

**Minutes of the Meeting
State Board of Pharmacy
March 8, 2022
Via WebEx**

Members Present:

Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chair
Claudia Alexander
Steven Earle
Renee Hofman
Heather King
Mark Klang
Michelle Lewis
Mark Soffing
Christopher Wallen
Miller Young

Extended Members Present:

Susan Ksiazek
Maria Mantione
Daniel Molino

NYSED Staff:

Dina Jazrawi, Executive Secretary, State Board for
Pharmacy
David Hamilton, Assistant Commissioner of
Professional Licensure and Practice
Thania Fernandez, State Boards Executive Secretary
Alexander Goh, Pharmacy Supervisor for Practice and
Registration

Public Session

1. Call to Order: Executive Secretary Jazrawi called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. **Welcome and introduction:** Dr. Dina Jazrawi
 - Executive Secretary Jazrawi introduced Dr. Miller Young as the newest member of the Board. Dr. Young was handed the floor for a few minutes to further introduce himself to the Board members.
 - Executive Secretary Jazrawi then conducted introductions of all Board members, State Education Department (SED) staff, and audience members.
3. Motion: Wallen/Soffing: That the minutes of the November 30, 2021, meeting of the State Board of Pharmacy be approved. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Report of the Executive Secretary:**

After updating the Board on staffing changes within SED, Dr. Jazrawi introduced Dr. Hamilton as the new Assistant Commissioner for the Office of the Professions (OP); Dr. Hamilton briefly introduced himself and shared information pertaining the Department's three Executive Secretary vacancies.

Executive Secretary Jazrawi also discussed Part G of the Governor's budget bill, which proposes the transfer of the health professions from SED to the Department of Health. It was noted that the Board of Regents and the Commissioner both have expressed strong opposition to the Part G proposal.

OP's Annual Report for the year 2021 was distributed to the Governor's office, members of the legislature, the Board of Regents, stake holders and members of the State Boards. The report provides a high-level overview of the work completed by OP as a whole, including the State Board Offices. For the profession of Pharmacy, Executive Secretary Jazrawi identified several accomplishments for the year 2021, including but not limited to:

- a. Implementation of the Registered Pharmacy Technician profession – with the Department registering over 2,700 Registered Pharmacy Technicians from April to December 2021

- b. Amendments to the licensure processes for both in-state and out-of-state applicants seeking licensure in New York.
- c. Amendments to the Continuing Education (CE) requirements for pharmacists, requiring each registered pharmacist to complete at least three CE's pertaining to compounding each registration period starting January 1, 2023.
- d. In addition to the permanent changes, Executive Secretary Jazrawi also identified many of the temporary changes which were implemented due to the Executive Orders that expired in June of 2021. Specifically, Executive Secretary Jazrawi discussed the development and creation of the Temporarily Licensed Pharmacy Technicians.

Executive Secretary Jazrawi discussed recent correspondence between the Pharmacist Society of the State of New York (PSSNY) and SED pertaining to corporate practice of the professions and PSSNY's request that the Board of Regents exercise its authority to promulgate emergency regulations to address any gaps in the law. Dr. Jazrawi explained that the profession of pharmacy is an exception to corporate practice of the professions and the law implicitly or explicitly does not prevent a business corporation from providing professional pharmacy services. Other health professions are also exempt including, but are not limited to, optometry, ophthalmic dispensing and speech language pathology. Dr. Jazrawi clarified that regulations implement the provisions in law, such as the education requirements for licensure, and cannot exceed the authority granted by law.

After opening the floor up to the board for questions, ES Jazrawi transitioned into the meeting's new business segment.

4. **New Business:**

- **Discussion around Pharmacy Workplace Environments:** Dr. Dina Jazrawi

ES Jazrawi introduced the topic of pharmacy workplace environments to the Board of Pharmacy. Stating that in an effort to obtain more information about the current work environments, the Department intends on distributing an electronic survey to all New York State registered pharmacists who have an email address on file with the Department.

Discussion was had by board members around what they are hearing pertaining to current pharmacy work environments and what their individual concerns were around how such an environment impacts patient safety.

ES Jazrawi shared with the Board draft survey questions for discussion. The Board along with members of Department staff reviewed each question, providing input and feedback on the survey. ES Jazrawi will share the Board's feedback with members of Department staff and provide the Board of Pharmacy with an update.

ES Jazrawi requested the associations assistance to increase awareness around the survey and advising their membership that, in order to receive the survey, individuals will need to have an email address on file with the Department.

- **Upcoming Meeting Dates:** Dr. Dina Jazrawi
 - The Board of Pharmacy's September meeting date was changed to Tuesday, October 25, 2022. It is not currently known whether the meeting will be virtual or in-person.

- **Slate of the Nomination Committee:** Heather King
 - Member Heather King presented the slate of the nominating committee to the board for consideration.
 - The slate of proposed officers for 2022-2023 lists John Marraffa Jr. as Past Chair, Nasir Mahmood as Chair, Renee Hofman as Vice Chair, Mark Klang and Michelle Lewis as Members at Large. Motion: Klang/Hofman: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment:** Dr. Dina Jazrawi

- The Board and Department staff took a few minutes to recognize and thank member Claudia Alexander for her assistance over the past ten years as a public member of the State Board.
- Meeting Adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

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