

**ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY**  
**322 South Main St., Suite 600**  
**Little Rock, AR 72201**

**Friday, April 10, 2020**

The Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy held a called Board Meeting by Zoom conference call on April 10, 2020. The call originated from the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy office at 322 South Main St., Suite 600, Little Rock, AR.

**Members present for the call:**

- \* Debbie Mack, P.D.
- \* Lenora Newsome, P.D.
- \* Steve Bryant, P.D.
- \* Becca Mitchell, Pharm.D.
- \* Brian Jolly, Pharm.D.
- \* Lynn Crouse, Pharm.D.
- \* Carol Rader, RN

**Staff present for the call:**

- \* John Kirtley, Pharm.D., Executive Director
- \* Brenda McCrady, P.D, Assistant Director
- \* Luke Daniel, General Counsel
- \* Lana Whitmore, CFO

**Amy Fore was not present.**

Dr. Kirtley explained to the Board that the agency has received calls regarding potential new pharmacies experiencing delays with opening due to COVID19. The primary issues with the delays are problems finalizing contracts with Medicaid, Medicare, DEA, etc. He said staff discussed solutions and determined permits could be issued with a future date of expected operation if an agreement/MOU is received from the pharmacy stating drugs would not be on site and the pharmacy will not be open as an operating pharmacy until the date agreed upon and after the staff's initial inspection.

**BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. Newsome made the motion to allow staff to grant pharmacy permits with MOU agreement as outlined by staff. Dr. Bryant seconded the motion. The vote for the motion was unanimous.

Dr. Kirtley reminded the Board that the agency has the ability to approve \$75,000 to be given for the rural loan/scholarship programs at the two Arkansas Based Colleges of Pharmacy.

**BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. Mitchell made the motion to present \$25,000 to Harding University College of Pharmacy and \$50,000 to University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy for their rural loan/scholarship programs. The amounts are based on the student population ratio for each college. Dr. Newsome seconded the motion. The vote for the motion was unanimous.

Dr. Kirtley explained that staff has been thinking of ways to help with the response and fall out of COVID19 with regard to Arkansas pharmacy. He said this situation has caused a major impact to senior pharmacy students with their rotations, potential graduation and their ability to take NABPLEX after graduation. He said the Board could vote to waive all new application fees for senior students pursuing a pharmacist license in Arkansas. He said this decision may reduce

the agency's income this year by 30 to 50 thousand dollars, but we could weather that without a problem, and it would be part of our current budget without any longer-term issues for the agency. He said it would include the licensure by examination fee (including criminal background check fees and processing to approve for NABPLEX), the application for licensure and a wall certificate – total would be \$221.25 per applicant. He said this would apply to the following applicants:

- Graduates of the 2 Arkansas Based Colleges of Pharmacy
- Arkansas residents that are graduating from a College of Pharmacy in another state and are returning to Arkansas.
- Graduating students from a College of Pharmacy with a current intern license in Arkansas that hope to work in Arkansas
- Graduating students from another state that have verified employment (including residencies) in Arkansas.

**BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. Mitchell made the motion to waive fees for senior pharmacy students as presented. Dr. Bryant seconded the motion. The vote for the motion was unanimous.

Dr. Kirtley told the Board that the office is running as close to 100% functionality as can be done with staff working remotely. He said there have been several waivers issued for pharmacists to work from home or alternate work sites according to the protocol when considering such requests. He said temporary permits are being issued for pharmacy technicians, interns and pharmacists when the applicant cannot obtain fingerprint services due to COVID19. He said the permits are good for no longer than six months, which is the time period allowed by FBI to get the fingerprint cards completed and turned in to the office.

Mr. Daniel informed the Board that he wanted to discuss applicants with waivers that were to be presented during April Informal Conferences that may be considered by the Board for approval. The applications were presented and approved by individual motions and seconds.

Dr. Kirtley explained to the Board that the agency had no more space in the basement storage area. He said the lease was up for renewal and we could expand the storage space and extend the length of the lease to match the lease of the office space.

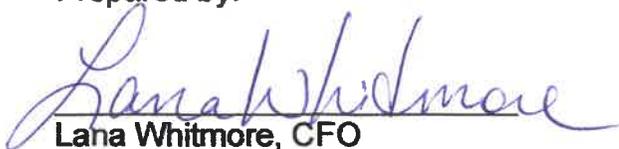
**BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. Bryant made the motion to approve the basement storage expansion and extend the lease. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote for the motion was unanimous.

The Board discussed the scheduled June Board Meeting and determined they would assess the current COVID19 situation and make a final decision regarding the Board Meeting in May.

The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:

  
Lana Whitmore, CFO

Approved for the Board:

  
Deborah Mack, P.D., President