# State Board of Osteopathic Medicine April 14, 2021

## BOARD MEMBERS:

Randy G. Litman, D.O., Chairman K. Kalonji Johnson, Commissioner, Bureau of

Professional and Occupational Affairs William B. Swallow, D.O., Vice Chairman Christopher S. Poggi, D.O., Secretary - Absent Mary Pat Howard, M.S., RN-BC, Executive Advisor

of Quality Assurance, on behalf of Alison Beam, Acting Secretary of Health

John B. Bulger, D.O. Thomas S. Dardarian, D.O.

Bette A. Grey, BA, RRT, CPFT

Frank M. Tursi, D.O.

## BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison

Nichole Wray, Acting Board Administrator Amanda Richards, Fiscal Management Specialist 2,

Bureau of Finance and Operations, Department of

Kimberly Adams, Chief of Fiscal Management, Bureau of Finance and Operations, Department of State

### ALSO PRESENT:

John Gimpel, D.O., President/CEO, National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Douglas Murray, Esquire, National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

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2 State Board of Osteopathic Medicine

April 14, 2021

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5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at

6 9:30 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session

7 with Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel, and

8 | Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the

9 purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on

10 a number of matters that are currently pending before

11 the Board and to receive the advice of counsel. The

12 | Board returned to open session at 10:29 a.m.]

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14 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State

15 | Board of Osteopathic Medicine was held on Wednesday,

16 April 14, 2021. Randy G. Litman, D.O., Chairman,

17 | called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m.

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19 [Chairman Litman reminded everyone the meeting was

20 being recorded.]

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22 Approval of minutes of the February 10, 2020 meeting

23 CHAIRMAN LITMAN:

24 May I have approval for the minutes of

25 February 10, 2021?

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   DR. TURSI:
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                  So moved.
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   CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
                  Second?
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   MS. GREY:
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                  Second.
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   CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
                  All in favor?
   [The motion carried unanimously.]
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   [Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the
   prosecutor did not need to provide a presentation on
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13
   the Consent Agreements.]
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                              * * *
   Roll Call
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   [A roll call of Board members was administered by
   Chairman Litman.]
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19
   Appointment - Bureau of Finance and Operations Annual
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      Budget Presentation
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   [Amanda Richards, Fiscal Management Specialist 2,
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   introduced herself and Kimberly Adams, Chief of Fiscal
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   Management, Bureau of Finance and Operations.
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   addressed licensee population from a revenue
25
   standpoint. She noted a licensee count of 10,435 in
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FY 2016-2017 and 11,774 in FY 2018-2019, noting an increase of 1,339 licensees. She reported a licensee count of 12,464 in FY 2020-2021, which was an increase of 690 licensees. She noted the total as of this morning at 12,513 licensees, showing an increase of 49

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licensees.

Ms. Richards noted revenue by source. She reported FY 2018-2019 total revenue and FY 2019-2020 revenue, noting the biennial total. She noted 95.8% of revenue came from renewals and applications.

Ms. Richards stated Board expenses incur by direct charges, timesheets, or licensee population. She noted expenses for FY 2018-2019 and FY 2019-2020 expenses, as well as the budget for FY 2020-2021 and expenses as of March 31, 2021. She noted the current balance, which had increased. She stated the budget was adequate based on expenses.

Chairman Litman questioned how much was a ramification of the effects of in-person proceedings and investigations versus virtual.

Ms. Adams commented that Board member expenses dropped significantly through COVID and was the only effect to put an amount on at this point because other expenses had not dropped significantly.

Ms. Richards reviewed revenues and expenses for FY

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2020-2021. She reported on the Board's balance by the end of the fiscal year and by FY 2023-2024.
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Ms. Richards reviewed Board member expenses in FY 2018-2019 and FY 2019-2020 with the current budget at \$15,000 for FY 2020-2021. She reported the current expenses as of March 31, 2021. She stated the budget was adequate and would be carried over to the next fiscal year.

9 Ms. Richards mentioned that any revenue not used
10 by the board would be rolled over into the restricted
11 account for the Board's use.]

12 CHAIRMAN LITMAN:

Motion to accept the report.

14 DR. SWALLOW:

So moved.

