



MEMORANDUM

DATE	May 4, 2020
TO	California State Board of Pharmacy
FROM	Department of Consumer Affairs Office of Board and Bureau Services
SUBJECT	Report of the Department of Consumer Affairs

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a written update from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) on its current activities to the California State Board of Pharmacy (Board).

DCA EFFORTS PERTAINING TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-39-20, during the State of Emergency, the DCA director may waive any statutory or regulatory requirements with respect to a professional license issued pursuant to [Division 2](#) of the Business and Professions Code (healing arts boards). In addition, pursuant to Executive Order N-40-20, the director of DCA may waive any statutory or regulatory requirements with respect to continuing education for licenses issued pursuant to [Division 3](#) of the Business and Professions Code (professions and vocational boards). To date, the Director has issued six waivers. These waivers include DCA waiver DCA-20-01, which waives specific license renewal requirements for active licenses expiring between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020, and, DCA waiver DCA-20-02, which grants, under certain conditions, temporary reinstatement of retired, canceled, and inactive licenses. DCA is working with Executive Officer Anne Sodergren to obtain information on waiver requests pertaining to the Board, as it also has the authority to issue waivers during this declared State of Emergency, so it is important to communicate on these issues.

On March 31, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a call to action asking those licensed in California to join the fight in battling the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor launched the [California Health Corps](#) where individuals can go to sign up to be deployed to assist in providing care to those in need. In addition, individuals with a current/active out-of-state license who want to assist with COVID-19 outbreak in California should email Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) at: Covid19@emsa.ca.gov.

DCA is maintaining ongoing efforts to support licensees, support accessibility to healthcare services in California, and protect California's consumers during this pandemic. DCA remains committed to providing ongoing communication and assistance to its boards and bureaus. In addition, up-to-date information on COVID-19, including a full list of issued waivers, are posted to the Department's website, www.dca.ca.gov. DCA has also been providing boards and bureaus information via email and meetings.

NEW AGENCY AND DCA APPOINTMENTS

On January 22, 2020, Governor Newsom appointed Lourdes Castro Ramirez as the new secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (Agency). Secretary Castro Ramirez assumed this position effective March 2, 2020. Previously, Secretary Castro Ramirez served as the president of the University Health Systems Foundation.

Former Agency Secretary Alexis Podesta was appointed by Governor Newsom to the State Compensation Insurance Fund Board of Directors. DCA has been very fortunate to have Secretary Podesta serve these past years as her leadership helped guide the Department through many significant changes that helped benefit the consumers of California. DCA wants to thank her for her support and leadership and wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

In addition, on March 5, 2020, Governor Newsom appointed Jennifer Simoes as the Department's Deputy Director of Legislation. Ms. Simoes assumed this position on March 16, 2020, and brings with her a strong background in legislation, having most recently served as the Chief of Legislation at the Medical Board of California since 2010.

Finally, on April 16, 2020, Christine Lally was appointed by Governor Newsom as the Chief Deputy Director of DCA. Ms. Lally most recently served as Deputy Director of the Medical Board of California. Prior to that, Ms. Lally was Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Relations at DCA. Ms. Lally will join DCA at a later date.

DCA is excited to have Ms. Lally's and Ms. Simoes' great experience and expertise on the DCA team!

WEBSITE ADA COMPLIANCE

DCA is continuing its ongoing effort to encourage boards and bureaus to bring all web postings, including meeting materials, into compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Just like the laws that govern physical accessibility, California Government Code requires state agencies to make websites accessible to people with disabilities. DCA's Office of Information Services (OIS) is continuing to find ways to bring all boards and bureaus into compliance with State law by having all "old" documents converted to ADA-accessible web documents by the end of this year.

Further, OIS is continuing to work with boards'/bureaus' staff to ensure that all documents posted on DCA's websites are compliant moving forward. Currently, OIS is offering ADA remediation training to DCA staff to educate them about the process of converting web documents for ADA accessibility. Accordingly, even while exercising social distancing by teleworking, staff can help contribute to the goal.

BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION TRAINING

With consideration to COVID-19, DCA cancelled its Board Member Orientation Training that was scheduled for March 25, 2020. To enable board members to meet the mandate of completing this training within one year of appointment and reappointment, DCA will provide a webinar-based training this month. This training will be structured as two, half-day courses taking place May 18, 2020 and May 29, 2020. Board members will be asked to participate in both sessions in order to earn completion credit.

In addition, a Board Member Orientation Training is scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 27, 2020 at the USC Institute of Urology in Los Angeles. At this time, DCA is accepting registrations for this training. However, please be advised that the offering of this training is contingent on California's declared State of Emergency and whether public gatherings and travel will be safe and permissible.

To register and for more details about the Board Member Orientation Training, please visit the [DCA Board Member Resource Center](#) located on DCA's Website, www.dca.ca.gov.

Thank you again for your valued partnership. Please let us know if DCA can be of service to the Board. If you have any questions, feel free to contact DCA Board and Bureau Services at MemberRelations@dca.ca.gov.