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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

F I N A L M I N U T E S

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

February 2, 2026

State Board of Medicine
February 2, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair
Michael R. Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP, Vice
Chair
Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG - Absent
Gerard F. Dillon, Ph.D., Public Member
Walter A. Eisenhauer, MMS, M.Ed., PA-C
Robert Bonacci, M.D. on behalf of Debra Bogan, M.D.,
FAAP, Secretary Department of Health
John D. Six, M.D.
John A. Kutz, M.D., FACS
Catherine N. Udekwu, M.D. - Absent
Taliba Foster, M.D. - Absent
Adanma S. Okereh, CNM, CRNP, Nurse Midwife - Absent

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Dana Archer, Esquire, Board Counsel
Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel
Jamison Cassel, Board Administrator
Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Patrick Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Jason C. Giurintano, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Counsel Division
CJ Restemayer, Esquire, Office of General Counsel
Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide
Nicholas Kahler, Intern, Office of Attorney General
Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Prosecution Division
Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
Deena Parmelee, Legal Office Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Kevin Knipe, MSW, LSW, CCDP Diplomat, Co-Program
Manager, Professional Health Monitoring Program

State Board of Medicine
February 2, 2026

ALSO PRESENT (CONT.):

- William Reynolds, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Society of Physician Associates
- Wendy Ruderman, Reporter, The Philadelphia Inquirer
- Sandy Fettrow, CPCS, Credentialing Specialist, Healthcare Consultant, Zetter HealthCare
- Milad Shaker, M.D., Respondent
- Ted Mowatt, CAE, Vice President, Wanner Associates
- Sonya Davis
- Call-In # 1-724-610-8542
- Jacob Hill, Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.

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1 ***

2 State Board of Medicine

3 February 2, 2026

4 ***

5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
6 at 8:45 a.m., the Board entered into Executive
7 Session with Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board
8 Counsel, for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
9 deliberations on a number of matters currently
10 pending before the Board and to receive the advice of
11 counsel. The Board returned to open session at 10:30
12 a.m.]

13 ***

14 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
15 Board of Medicine was held on Monday, February 2,
16 2026. Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, called
17 the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

18 ***

19 Acknowledge Public - Turn Off Electronic Devices
20 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, requested all
21 electronic devices be silenced.]

22 ***

23 [Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, noted
24 the meeting was being recorded and voluntary
25 participation constituted consent to be recorded.]

1 Ms. Archer also noted the Board entered into
2 quasi-judicial deliberations this morning to discuss
3 matters on the agenda and to receive the advice of
4 counsel.]

5 ***

6 Roll Call of Board Members

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

9 ***

10 Introduction of Attendees

11 [Jamison Cassel, Board Administrator, provided an
12 introduction of attendees.]

13 ***

14 Approval of Minutes of the December 23, 2025 regular
15 meeting

16 CHAIR YEALY:

17 The minutes of our previous meeting on
18 December 23, 2025 were circulated in
19 advance.

20 I'll entertain a motion to approve.

21 DR. KUTZ:

22 Kutz, so moved.

23 MR. DILLON:

24 Dillon, second.

25 CHAIR YEALY:

1 We have a motion and a second. Any
2 conversation or corrections? How
3 about a roll call vote please Jamison?

4
5 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
6 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
7 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
8 aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10 ***

11 Appointment - Annual Prosecution Report

12 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
13 Prosecution Division, explained the Bureau of
14 Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) provides
15 administrative and legal support to the 29
16 professional and occupational licensing boards and
17 commissions within the department. The Office of
18 Chief Counsel Prosecution Division works with its
19 investigative (BEI) and compliance arms (PCO) who
20 receive complaints, investigate allegations, and
21 enforce compliance with the acts and regulations that
22 govern the boards and commissions. She stated the
23 Prosecution Division consists of about 40 attorneys,
24 including five senior prosecuting attorneys.

25 Ms. Walter stated the prosecution process always

1 begins with a complaint either from the public or by
2 Board referral. She reported in both 2024 and 2025
3 the department received approximately 22,800 total
4 complaints for all boards. Ms. Walter provided an
5 overview of the investigative process in which the
6 complaint moves through several levels of review. She
7 noted the primary role of prosecution at Board
8 meetings is to present Consent Agreements to the
9 Board.