16 CHAIRMAN LITMAN:

17 Second?

18 DR. TURSI:

19 Second.

20 CHAIRMAN LITMAN:

21 All in favor?

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

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24 Report of Board Counsel

25 [Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the

Board entered into Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. and discussed the Consent Agreements on the agenda, along with agenda items 6 and 7 and 15.

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Ms. Wucinski stated the Board also decided to create a subcommittee for review of the applications in an attempt to minimize the application review time. She noted the subcommittee would consist of Dr. Swallow, who is also the Probable Cause Screening Committee member.

Ms. Walter informed the Board of a scam alert, where the State Board of Medicine, State Board of Dentistry, and State Board of Nursing received reports of successful scams on licensees.

Ms. Walter stated scammers are spoofing telephone numbers and pretending to be agents from the Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) threatening license suspension. She provided reminders concerning contact and personal information for licensees.

Ms. Walter mentioned that those licenses subject to suspension would receive a notice by certified mail and/or personal service. She informed everyone the notice regarding the scam was on the Department of State website.]

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2 Report of Regulatory Counsel

3 | [Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel, referred to

4 | Senate and House bills on the agenda for the Board's

5 | information regarding pending legislation. She noted

6 Board Counsel may be requested to conduct a bill

7 analysis on any of these bills on behalf of the

8 Department and would reach out to Board members at

9 that time to accurately reflect the position of the

10 | Board on a particular bill.

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Ms. Wucinski addressed Senate Bill 397 regarding modernization of physician assistant practice. She stated the bill would remove language relating to supervision of physician assistants, including language concerning record review and replace it with basic language that says the supervising physician shall be responsible for the medical services that a physician assistant renders.

Ms. Wucinski also stated the bill would not require the onsite presence or personal direction of the supervising physician. She stated it also removes the detailed requirements of written agreement and instead requires that the written agreement include the physician assistant's scope of practice, removes the language that requires the written agreement to be

approved by the Board, and instead requires the
written agreement to be maintained by the supervising
physician.

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Ms. Wucinski noted it also removes the four supervisee limit and allows the supervising physician to determine the number of supervisees for their practice.

Ms. Wucinski addressed Senate Bill 425, which would amend the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act to provide more details on informed consent. She stated, under MCARE, a physician has the duty to obtain an informed consent for a number of procedures, and the bill would clarify that a physician can delegate authority to obtain consent.

Ms. Walter addressed House Bill 642 of 2021 regarding telemedicine that provides boards publish temporary regulations within 120 days and have final regulations within 24 months. She noted the bill also contains language relating to telemedicine and information about insurance coverage.

Ms. Walter referred to House Bill 593 providing for the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Prohibited Gifts Act that limits the ability of pharmaceutical companies to provide gifts to health care providers

except in certain instances.

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Ms. Walter noted House Bill 131 that requires a respondent to appear in person at disciplinary hearings.

Ms. Walter addressed House Bill 325, stating the bill authorizes the Board to issue advisory opinions, although the advisory opinions would not be binding on the Board.

Chairman Litman referred to House Bill 397 and questioned whether the physician assistants would still have the same first year in practice requirements.

Ms. Wucinski stated all of the language in brackets was being proposed to be removed, including countersignature requirements, the limit of four supervisees, and the first 12 months of the physician assistant's practice postgraduation.

Dr. Swallow commented that it also adds a physician assistant as a permanent new member to the Board.

Ms. Wucinski addressed Act 53 of 2020, informing the Board that prosecution identified several crimes for the Board to add to its list. She mentioned the goal for consistency between the boards, specifically between the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and

11 the State Board of Medicine. She provided a list of 1 crimes the State Board of Medicine voted to add to the 2 3 Act 53 list of crimes directly related to the 4 profession. She reminded the Board that crimes not 5 listed on the list of directly related did not mean 6 prosecution cannot pursue it, but prosecution would have the burden of proof. MS. WUCTNSKT: 9 I believe the Board would entertain a 10 motion to add the following crimes to 11 the list of crimes related to the 12 profession under Act 53: Insurance fraud under 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4117(a) and 1.3 14 (b), false reports of child abuse under 15 § 4906.a, securing execution of 16 documents by deception under § 4114, 17 failure to report injuries by a firearm or criminal act under § 5106, abuse of a 18 19 corpse under § 5510, aggravated assault 2.0 against a child under § 2702(a)(8) and 21 (9). 22 DR. TURSI: 2.3 So moved. 2.4 CHAIRMAN LITMAN: 25 Second to Dr. Tursi's motion?

