

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE PHARMACY BOARD
OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Sunday August 6, 2023

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. National Anthem
3. Prayers
4. President's Address
5. Secretary/Treasurer/Registrar's Report
6. Statement on Legal Matters affecting Pharmacy Board
7. Any Other Business

PRESIDENT 'S REPORT APRIL 27 TO JULY 31, 2023

Good Afternoon ,

Members of the Council of the Pharmacy Board of Trinidad & Tobago, Colleagues. It gives me great pleasure to address you this afternoon as President of the Pharmacy Board of Trinidad & Tobago. A pleasure that is generated by the fact that we have overcome the dilemma we have been undergoing for the past eleven (11) years in our livelihood and our professional lives.

However , let me clearly state that we have only just begun the work to make positive changes in the way business is conducted at the board's office. My main message today is to be patient and work with the new Council to ensure that the changes materialize in the shortest possible time.

As you are aware, the board's office is completely devoid of all information, equipment and files that should be kept there as mandated by the Pharmacy Board Act.

No register of Pharmacies

No complete Register of Pharmacists

No register of Pharmacy Assistants Just to mention a few.

Today marks the beginning of a new era in our profession and I want to give kudos to all who have made the supreme effort to come to this meeting today. I know that this is an expression of your concern about what is happening. It is an anticipation of the coming changes which will enrich and carry our practice to the next sphere.

At this point in time, I wish to express my thanks to the (29) twenty-nine pharmacists who willingly signed the requisition for the last Special General Meeting which was held on Sunday 26th March 2023. This meeting was the steppingstone which allowed us to acquire the names of the six (6) pharmacists who were elected unopposed to the Council of the Pharmacy Board.

The information supplied allowed a meeting of the Council to be convened through the unwavering efforts and insistence of the outgoing Secretary.

Special mention must be made of the three medical doctors who are on the Council, their devotion to duty and their willingness to work with the pharmacists on the Council have allowed us to achieve this milestone. Their commitment and dedication to the upliftment of pharmacy and their punctuality and regularity in attending meetings even after difficult days at work is amazing. We on Council are in receipt of sound advice and procedural hints that has helped in charting our way forward. To all the active Council members I offer my sincerest appreciation and heartfelt thanks for their tireless efforts to ensure the business of the Council is done on a timely basis without financial support.

In conclusion once we all work as a team in an ethical and fair manner, our future will be brighter and we will all be proud once more of our profession, a profession, we all love dearly.

Submitted

Clinton Sahadeo

President
Council of the Pharmacy Board of Trinidad & Tobago

REPORT of SECRETARY/TREASURER/REGISTRAR

APRIL 27 TO JULY 31, 2023

Elections to the Council of the Pharmacy Board of Trinidad & Tobago were held on Thursday 27, April 2023.

Number of Council Meetings Held

| Meeting Date | Possible Attendees | Actual Attendees | EXCUSES |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------|---------|
| 27/04/23 | 10 | 5 | nil |
| 11/05/23 | 10 | 6 | 1 |
| 18/05/23 | 10 | 5 | 2 |
| 01/06/23 | 10 | 5 | 2 |
| 01/07/23 | 10 | 5 | 1 |
| 20/07/23 | 10 | 6 | nil |

Two advisories were issued to members on April 28th, 2023, and May 5th, 2023. These advisories are at the back of these documents. Therefore, this report will start from May 6th, 2023.

A visit was made to Woodbrook Police Station on Monday 8th May 2023 to report the list of missing items since Mr. Rahaman did not return the items as requested and it was now more than the seven days he had been given to do so.

Missing Items

All documents

Keys

Remote for gate

Seal of the Pharmacy Board

Cheque books

Receipt books

Stamps

Two seals were returned on Friday May 12th after several calls were made to the St. James Police station, the original and a smaller newer one. The original seal is not in good working condition. None of the other items have been returned.

The office has now been provided with internet and a telephone (1868 613 8273) this has proven to be of enormous benefit as I no longer have to call members or schedule calls on a personal phone.