10 Ms. Walter explained, after the investigative
11 process, the evidence is reviewed by the prosecuting
12 attorney to determine if they believe there have been
13 any violations of the act or regulations, how
14 sufficient the evidence is and determine if
15 additional files need to be opened. She stated, if a
16 violation is suspected the available options include
17 immediate temporary suspension; filing an order to
18 show cause; automatic suspension; an order for a
19 mental or physical examination; and a petition for
20 appropriate relief if the case violates a previous
21 Board order. Avenues for discipline types are
22 revocation, suspension, probation, public reprimand,
23 civil penalty, remedial education, and cost of
24 investigation. She added all investigations are
25 confidential and are not subject to right-to-know

1 requests.

2 Ms. Walters shared, in 2025, there were 17,354
3 cases opened and 19,131 cases closed, up
4 significantly from 2024. Specifically for the
5 Medical Board, she reported 3,678 cases were opened
6 with 5,028 cases closed. The penalties included 29
7 monetary, 103 types of discipline affecting the
8 ability to practice such as license suspensions or
9 probations, and 478 warning letters. She added
10 reinstatement was granted to 28 and denied to one.

11 Chair Yealy stated the presentation nicely
12 summarized that the Commonwealth, particularly the
13 Board and affiliated staff are open to feedback and
14 concerns from people around the Commonwealth. He
15 added it looked like the Prosecution Division did a
16 great job last year.]

17 ***

18 Report of Prosecuting Attorneys

19 [Todd Kriner, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison,
20 presented the VRP Agreements for Agenda Item No. 4,
21 Case No. 26-49-00064; and Agenda Item No. 5, Case No.
22 25-49-018069.]

23 MS. ARCHER:

24 I believe the Chair would entertain a
25 motion to adopt the VRP Consent

1 Agreement at Item No. 4, Case No. 26-
2 49-000064; and the VRP Consent
3 Agreement at Item No. 5, Case No. 25-
4 49-018069.

5 DR. KUTZ:

6 Kutz, so moved.

7 MR. DILLON:

8 Dillon, second.

9 CHAIR YEALY:

10 We have a motion and a second.

11 Any further conversation or
12 dialogue? Seeing none, may we have a
13 roll call vote please?

14

15 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
16 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
17 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
18 aye.

19 [The motion carried unanimously.]

20

21 [Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecution
22 Liaison, presented the Consent Agreements for Agenda
23 Item No. 6, Case No. 19-49-000890; and Agenda Item
24 No. 7, Case No. 25-49-014518.]

25 MS. ARCHER:

1 I believe the Chair would entertain a
2 motion to adopt the Consent Agreement
3 at Item No. 6, Case No. 19-49-000890;
4 and Item No. 7, Case No. 25-49-014518.

5 DR. KUTZ:

6 Kutz, so moved.

7 MR. DILLON:

8 Dillon, second.

9 CHAIR YEALY:

10 We have a motion and a second.

11 Any further discussion? Seeing
12 none, may we have a roll call vote
13 please?

14
15 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
16 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
17 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
18 aye.

19 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondents are
20 Item No. 6, Case No. 19-49-000890, Vincent Joseph
21 Thompson III, M.D.; and Item No. 7, Case No. 25-49-
22 014518, Fahim N. Kashif, PA-C.]

23 ***

24 Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Reports from
25 Hearing Examiner

1 MS. ARCHER:

2 At Agenda Items 8 and 9, I believe the
3 Board would entertain a motion to adopt
4 as final the Proposed Adjudications and
5 Orders of the Hearing Examiner for
6 Manuel Antonio Garcia Herran, M.D.,
7 Case No. 25-49-004911; and Jeanette
8 Thomas-Brown, Behavior Specialist, Case
9 No. 24-49-001492.

10 DR. KUTZ:

11 Kutz, so moved.

12 MR. DILLON:

13 Dillon, second.

14 CHAIR YEALY:

15 Any further discussion? Hearing none,
16 may we have a roll call vote please?

17

18 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
19 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
20 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
21 aye.