- 1 DR. SWALLOW:
- 2 Second.
- 3 | [Dr. Swallow questioned how the crimes listed interact
- 4 | with telemedicine regarding an out-of-state
- 5 practitioner.
- 6 Ms. Wucinski explained that Pennsylvania only has
- 7 jurisdiction over those licensed in Pennsylvania. She
- 8 stated Pennsylvania did not have any regulations on
- 9 telemedicine and did not have any authority to
- 10 discipline licensees from other states.
- Mr. Anderson noted the Board only has
- 12 jurisdiction over licensees in the State regarding
- 13 criminal actions and telemedicine. He noted if an
- 14 | individual is doing something from a license level of
- 15 action, prosecution could pursue that individual.
- 16 Dr. Swallow questioned whether there was a need
- 17 | for a reporting process for victims in the
- 18 Commonwealth to the respective state of the licensee.
- 19 Mr. Anderson explained that there is a mechanism
- 20 in place to get the individual who is filing a
- 21 complaint to the correct location.
- 22 MS. WUCINSKI:
- We have a motion and a second.
- 24 CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
- We have a vote to ratify that. All in

13 favor? 1 2 [The motion carried unanimously.] 3 4 MOTIONS 5 MS. WALTER: 6 I believe the Board would entertain a 7 motion to accept the Consent Agreements at item 3 on the agenda at Case No. 20-9 53-013646 and item 4 at Case No. 20-53-10 010828. 11 DR. TURSI: 12 So moved. DR. SWALLOW: 13 14 Second. 15 CHAIRMAN LITMAN: All in favor? 16 17 [The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Poggi and Dr. 18 Bulger are recused for both items. The Respondent's 19 name in item 3 at Case No. 20-53-013646 is Samuel 20 Joseph Daisley, D.O. The Respondent's name in item 4 at Case No. 20-53-010828 is Gustav R. Eles, D.O.] 21 22 2.3 MS. WUCINSKI: 24 Moving on to agenda item 5, I believe 25 the Board would entertain a motion to

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                  direct Board counsel to draft an
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                  Adjudication and Order consistent with
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                  discussions in Executive Session for
                   Samer Bolis, D.O, Case No. 20-53-001234.
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   DR. TURSI:
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                  So moved.
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   CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
                  Second?
   MS. GREY:
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                  Second.
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   CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
                  All in favor?
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    [The motion carried unanimously.]
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   MS. WUCINSKI:
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                  I believe the Board would entertain a
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                  motion to adopt as final the draft
                  Adjudication and Order for Mikaela
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                  Potrako, LAT, Case No. 19-53-012921,
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                  noting Dr. Bulger is recused.
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   DR. TURSI:
                  So moved.
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   CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
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                  Second?
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   MS. GREY:
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                  Second.
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   CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
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                  All in favor?
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   [The motion carried unanimously.]
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   MS. WUCINSKI:
                  Agenda item 15. I believe the Board
                  would entertain a motion to grant the
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                  Application for an Unrestricted License
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                  to Practice as an Osteopathic Physician
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                  and Surgeon of Diane De Lisi Timms, D.O.
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   DR. TURSI:
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                  So moved.
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   CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
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                  Second?
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   DR. SWALLOW:
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                  Second.
   CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
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                  All in favor?
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   [The motion carried unanimously.]
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   NBOME - Update on COMLEX Level 2-PE Exam
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   [John Gimpel, D.O., President/CEO of the National
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   Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME),
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   addressed NBOME's mission to put patients first and to
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ensure physicians are licensed based on a number of criteria from the State Board of Medicine, including the passage of an osteopathically distinctive assessment of competencies demonstrated to be valid and reliable for the practice of osteopathic medicine.

