

# Business Meeting Minutes

## July 10, 2020



WASHINGTON  
**Medical  
Commission**  
Licensing. Accountability. Leadership.

### Virtual Meeting

#### Commission Members

James E. Anderson, PA-C  
Toni Borlas, Public Member  
Charlie Browne, MD  
Jimmy Chung, MD  
Diana Currie, MD  
Karen Domino, MD  
Christine Blake, Public Member  
Warren Howe, MD  
April Jaeger, MD  
Charlotte Lewis, MD

John Maldon, Public Member, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Terry Murphy, MD  
Alden Roberts, MD, Chair  
Scott Rodgers, JD, Public Member  
Theresa Schimmels, PA-C  
Robert Small, MD  
Claire Trescott, MD, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair - Absent  
Candace Vervair, Public Member  
Richard Wohns, MD  
Yanling Yu, PhD, Public Member

#### Commission Staff

Colleen Balatbat, Staff Attorney  
Morgan Barrett, Director of Compliance  
Jennifer Batey, Legal Support Staff Manager  
Larry Berg, Staff Attorney  
Amelia Boyd, Program Manager  
Kayla Bryson, Executive Assistant  
Jimi Bush, Director of Quality & Engagement  
Adam Calica, Chief Investigator  
Sarah Chenvert, Performance Manager  
Marisa Courtney, Licensing Lead  
Melanie de Leon, Executive Director  
Mike Farrell, Policy Development Manager  
Gina Fino, MD, Investigator  
Ryan Furbush, Paralegal  
Rick Glein, Director of Legal Services  
George Heye, MD, Medical Consultant

Mike Hively, Information Liaison  
Jenelle Houser, Legal Assistant  
Kyle Karinen, Staff Attorney  
Shelley Kilmer-Ready, Legal Assistant  
Becca King, Administrative Assistant  
Freda Pace, Director of Investigations  
Ariele Page Landstrom, Staff Attorney  
Richelle Little, Staff Attorney  
Micah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director  
Melissa McEachron, Director of Operations  
& Informatics  
Joe Mihelich, Health Services Consultant  
Marne Nelson, RN, Investigator  
Trisha Wolf, Staff Attorney  
Gordon Wright, Staff Attorney

#### Others in Attendance

Alan Brown, MD, Pro Tem Commissioner  
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General

Cori Tarzwell, DOH Policy Analyst  
Gregory Terman, MD, Pro Tem Commissioner

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Alden Roberts, MD, Chair, called the meeting of the Washington Medical Commission (Commission) to order at 8:00 a.m. on July 10, 2020.

## 2.0 Housekeeping

Amelia Boyd, Program Manager, gave an overview of how the meeting would proceed.

## 3.0 Chair Report

Dr. Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then opened the floor to discuss panel composition during case reviews. Once the discussion concluded, Dr. Roberts explained how the first virtual Personal Appearance sessions to be held later that day would be organized.

Dr. Roberts reminded the Commissioners to submit their travel and payroll reimbursement documents by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month if possible. He stated that requests for reimbursement for items which occurred more than 90 days prior would be denied as per Department of Health policy.

Dr. Roberts stated that election of officers would occur later in the meeting and therefore, this meeting would be his last as Chair. He thanked everyone for "the privilege and honor of having been your Chair for the last two years."

## 4.0 Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

- 2.1 Minutes from the February 28, 2020 Business Meeting.
- 2.2 Agenda for July 10, 2020.

**Motion:** The Chair entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the amended agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

## 5.0 Old Business

### 5.1 Committee/Workgroup Reports

Dr. Jimmy Chung, Chair of the Reduction of Medical Errors Workgroup, gave an update on the Communication Resolution Program (CRP) process. Dr. Chung asked Mike Farrell, Policy Development Manager, to provide more information on the outcome of a recent meeting of the Workgroup. Mr. Farrell stated that one of the goals of the workgroup is to create a webpage on the Commission website that will include an explanation of what CRP is, what certification is, and support for certification. The workgroup would also like the webpage to allow for inquiries related to CRP. He concluded by stating the workgroup will provide training to the Commission's investigators and other affiliated staff on the CRP.

### 5.2 Rulemaking Activities

There was nothing further to report.

## 6.0 Public Comment

No member of the public requested to speak, therefore no public comment was given.

## 7.0 Policy Committee Report

Dr. Karen Domino, Policy Committee Chair, reported on the items discussed at the Policy Committee meeting held on July 9, 2020:

## **Processing Complaints Against Licensees Enrolled in the Washington Physicians Health Program Guideline**

Dr. Domino presented the Committee's suggested changes to the draft guideline. She stated that the Committee recommended approval with the suggested changes.

**Motion:** The Chair entertained a motion to approve the guideline with the noted revisions. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Medical Marijuana (Cannabis) Authorization Guidelines**

Dr. Domino explained that the draft guideline has been revised by a Department of Health (DOH) workgroup based on changes suggested previously by the Commission. She then explained that the ask from DOH is that the Commission endorse the current draft. She stated that the Committee recommended approval.

**Motion:** The Chair entertained a motion endorse the draft guideline. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Proposed Procedure: Processing Complaints Against Medical Students, Residents, and Fellows**

Dr. Domino explained that this draft is one the Committee and the Commission has seen before. She stated that the Committee recommended approval of the proposed procedure.

**Motion:** The Chair entertained a motion approve the procedure. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **8.0 Member Reports**

Warren Howe, MD, expressed his frustrations with the IT available to the Commissioners. "I wish to place on record my concern about the dysfunction and disarray that characterizes the information technology applications, and resources, which the WMC Commissioners are forced to rely upon to do their work." He then asked that the matter be elevated to the "Commission's highest priority levels until the Commissioner IT resource problems are reliably corrected." Dr. Howe went on to praise Mike Hively, Information Liaison, for his assistance throughout these difficulties.