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23

24 Report of Board Counsel - Adjudications from Hearing
25 Examiner

1 MS. ARCHER:

2 I believe the Board would entertain a
3 motion to direct Board Counsel to draft
4 an Adjudication and Order addressing
5 exceptions for Iwan Nyotowidjojo, M.D.,
6 Case No. 25-49-004698.

7 DR. KUTZ:

8 Kutz, so moved.

9 MR. DILLON:

10 Dillon, second.

11 CHAIR YEALY:

12 We have a motion and a second. Any
13 further discussion? Seeing none, may
14 we have a roll call vote please?

15
16 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
17 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
18 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
19 aye.

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 ***

22 Report of Board Counsel - Final Adjudications for
23 Board Approval

24 MS. ARCHER:

25 At Agenda Items 11 and 12, I believe

1 the Board would entertain a motion to
2 adopt as final the Draft Adjudications
3 and Orders for Lora Francis, Physician
4 Assistant, Case No. 25-49-002560; and
5 Milad Ishak Shaker, M.D., Case No. 24-
6 49-018885.

7 DR. KUTZ:

8 Kutz, so moved.

9 MR. DILLON:

10 Dillon, second.

11 CHAIR YEALY:

12 We have a motion and a second. Any
13 further discussion? Seeing none, may
14 we have a roll call vote please?

15
16 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
17 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
18 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
19 aye.

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 ***

22 Applications for Licensure

23 MS. ARCHER:

24 Moving down to Agenda Item 17, I
25 believe the Board would entertain a

1 motion to grant the initial Application
2 for License to practice as a Medical
3 Physician and Surgeon of Jazib Hassan,
4 M.D.

5 DR. KUTZ:

6 Kutz, so moved.

7 MR. DILLON:

8 Dillon, second.

9 CHAIR YEALY:

10 We have a motion and a second. Any
11 further discussion? Hearing none, may
12 we have a roll call vote please?

13

14 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
15 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
16 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
17 aye.

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19

20 MS. ARCHER:

21 I believe the Board would entertain a
22 motion to table Agenda Items 18 and 19
23 to allow the applicants to apply for
24 and practice on an institutional
25 license for a period of six months to

1 one year. The names on those Agenda
2 Items are Thandam Arivazhagan, M.D. and
3 Niv Segal, M.D.

4 DR. KUTZ:

5 Kutz, so moved.

6 MR. DILLON:

7 Dillon, second.

8 CHAIR YEALY:

9 We have a motion and a second. Any
10 further discussion? Hearing none, may
11 we have a roll call vote please?

12
13 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
14 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
15 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
16 aye.

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18 ***

19 MS. ARCHER:

20 At Agenda Item 20, I believe the Board
21 would entertain a motion to grant the
22 initial Application for a License to
23 practice as a Medical Physician and
24 Surgeon of Meredith Wylie, M.D.

25 DR. KUTZ:

1 Kutz, so moved.

2 MR. DILLON:

3 Dillon, second.

4 CHAIR YEALY:

5 We have a motion and a second. Any
6 further discussion? Hearing none, may
7 we have a roll call vote please?

8

9 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
10 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, nay; Dr.
11 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
12 aye.

13 [The motion carried. Mr. Dillion opposed the
14 matter.]

15

16 MS. ARCHER:

17 I believe the Board would entertain a
18 motion to grant the Reactivation
19 Application to practice as a
20 Respiratory Therapist of Arnold Johnson
21 upon successful completion of all CE
22 requirements.

23 DR. KUTZ:

24 Kutz, so moved.

25 MR. DILLON:

1 Dillon, second.

2 CHAIR YEALY:

3 We have a motion and a second. Any
4 further discussion? Hearing none, may
5 we have a roll call vote please?

6

7 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
8 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
9 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
10 aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12

13 Ratifications

14 MS. ARCHER:

15 At Agenda Items 22 and 23, I believe
16 the Board would entertain a motion to
17 ratify the granting of the following
18 Applications to practice as a Medical
19 Physician and Surgeon. Yasuhiko
20 Kawaguchi, M.D. and David Segal, M.D.