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Dr. Gimpel stated the COMLEX-USA is recognized, required, or accepted by all United States licensing jurisdictions for licensure of osteopathic physicians. He announced that the Medical Board of Australia granted competent medical authority in 2020 to NBOME with the COMLEX for U.S. DOs with 2 years of graduate medical education to be licensed or registered in Australia for comprehensive medical practice.

Pennsylvania and practice have not had a problem in terms of getting a test date for taking the COMLEX despite the month or two shutdown last March and April and then the restart in May at Prometric centers of delivering COMLEX. He reported hitting the 30,000 mark of COMLEX administrations given since restarting testing after almost a two-month quarantine last spring. He addressed difficulty and chaos during the summer.

Dr. Gimpel noted not one single case of COVID-19 transmission or a contact tracing positive test has

1 occurred of the 30,000 who have taken the COMLEX since 2 May 2020.

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Dr. Gimpel stated the Level 2-Performance

Evaluation (PE) exam to assess fundamental osteopathic clinical skills was suspended several times due to the pandemic. He announced that after continued input from colleges, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and state licensing boards, NBOME indefinitely postponed the Level 2-PE exam.

Dr. Gimpel addressed the alternative pathway, where students would not need to take the Level 2-PE exam for graduating, in which the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) has authority and made a temporary modification last June.

Dr. Gimpel announced creating a Special
Commission on Osteopathic Medical Licensure
Assessment, making sure COMPLEX remains the gold
standard for licensure so Pennsylvania and every other
state can trust it for licensure of osteopathic
physicians. He mentioned soliciting nominations from
groups, putting out stakeholder surveys asking for
feedback, and having public commentary periods to
build into the two phases.

Dr. Gimpel stated the Commission's first phase

was to clarify the pathway for the current graduating class and met their deliverable for March 11, 2021, to clarify that and have a second deliverable milestone to clarify the next class of 2022 by April 30 to get themselves eligible for taking COMLEX Level 3.

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Dr. Gimpel reported phase 2 as looking at COMLEX as a whole through about April 2022. He noted initiatives emphasizing opportunities for enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion and reducing systemic bias or any injustices.

Dr. Gimpel addressed the importance of ensuring COMLEX remains the gold standard for osteopathic physician licensure for its intended of licensure and secondary uses.

Dr. Gimpel explained that the classes of 2021 and graduating in the next couple of months continue on as usual if they had already taken and passed the Level 2-PE. He stated about 25% of the graduating class passed Level 2-PE and will go on and take Level 3. He stated those in the current graduating class and a few in the prior class who failed Level 2-PE but had not had the chance to retake the exam, the dean was being asked to attest, not only that they graduated but have demonstrated the fundamental osteopathic clinical skills necessary for graduation.

Dr. Gimpel explained that those who had an unsuccessful attempt at PE is where the residency program director will require the resident complete at least six months of residency but just a recommendation for those who passed PE.

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Dr. Gimpel stated that the vast majority of the students who never took the PE would still get the attestation from their dean and would get the attestation from their program director but with the recommendation and not the requirement that the student completed at least six months of that residency.

Dr. Gimpel commented that Pennsylvania has other requirements regarding graduate medical education (GME) and a requirement regarding the osteopathic manipulative component that essentially, taking a separate OMT exam, that criteria was met if the students had taken and passed the Level 2-PE prior.

Dr. Gimpel requested Pennsylvania's input and feedback and what further evidence would be needed other than our Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and the attestations for people in the class of 2021.

Chairman Litman mentioned recently receiving requests for attestation this year from two of his residents that took COMLEX Level 3, noting it to not

be detailed. He questioned whether the attestation form going to be more in detail and whether deans would be required to write a letter or required to have a similar electronic attestation for their individuals or class.

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Dr. Gimpel stated there is an attestation program built in. He explained that in order to take Level 1, the individual must have completed 1 year and have been deemed by the dean to be in good academic and professional standing and then are granted the eligibility. He noted it to be the same with Level 2 CE, and as Dr. Litman mentioned, for Level 3, again very unique to the COMPLEX program, the dean must attest not just that they are in good academic standing but are in good professional standing.

Dr. Gimpel stated the dean would not be expected to grant eligibility if there is some type of issue, and there have been a number of cases every year where the attestation is refused and/or rescinded. He explained that the Commission has been looking at different ways of moving forward to see if attestation would continue to be used or if it needed to be more rigorous or more have defensible checklists and more audit involved.