Several other Commissioners echoed Dr. Howe's frustrations as well as his praise of Mr. Hively.

Jimmy Chung, MD, stated that he has not had any real issues with the technology and invited the other Commissioners to call on him for help if needed.

## **10.0 AAG Report**

Heather Carter, AAG, had nothing to report.

## **11.0 Leadership Elections**

### **11.1 Restatement of Nominating Committee Report**

Dr. Domino, Chair, restated that the Committee agreed on the following nominations:

- Chair: John Maldon, Public Member
- 1st Vice Chair: Claire Trescott, MD
- 2nd Vice Chair: Jimmy Chung, MD

## 11.2 Nominations from the Floor

Dr. Roberts called for nominations from the floor. None were provided.

## 11.3 Election of Leadership

Dr. Roberts called for a motion to elect the officers as provided by the Nominating Committee.

**Motion:** The Chair entertained a motion to elect officers as follows:

- Chair: John Maldon, Public Member
- 1st Vice Chair: Claire Trescott, MD
- 2nd Vice Chair: Jimmy Chung, MD

The motion passed unanimously.

## 12.0 Installation of Medical Commission Chair

### 12.1 Remarks by Outgoing Chair

Dr. Roberts: "At this time, I get to offer a few remarks as the outgoing chair, but I will try to keep it short. Being the chair of this organization is an amazing and very humbling experience. It's also a lot of work. The mission of the Washington Medical Commission is promoting patient safety and enhancing the integrity of the profession through licensing, discipline, rulemaking, and education. As a commission, we take this very seriously. And as each member of the Commission, each of you has taken this very seriously.

Each member of the Washington Medical Commission brings a unique set of values and skills to this commission. You are an amazing group of truly dedicated professionals, and I have been honored to get to know you a little and work with you a lot. The executive team that you have just elected will continue the tradition of excellence and dedication in developing and maintaining the strategic planning for the Commission and the integrity of the Commission. Thanks to all of the executive committee members that I have been so fortunate to work with for all the help that you have given. Each commission chair imprints their experience and personality into the Medical Commission, and the Commission is generally better for it. I hope that I have had a positive influence.

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge Dr. Warren Howe, who up until five minutes ago, but not now at all anymore, was immediate past Chair. His friendship, editing skills, wisdom, sympathetic, listening during difficult or frustrating times, has been extremely helpful. The Commission will miss him when he moves to Pittsburgh, but I will miss him even more. I just hope that as the new immediate past Chair, I can be as helpful to you, John, as Warren you have been to me. Thank you!

Perhaps the most fun part of being Chair is getting to know and work closely with all of the staff at the Commission. I can't mentioned all 52 of you, but I do so appreciate all the work that you do. Rick and all the attorneys Freda and all the investigators, Melissa, George, Jimi, thank you. Amelia, Morgan, and Mike Farrell, this job can't be done without you. You do amazing work.

And, finally, Micah and Melanie, I have worked closest with you. Thank you for all you do

and for the support to the practice of medicine that you provide in the state And for all the help and support that you've provided me and my chairmanship.

At this time, I would like to end, with the Immortal words of Douglas Adams. Spoken by the porpoises as they left The earth in The Fourth Book of Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy Trilogy. 'So long and thanks for all the fish.'"

### **12.2 Installation of Medical Commission Chair by Outgoing Chair**

Dr. Roberts: "Now, for the installation of the Medical Commission Chair, John, you are about to embark on an interesting and rather exciting journey. I cannot think of a better person to be the new chair. It's a lot of work, and it can be really frustrating, but it is also one of the most rewarding opportunities that I've ever had. Congratulations in keeping with the tradition. I am happy to present you with the venerable duck commander duck call, which I would also point out is made in the state of Louisiana where I was born and raised. ... Congratulations, John, and you get to take over now."

### **12.3 Remarks by Incoming Chair**

John Maldon, Public Member, Chair: "Thank you Alden (Dr. Roberts)." "Thank you all." One would think that the transition from Alden to Maldon would seem natural and seamless but that is not the case. Alden has done a tremendous job as chair and has made many, many accomplishments and I know that Alden certainly is not done. He is very vocal. He is able to see between the cracks of the processes that we need to follow through and he is quick to jump on those things and make changes. So thank you all for your past work, and I hope that you'll continue to look for additional improvement.

I'd also like to thank Warren (Dr. Howe) and Alden for working me over the past few years, and encouraging me to move forward, and not scaring me away from turning this honor down. Their insight and their ability to demonstrate to me what the processes are, and what's important for me to know, has provided me with a base to at least get started. I am really said that it will not be able to call upon Warren for advice and counsel in the future, and he's probably equally glad that I won't be asking. I wish the best to you and your family Warren, you will be deeply missed by myself, and certainly by the Commission.

Really look forward to continuing my work with Doctors Roberts, Domino, and Trescott on the executive team, and I'd like to welcome Jimmy (Dr. Chung), to the executive team as well. You're an exciting and new member and a great addition to the executive team.

I'm truly honored and I guess excited to be the next chair. I said I guess because I have a little bit of anxiety as I move into this new role. And, I think that's understandable. It's kinda moving into a little dark space for me, even though I've had some preparation by the honorable Warren and Alden, that I hope to be able to represent the Commission to the best of my abilities. So, thank you very much for the Honor. Thank you."

Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, also thanked Dr. Roberts for the past two years of his leadership and mentorship. She then congratulated Mr. Maldon.

## **8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair called the meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.

Submitted by

(signature on file)

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Amelia Boyd, Program Manager

(signature on file)

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John Maldon, Public Member, Chair  
Washington Medical Commission

Approved August 21, 2020

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