

1 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

2 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

3 BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

4

5 **FINAL MINUTES**

6

7 SPECIAL MEETING OF:

8

9 **STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE**

10

11 TIME: 11:02 A.M.

12

13 Held at

14 **PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

15 2525 North 7th Street

16 CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

17 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

18 as well as

19 **VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

20

21 September 24, 2025

22

23

24

25

State Board of Medicine
September 24, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

7 Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
8 Professional and Occupational Affairs
9 Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair
10 Michael R. Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP, Vice-
11 Chair
12 Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG
13 Gerard F. Dillon, Ph.D., Public Member
14 Walter A. Eisenhauer, MMSC, M.Ed., PA-C
15 Robert Bonacci, M.D., on behalf of Debra L. Bogen,
16 Secretary of Health
17 John D. Six, M.D.
18 John A. Kutz, M.D., FACS
19 Catherine N. Udekwu, M.D. - Absent
20 Adanma S. Okereh, CNM, CRNP, Nurse Midwife

22 BUREAU PERSONNEL:

24 Dana Archer, Esquire, Board Counsel
25 Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel
26 Megan E. Castor Esquire, Board Counsel
27 Tiffanie Camarota, Esquire, Board Counsel
28 Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
29 Jamison Cassel, Board Administrator
30 Andrew Lafratte, Deputy Policy Director, Department
31 of State
32 Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
33 Prosecution Division
34 Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
35 Patrick Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
36 Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State
37 Kathleen Mullen, Esquire, Executive Deputy Chief
38 Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel
39 Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel
40 Codi Tucker, Esquire, Board Prosecution Co-Liaison
41 Jason C. Giurintano, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
42 Counsel Division
43 Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Office of General Counsel
44 Carolyn A. DeLaurentis, Esquire, Chief Counsel,
45 Office of Chief Counsel
46 Alex Capitello, Legal Analyst, Office of Prosecution
47 Robert Beecher, Deputy Policy Director, Office of
48 Policy, Department of State
49 CJ Restemayer, Esquire, Office of General Counsel
50 Liliana Fisher, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison

State Board of Medicine
September 24, 2025

BUREAU PERSONNEL (cont.):

Michael Chmielewski, Director, Office of Legislative Affairs
Ashley Goshert, Esquire, Board Counsel
Dean Picarella, Esquire, Commission Counsel
Neil Mahalingam, Esquire, Assistant Chief Counsel,
Department of Health
K. Kalonji Johnson, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs
Stephanie Reid, Executive Deputy Secretary,
Department of State
Nicholas Kahler

ALSO PRESENT:

Walter Eisenhauer, MMSC., M.Ed., PA-C
Kari Orchard, Executive Director, House Professional
Licensure Committee, Pennsylvania House of
Representatives
Emily Hackman, Policy Analyst, Pennsylvania House of
Representatives
Misha Patel, M.D., Curriculum Education Assistant,
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
Danie Bendesky, Standards Aligned System, Special
Assistant for Strategic Initiatives
Anna Brasch, Executive Assistant, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Annette Myarick, Executive Director of PA Chapter,
American Academy of Pediatrics
Toni Richards-Rowley, MD, Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia
Nicholas Wachinski, Attorney, ERG Partners
William Reynolds, M.P.A.S., PA-C, DFAAPA, Assistant
Clinical Director, King's College
Tyler Burke, Senior Director of Government Affairs,
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association
tonirraap24@gmail.com
Jacob Hill, Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

1

2

State Board of Medicine

3

September 24, 2025

4

5

The special meeting of the State Board of Medicine was held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

9

10 Acknowledge Public - Turn Off Electronic Devices
11 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, requested all
12 electronic devices be silenced. Chair Yealy noted
13 the meeting was being recorded and voluntary
14 participation constituted consent to be recorded.]

15

16

Roll Call of Board Members

17

[Jamison Cassel, Board Administrator, provided a roll call of Board members. A quorum was present.]

19

20

Introduction of Attendees

21

[Jamison Cassell, Board Administrator, provided an introduction of attendees.]

23

24

Report of Department of Health

25

[Robert Bonacci, M.D., Department of Health, reported

1 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
2 (ACIP) has provided the CDC and the nation with
3 expert recommendations about the use of vaccines
4 since it was founded in the 1960's. He noted, for
5 many years, ACIP has used the Evidence to
6 Recommendations framework, an evidence-based and
7 standardized approach, to evaluate the many
8 dimensions related to immunization recommendations.
9 The process was intended to foster transparency,
10 consistency and clear communication about public
11 health recommendations to clinicians and the public.
12 He noted recent changes to the membership and
13 function of ACIP have left many health and medical
14 professionals and the public concerned about the
15 integrity of the review process and the
16 trustworthiness of new recommendations.

17 Dr. Bonacci stated, in the Commonwealth of
18 Pennsylvania, the Department of Health (DOH) is
19 charged with promoting healthy behaviors, preventing
20 injury and assuring the safe delivery of quality
21 healthcare for all people in Pennsylvania. The DOH
22 released new recommendations on September 22, 2025 to
23 provide clear, evidence-based guidance, and ensure
24 vaccines remain accessible for Pennsylvanians. Dr.
25 Bonacci shared a link to the guidance that is

1 available on the DOH website.

2 Dr. Bonacci explained the guidance recommends
3 Pennsylvanians follow the most recent immunization
4 recommendations issued the American Academy of
5 Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Family
6 Physicians (AAFP) and the American College of
7 Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG). AAP, AAFP, and
8 ACOG are all trusted medical organizations that have
9 provided evidence-based immunization schedules and
10 recommendations for many years. He noted the newly
11 released guidance does not change the vaccine
12 requirements issued by the DOH through regulation for
13 childcare groups and school age students.]