Donations

The Pharmacy Board was gifted by the following:

Computer
Printer
Paper
Manila file covers

I am immensely grateful to the donors; they have provided vital equipment that was needed at the point in time. No names have been given as the donors had not given permission to have their names highlighted.

Pharmacy Licences and Practising Certificates

With the return of the seal, it was now possible to issue these documents to members. Although we have tried to focus on the new pharmacists and pharmacies as well as the changes in licensing of pharmacies, members continue to insist that they have paid for a practicing certificate, and they must get it. Some even go so far as to insist that they be issued one for 2022 which they had paid for but did not receive. Of course, we cannot issue any certificate for 2022 but it is extremely difficult to get members to understand that is not possible.

In the beginning there were problems with the numbers on certificates, however we have devised a numbering system which I hope will work. (the numbering system was not returned by the outgoing president)

Bank Account & Liabilities

To date the new Council has not gained access to the bank account held in Republic Bank. The lack of an account continues to be a challenge. Efforts are being made to open a new account, hopefully we are on the last leg of this journey.

The Pharmacy Board has several large liabilities at this time:

- Dishonored cheque for MOH \$ 2,300.00
- Unpaid telephone bills \$18,000.00
- Unpaid maintenance for office building \$16,875.00/month = \$101,250.00
- Lawyer Fees \$ 90,000.00

And possibly \$801,323.94 from the court judgement of August 4, 2020, CV2017-04181

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Roger Ramjattan | Claimant and |
| Andrew Rahaman | First defendant |
| Sue Ann Joseph | Second defendant |
| Pharmacy Council of Trinidad and Tobago | Third Defendant |

A financial plan to defray the first four liabilities listed above has been developed but has stalled as no bank account is available at this time.

A statement of accounts received and payables to date is given below.

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Income | \$63,632.00 |
| Expenditure | 45,359.60 |
| Balance | 18,272.40 |

Registrar Activities

No registration numbers had been issued from 2017. With a view to updating the register, a list of all successful graduates from UWI was obtained and the register is being checked against the names. The work is a third way complete and missing entries and double entries have been found. When the work is completed, all members will receive registration numbers.

For 2022 graduates only, Practicing Certificates and Letters of Authorization to practice have been issued. The Regional Health Authorities were contacted, and the lack of a Registration Certificate was explained. The Authorities agreed to accept these newly qualified pharmacists with the letters provided.

Starting the week of August 15, a link would be provided for all members to update their profile. This would provide updated home addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses for all members.

Regretfully, I must report that no Register of Pharmacies was found. Currently a list is being formulated with the help of the Ministry of Health. The Register for Pharmacy Assistants is also missing. No work on its replacement has been started.

New Pharmacies

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Applications Received | 17 |
| Applications Approved | 12 |
| Not ready for Inspection | 5 |

Applications are being received from Pharmacists who are totally unready for inspection. This has the potential to waste time and energy as when a site visit is made, the conditions at the site do not even pass the barest minimum of the requirements.

Several pharmacists are requesting statements of licensure for practice abroad. This has had its challenges. Initially it was decided to charge a fee of \$600.00 as the letters would be couriered abroad. Members objected to paying this fee and reluctantly on my part, I agreed to email the document. Unfortunately, our email is a Gmail account, and the letters were not accepted by the authorities, so we now have to courier these letters. This has resulted in an increase in the fee and some members are proving to be difficult with the increased payment.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members who have been helpful and understanding about the trials and omissions we have had to date. To those members who have found the service wanting or lacking, I wish to advise that your delays are not deliberate but are due to lack of resources, misunderstandings about the laws or plain errors. I am hopeful that these omissions will occur with less frequency and eventually cease all together as we learn to speak the same language.

Submitted
Junia Forde Walcott
Secretary/Treasurer/Registrar

STATEMENT ON LEGAL MATTERS AFFECTING
PHARMACY BOARD