

North Dakota Board of Podiatric Medicine
Special Board Meeting
November 30, 2018

Board Members Present: Kevin Koester, DPM, Ashley Evanoff, DPM, Eric Hart, DPM, Gordon Leingang, DO, Vicki Kunz

Others Present: Stacy Moldenhauer, JD, attorney and JoDee S. Wiedmeier, Executive Director

Dr. Evanoff served as chairman of the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. CST.

Roll call was taken and Ms. Wiedmeier gave a brief background to the reason for this special meeting. The fact that podiatrists were not included in the medical marijuana program was brought to the attention of the board by Jason Wahl from the medical marijuana program. He indicated that he was not sure if this was an oversight in the law or intentional. The medical marijuana program has no intention of speaking for the board and therefore, would not be pursuing any legislation to add podiatrists. However, he indicated that if the board pursued the legislation, the program would not oppose it.

Discussion regarding this issue commenced. It was noted that there are some other states that do allow podiatrists to authorize the issuance of marijuana for patients. It also appears that there are a lot of physicians across the country and in this state that do not have an interest in the managing medical marijuana for patients. The practice of podiatry would not necessarily treat the debilitating medical conditions that must be present in order to sign a registration card. It was noted that neuropathy is one condition that is present in the practice of podiatry. However, it was noted that most patients with complex neuropathy are managed by an internist or other physician. It appears from some discussions had with other podiatrists in the state, that there is not a lot of interest in being included, but felt that podiatrists should have been included in the discussion initially. There was also concern noted about being excluded from the discussion and the chapter and having equality with other providers. It was noted that physician assistants were also not included in the program.

It was further noted that this board needs to think about how the public's needs will be served and protected as well as the disciplinary oversight that is involved with being involved in the program. It was felt that there would some validity to waiting to see if a need for podiatrists to be included in this chapter becomes evident as the medical marijuana program progresses.

It was noted that some podiatrists felt they should be included for equality with other medical professions. It was noted that the duty of this board is not to protect the profession, but to protect and serve the needs of the public. If podiatry, as a profession, believes it needs to be included in this chapter in terms of equality, then the organization better to pursue this type of legislation would be the state podiatric association.

Dr. Leingang moved to not pursue legislation to add podiatrists to the medical marijuana program at this time. Eric Hart seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Roll call vote was taken with the following: Ayes: Dr. Evanoff, Dr. Hart, Dr. Koester, Ms. Kunz, and Dr. Leingang.

Nays: No one opposed.

It was noted that Ms. Wiedmeier and Ms. Moldenhauer would monitor amendments to the medical marijuana chapter during this legislative session and notify the board of any relevant issues.

Dr. Hart moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Leingang seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. CST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Hart, DPM
Secretary/Treasurer

Attest:

Ashley Evanoff, DPM
President