

**MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
December 18, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Clark Fincher, President (via phone)
Nathaniel Smith, M.D., MPH, Secretary
(via phone)
Lawrence Braden, M.D. (via phone)
Alan Fortenberry, P.E. (via phone)
Larry Fritchman, D.V.M.
George A. Harper, J.D.
Anthony N. Hui, M.D. (via phone)
Thomas Jones, R.S.
Jim Lambert (via phone)
Marvin Leibovich, M.D. (via phone)
Catherine Tapp, MPH (via phone)
Joe Thomspson, M.D., MPH (via phone)
Anika Whitfield, D.P.M. (via phone)
Terry Yamauchi, M.D.

GUESTS PRESENT

Ann Purvis, Deputy Director for Administration
Rick D. Hogan, General Counsel
Reginald Rogers, Deputy General Counsel
Elizabeth Pitman, Deputy General Counsel
Leslie Lovett, Arkansas Board of Health Liaison
Donnie Smith, Director, Center for Health Protection
Mike Wilson, EOC, Technical Manager
Ray James, President, Advisory Board for Interpreters
J.R. Courtright, Advisory Board for Interpreters
Holly Ketchum, Advisory Board for Interpreters
Melanie Thornton, Advisory Board for Interpreters
Colin F. Baker

Members Absent (excused)

Miranda Childs-Bebee, D.D.S., President Elect
Glen "Eddie" Bryant, M.D.
Susan Jones, M.D.
John R. Page, P.D.
Alexander Rejistre, Sr. DC
Mary Beth Ringgold
Rev. Dwight Townsend
Peggy Walker, RN-BD, MSN, CADC
Patricia Westfall-Elsberry, O.D.
James Zini, D.O.

MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

A Special Meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Health was held Wednesday, December 18, 2013, in the 5th floor briefing room of the Arkansas Department of Health, 4815 W. Markham Little Rock, Arkansas. President Fincher asked, via conference call, those members also participating by conference call to give their names. Dr. Leibovich, Dr. Whitfield, Dr. Smith, Mr. Lambert Dr. Hui, Mr. Fortenberry, Ms. Tapp, Dr. Thompson, and Dr. Braden responded. President Fincher reported there was a quorum and called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Harper stated there was a change in location of the last Board of Health meeting. Therefore he moved for ratification of all actions taken at the October 24, 2013, meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hui and the minutes were approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Rules Governing the Advisory Board of Interpreters Between Hearing Individuals and Individuals Who Are Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing, or Oral Deaf and Rules Governing the Licensure of Provisional and Qualified Interpreter's

S. Elizabeth Pitman, Deputy General Counsel, stated that there were some members of the board present, Ray James, J.R. Courtright and Holly Ketchum.

Ms. Pitman reported that this is a seven-member board. The Advisory Board met on November 8, 2013, and at that first meeting they approved the rules. The Advisory Board is asking to proceed with emergency rulemaking and regular rulemaking at the same time. The rules are duplicative, the emergency rules and the regular rules are exactly the same. The Advisory Board is asking to proceed with emergency Rules because the statute that established the Advisory Board had the members begin working together in November and wanted the interpreters on the Board to be licensed by January. In order to do so, the Advisory Board must use the emergency rulemaking process. The Advisory Board is also asking permission to begin the regular rulemaking process so that the licensure process established by the emergency rules will continue without interruption.

Dr. Yamaguchi asked if there was any penalty for a person who poses as an interpreter and is not licensed. Ms. Pitman stated, yes, the statute does give the Advisory Board the right to do investigations and impose penalties if someone is acting as an interpreter without a license or if someone hires an interpreter that is not licensed. The license itself will say what their credential level is and what area or setting they are allowed to interpret in. They are limited to the settings that they are actually credentialed in. Dr. Thompson added is there any in place now other than the Board of Health where they are licensed. Ms. Pitman stated there is no licensing in place now. They are credentialed through national agencies. We will keep a registry of the credentials held and licensed in the State of Arkansas.

Dr. Fritchman made a motion and Dr. Thompson seconded. The motion carried.

There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel Smith, M.D., MPH
Director and State Health Officer