



ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

LARRY D. DIXON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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August 21, 2012

Sarita Elizabeth Cox, President  
Advancement of Oriental Medicine in Alabama  
817 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dear Ms. Cox:

At its meeting August 15, 2012, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners considered your correspondence dated July 12, 2012, in addition to your questions and comments posed to the Board during the public portion of the meeting.

As you are aware, pursuant to the information considered, it is the Board's decision not to accept the responsibility of licensing and regulating the practice of oriental medicine / acupuncture in the State of Alabama. However, the Board did vote not to oppose any proposed legislation that would create an independent oriental medicine / acupuncture Board.

Also addressed was your request that the Board raise its standards for physicians practicing in Alabama from 0 to 300 hours of an American Board of Medical Acupuncture approved acupuncture course. As publically discussed, pursuant to Ala. Code § 34-24-336 and Administrative Rule 540-X-14, Continuing Medical Education, any physician who is not exempt from the annual continuing medical education requirement must obtain 25 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits<sup>1M</sup> or equivalent each calendar year as a requisite for licensure renewal. Although the Board certainly encourages education within a physician's specialty, neither the Code of Alabama nor the Board requires that a physician obtain subject or specialty specific education.

The current physician regulations regarding acupuncture can be found in Medical Licensure Commission Administrative Rule 545-X-4-.05 Acupuncture Rules and Regulations, a copy of which is enclosed.