* * *

15 Appointment - Pennsylvania Chapter - American Academy
16 of Pediatrics
17 [Toni Richards-Rowley, MD, Children's Hospital of
18 Philadelphia, stated as the Vice President of the
19 Pennsylvania Chapter of AAP (PA AAP), she was
20 representing the 2,300 pediatric members from across
21 the Commonwealth. She noted PA AAP, along with the
22 national and fellow chapters, are united in the
23 common goal of ensuring better health for the whole
24 child, for all infants, children, adolescents, and
25 young adults with their work being grounded in

1 science. She added PA AAP shares the Commonwealth's
2 concern over the misguided information and false
3 claims made about vaccines at the recent ACIP
4 meeting.

5 Dr. Richards-Rowley explained AAP has been a
6 leading voice on vaccination recommendations for
7 children and adolescents since it was founded 95
8 years ago. The comprehensive guidelines published
9 each year include vaccine schedules for children and
10 adolescents and are updated regularly to reflect the
11 latest in research and vaccine development. She
12 noted, historically, recommendations from AAP have
13 often aligned with recommendations from the CDC and
14 ACIP. She added AAP has concerns over the unilateral
15 and unscientific changes being made to the federal
16 vaccine policy, which jeopardizes the immunization
17 system in the United States. She also added, due to
18 the changes, AAP does not support the recommendations
19 of ACIP.

20 Dr. Richards-Rowley urged the Board to support
21 the use of AAP's recommended child and adolescent
22 immunization schedule. She noted AAP's immunization
23 schedule provided the most comprehensive, child-
24 specific and evidence-based approach to immunization,
25 ensuring the best possible health outcomes for

1 pediatric patients in Pennsylvania.]

2 | * * *

3 | New Business - Letter of Support

4 [Dana Archer, Esquire, Board Counsel, presented the
5 Board with a letter of support for the immunization
6 guidance issued by DOH earlier in the week. She
7 noted the letter was prepared by Board Counsel for
8 the Board of Medicine along with the State Board of
9 Nursing and the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.
10 The letter is in response to uncertainty within the
11 licensed community about immunization standards,
12 confirm the role of DOH in recommending and setting
13 various guidelines for the Commonwealth and confirm
14 the role of reliable state and national association
15 in providing guidance to practitioners.

16 Ms. Archer noted the letter emphasizes that
17 immunizations are essential to protecting individual
18 and public health. The letter also commends DOH for
19 providing clear evidence-based guidance to
20 practitioners and the public. She added the letter
21 affirms that medical doctors and other board-
22 regulated practitioners should be knowledgeable in
23 evidence-based immunization schedules and practices.

24 Ms. Archer stated, by adopting the letter, the
25 Board would express strong support for DOH's

1 leadership, reinforce the importance of clear,
2 consistent immunization guidance and confirm that
3 such guidance is a valuable resource in the Board's
4 oversight of professional practice.

5 Dr. Woodland commented PA ACOG and ACOG support
6 the views of Dr. Richards-Rowley, Dr. Bonacci, and
7 DOH. He noted vaccines are an essential part of
8 healthcare for use in maternity care, obstetrics, and
9 general health of women.

10 Chair Yealy thanked DOH for continuing to do
11 their duty in giving guidance. He noted the guidance
12 often comes from multiple sources and comes from the
13 best available evidence at any moment in time. He
14 added medicine is a continually evolving issue.

15 Dr. Ripchinski noted, as a practicing family
16 physician in Pennsylvania, he agreed that
17 immunizations are essential to protecting the health
18 of individuals and communities across the entire
19 state. He added his support to the Board statement.
20 He also noted consistent, transparent guidance
21 strengthens the confidence of patients and ensures
22 safe and effective vaccination practices across the
23 Commonwealth.]

24 * * *

25 MS. ARCHER:

1 At this time, I believe the Board would
2 entertain a motion to adopt and issue
3 the letter of support as drafted.

4 DR. WOODLAND:

5 Woodland moves.

6 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

7 Ripchinski seconds.

8 CHAIR YEARLY:

9 We have a motion and a second. Any
10 further conversation from the Board?

11 Hearing none, Jamison, can we get
12 a roll call vote please?

13

14 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
15 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
16 Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
17 Bonacci, abstain; Dr. Six, aye; Dr.
18 Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.

19 [The motion carried. Dr. Bonacci abstained from
20 voting on the motion. It was noted the letter of
21 support would be published on the Board's website.]

22 ***

23 Adjournment

24 CHAIR YEALY:

25 That completes all that we had on our

10 DR. SIX:

11 So moved.

12 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

13 Second.

17 | * * *

1

2

CERTIFICATE

3

4 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary
5 minutes of the State Board of Medicine meeting, was
6 reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and
7 that the minutes accurately summarize the substance
8 of the State Board of Medicine meeting.

9

10

11



12

13

14

Jacob Hill,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting

Service, Inc.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
REFERENCE INDEX
September 24, 2025

1 STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
2 REFERENCE INDEX
3 September 24, 2025
4
5 TIME AGENDA
6
7 11:02 Official Call to Order
8 11:02 Roll Call
9 11:05 Report of Department of Health
10 11:08 Appointment - Pennsylvania Chapter -
11 American Academy of Pediatrics
12
13 11:12 New Business
14
15 11:18 Adjournment
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50