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# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

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*newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance*

## ***News From the District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy***

The District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy members are:

- Tamara McCants, PharmD, RPh, Chairperson
- Alan Friedman, RPh, Vice Chairperson
- Ashlee Bow, PharmD, RPh, AAHIVP, Member
- Allison Hill, PharmD, RPh, Member
- Benjamin E. Miles, PharmD, RPh, BCPS, Member
- Gregory Cendana, Consumer Member
- Vacant, Consumer Member
- Justin Ortique, PharmD, RPh, Interim Executive Director

**Contact the Board!** All inquiries regarding licensure and general information should be directed to Ms Karin Barron, health licensing specialist, at [karin.barron@dc.gov](mailto:karin.barron@dc.gov).

To contact the Board directly, visit its website at [dchealth.dc.gov/node/bop](https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/bop). Should you need to contact the Pharmaceutical Control Division, its website is [dchealth.dc.gov/pcd](https://dchealth.dc.gov/pcd).

## ***Notice of Board Meeting Schedule***

The Board holds open (public) session meetings in the even-numbered months of the year, ie, February, April, June, August, October, and December. In these months, the meetings will begin at 9:30 AM. These meetings are open to the public, including licensed pharmacists, where parties may share their comments pertaining to Board activities. All are invited to attend. In the odd-numbered months of the year, ie, January, March, May, July, September, and November, the Board may meet in subcommittees and/or hold executive (closed) session meetings as needed.

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code §2-575(b), and for the purposes set forth therein, these meetings are not open to the public.

The Board meetings will be held via Webex during the coronavirus disease 2019 public health emergency. The link will be posted on the Board website.

Future open session meeting dates are:

- Thursday, December 2, 2021 – 9:30 AM
- Thursday, February 3, 2022 – 9:30 AM
- Thursday, April 7, 2022 – 9:30 AM
- Thursday, June 2, 2022 – 9:30 AM
- Thursday, August 4, 2022 – 9:30 AM
- Thursday, October 6, 2022 – 9:30 AM

### ***Board Licensees by the Numbers***

<b>Licensees as of October 1, 2021</b>	
<b>Pharmacists</b>	2,036
<b>Pharmacist Vaccination &amp; Immunization Authority</b>	709
<b>Pharmacy Interns</b>	789
<b>Pharmacy Technicians</b>	887
<b>Pharmacy Technician Trainees</b>	155
<b>Pharmacy Technician Programs</b>	14
<b>Pharmaceutical Detailers</b>	746

### ***Recap From the 117<sup>th</sup> NABP Annual Meeting***

District of Columbia Board members attended the 117<sup>th</sup> National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) Annual Meeting, which was held virtually on May 13-14, 2021. It was a professional opportunity for state board members and stakeholders whose goal is protecting the public health. The meeting kicked off with the “Educational Poster Session: Protecting the Public Health Through Enhanced Networks and Expanded Access.” The First Business Session included a moving keynote address by Kris Paronto, who was part of the security team that responded to the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. Dr Tamara McCants, District of Columbia Board chair, served as chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and provided the committee’s recommendations to the membership.

Day one ended with the “Access Is Crucial for Patients With Opioid Use Disorder: Expanding Pharmacists’ Role in MAT” continuing pharmacy education (CPE) activity. Medication-assisted therapy (MAT) was one of the focuses of current NABP Chairperson Timothy D. Fensky.

Day two started with the CPE activity “The Future of Drug Importation – Enhancing Networks to Safeguard Our Drug Supply Chain,” which is related to current NABP President Caroline D. Juran’s presidential initiative.

The Final Business Session included installation of the 2021-2022 Executive Committee: Timothy Fensky of Massachusetts, chairperson; Caroline Juran of Virginia, president; Reginald B. “Reggie” Dilliard of Tennessee, president-elect; Lenora S. Newsome of Arkansas, treasurer; Bradley S. Hamilton of Maine, District 1; Tejal J. Patel of Delaware, District 2; Jeffrey J. Mesaros of Florida, District 3; Fred M. Weaver of Ohio, District 4; Shane R. Wendel of North Dakota, District 5; Deborah C. Mack of Arkansas, District 6; Nicole L. Chopski of Idaho, District 7; and Kamlesh “Kam” Gandhi of Arizona, District 8. The 118<sup>th</sup> NABP Annual Meeting will be held in Phoenix, AZ, on May 19-21, 2022.

## *Celebrating Juneteenth and Black August*

Kicking off the summer, Congress passed a bill that was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, which established Juneteenth (June 19) as a federal public holiday.

“Juneteenth” is a combination of “June” and “nineteenth,” the day in 1865 when soldiers announced in Galveston, TX, that all previously enslaved people were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect. The first Juneteenth celebration was organized by newly freed slaves on June 19, 1866, to mark the end of American slavery.

During a press conference following the passage of the legislation, Representative Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, one of the authors of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, said, “What I see here today is racial divide crumbling, being crushed, under a momentous vote.”

On the heels of the federal government officially recognizing Juneteenth for the first time, community activists and organizers are also encouraging people to celebrate Black August. Critical Resistance, an organization that “seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe,” offers this reflection about why: “We celebrate **Black August**, commemorating the anniversary of George Jackson’s death while understanding his life as a revolutionary in a long and unbroken line of resistance and sacrifice of Black people throughout history.”

Monifa Bandele, from the Movement for Black Lives, shared, “During Black August, we honor Black freedom fighters, many of whom were killed by the state or imprisoned for defending Black lives.”

As we continue to reflect on the advancements made since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, let us be reminded about the work that still needs to be done to ensure equal rights, justice, and liberation for all, including Black people across the country and globe.

### **DC Health Introduces Online Licensing Portal**

The District of Columbia Department of Health, along with the Health Regulation and Licensing Administration, announced that as of June 14, 2021, it is no longer accepting paper applications for a health professional license. To apply for a health professional license, new applicants are directed to use the new portal, available at [doh.force.com/dchealthrenewals/s/portal-page](https://doh.force.com/dchealthrenewals/s/portal-page). In addition to the new licensing portal, the Board is also accepting electronic transcripts submitted via email to [bop@dc.gov](mailto:bop@dc.gov).

### **Opioid Labeling Update**

The Opioid Labeling Amendment Act of 2020 became effective on March 16, 2021, in the District of Columbia. This law requires prescription opioid medications to include a statement that the drug is an opioid and that with opioids there is a risk of overdose and addiction. The statement must be affixed to the container in which an opioid is sold or dispensed.

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*The District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy News is published by the District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation® (NABPF®) to promote compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of NABPF or the Board unless expressly so stated.*

*Muriel Bowser - Mayor*

*Justin Ortique, PharmD, RPh - Interim Executive Director*

*Ashlee Bow, PharmD, RPh, AAHIVP - District News Editor*

*Lemrey "Al" Carter, PharmD, MS, RPh - National News Editor & Executive Editor*

*Amy Sanchez - Publications and Editorial Manager*

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