Dr. Gimpel addressed feedback from stakeholders

across the osteopathic medical profession as well as
patients and public input mentioning the importance of
skills mentioned are fundamental and the assessment of
OMT and OMM are critically important in protecting the
public and making sure that that provision of OMT
would be conducted safely.

Dr. Gimpel stated the class of 2021 would be relatively simple for the deans to meet because the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation had granted an exception to graduate people this year last June. He mentioned that what happens moving forward depended on the Commission and Board's decision as to what would meet the requirements and expectations of protecting the public in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Dr. Dardarian mentioned difficulty with a residency that is not osteopathically focused, following those candidates on their osteopathic principles and skills.

Dr. Gimpel noted it is inordinately difficult for a learner encountering difficulties to progress, which is why deans liked having national standardized exams as there was a bar the students would have to demonstrate to a national standard, whether it is knowledge of anatomy or clinical skills.

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Dr. Gimpel addressed OMT and OMM Practical Exam
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   requirements and questioned the Board plans to deal
   with that for the class of 2020-2021 for the 75% that
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   did not take a PE. He questioned whether the
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   attestation would suffice or would they also need to
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   take a practical or performance assessment.
        Chairman Litman noted the Board had many
   discussions, but a final word had not been
   established. He noted at the present time the Board
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   required an OMT demonstration as part of initial
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   licensure.
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        Dr. Gimpel mentioned to keep NBOME in mind if the
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   Board encountered any other questions in their
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   deliberations or was interested in expanding that
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   requirement.
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   Report of Board Chair - No Report
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   Report of Vice Chair - No Report
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   Report of Commissioner - No Report
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   Report of Department of Health
   [Mary Pat Howard, M.S., RN-BC, Executive Assistant of
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   Quality Assurance, announced the Johnson & Johnson
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- 1 vaccine was recently suspended because of six cases of 2 blood clotting in women.
- 3 Chairman Litman questioned whether there were any 4 comorbid patterns in those six cases.
- 5 Ms. Howard stated the Centers for Disease Control 6 and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug
- 7 Administration (FDA) were examining the issue. She 8 noted Pennsylvania stopped the vaccine until at least
- 9 April 20, 221.
- 10 Ms. Howard informed the Board that Pennsylvania
- 11 was 5th among all 50 states for the total number of
- 12 doses administered and 11th for first-dose
- 13 administered as of percentage of population. She
- 14 reported the percentage positivity rate was up at
- 15 9.5%.]
- 16 \*\*\*
- 17 Report of Board Administrator No Report
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- 19 For the Board's Information/Discussion Board Meeting
- 20 Dates
- 21 [Randy G. Litman, D.O., Chairman, noted the next
- 22 | scheduled Board meeting date is June 9, 2021.]
- 23 \*\*\*
- 24 Adjournment
- 25 CHAIRMAN LITMAN:

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                   May I have a motion for adjournment?
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   DR. TURSI:
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                   So moved.
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   DR. SWALLOW:
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                   Second.
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   CHAIRMAN LITMAN:
                   Thank you everyone. Our meeting is now
                   adjourned.
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   [The motion carried unanimously.]
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    [There being no further business, the State Board of
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   Osteopathic Medicine Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.]
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# CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine meeting.

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting

Service, Inc.

Samantha Sabatini,

#### STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE 1 2 REFERENCE INDEX 4 April 14, 2021 5 6 AGENDA TIME 7 8 9:30 Executive Session 9 10:29 Return to Open Session 10 11 10:29 Official Call to Order 12 13 10:29 Approval of Minutes 14 15 10:30 Roll Call 16 17 10:30 Appointment - Bureau of Finance and 18 Operations Annual Budget Presentation 19 20 10:40 Report of Board Counsel 21 22 10:44 Report of Regulatory Counsel 23 24 10:56 Motions 25 26 11:00 Appointment - NBOME - Update on COMLEX 27 Level 2-PE Exam 28 29 11:32 Report of Department of Health 30 For the Board's Information/Discussion 31 11:35 32 33 11:35 Adjournment 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

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