or around 3:51 p.m.