21 DR. KUTZ:

22 Kutz, so moved.

23 MR. DILLON:

24 Dillon, second.

25 CHAIR YEALY:

1 We have a motion and a second. Any
2 further discussion? Hearing none, may
3 we have a roll call vote please?

4
5 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
6 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
7 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
8 aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10 ***

11 Miscellaneous

12 MS. ARCHER:

13 I'm going to jump down to Agenda Item
14 29.

15 I believe the Board would
16 entertain a motion to table the
17 approval of the preceptorship plan for
18 Lawrence Adams, M.D. to allow the Board
19 to obtain additional information.

20 DR. KUTZ:

21 Kutz, so moved.

22 MR. DILLON:

23 Dillon, second.

24 CHAIR YEALY:

25 We have a motion and a second. Any

1 further discussion? Hearing none, may
2 we have a roll call vote please?

3
4 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
5 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
6 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
7 aye.

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9 ***

10 Board Meeting Dates

11 MS. ARCHER:

12 I believe the Board would entertain a
13 motion to approve the proposed 2027
14 Board meeting dates.

15 DR. KUTZ:

16 Kutz, so moved.

17 MR. DILLON:

18 Dillon, second.

19 CHAIR YEALY:

20 We have a motion and a second. And
21 I'll note for all that Agenda Item 24
22 has this year's Board meeting dates and
23 Agenda Item 25 has the upcoming ones
24 we're voting on. Seeing no other
25 discussion, can we have a roll call

1 vote please?

2

3 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
4 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
5 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
6 aye.

7 [The motion carried unanimously.]

8

9 Regulatory Report - Status of Regulations

10 [Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
11 reported 16A-4945, General Updates to Licenses and
12 Permits, is currently pending approval from the
13 Office of Attorney General which generally takes 30
14 days for approval. Once approval is received, the
15 regulation will be published as proposed in the
16 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for public comment. She
17 expected the regulation to be published in early
18 March 2026.]

19

20 Regulatory Report - 16A-4960 (Education and Volunteer
21 Services)

22 [Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
23 reported 16A-4960, Continuing Education and Volunteer
24 License, had not received any public comments after
25 being published as proposed in November 2025. In

1 addition Independent Regulatory Review Committee
2 (IRRC) did not have any comments. IRRC indicated the
3 regulation would be deemed approved on final provided
4 the Board did not make any revisions on the final
5 rulemaking. Ms. Wolfgang provided the Board with the
6 final rulemaking for review. She recommended the
7 Board move forward with the regulation without any
8 revisions.

9 Chair Yealy asked Ms. Wolfgang to summarize the
10 opioid education changes in the regulation.

11 Ms. Wolfgang replied there were no changes in the
12 opioid education. She noted the regulation was
13 updating the regulations to match the opioid
14 education law enacted in 2016 for doctors, physician
15 assistants and anyone able to prescribe opioids.

16 Ms. Wolfgang stated the organ donation
17 regulations targeted by the regulation would have an
18 implementation date of May 1, 2026. As of May 1,
19 2026, physicians will be required to complete two
20 hours of organ donation education within a five-year
21 period. She added she would work with Board Counsel
22 to add an announcement to the Board's website.]

23

24 MS. WOLFGANG:

25

I believe the Chair would entertain a

1 motion to approve the Final Regulation,
2 the Preamble and Annex for Regulation
3 16A-4960 relating to education and
4 volunteer services and direct
5 Regulatory Counsel to move the final
6 form rulemaking through the regulatory
7 process.

8 DR. KUTZ:

9 Kutz, so moved.

10 MR. DILLION:

11 Dillon, second.

12 CHAIR YEALY:

13 We have a motion and a second. Any
14 discussion? Hearing none, may we have
15 a roll call vote please?

16

17 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
18 Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
19 Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Six,
20 aye.

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22

23 [Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
24 referred the Board to a list of regulatory
25 stakeholders to note the organizations and

1 individuals on the list. She added the entities on
2 the list receive the exposure drafts for proposed
3 regulations. She noted she has worked over the past
4 few months to ensure appropriate outreach to
5 individuals. She plans to place a link on the
6 Board's website to make it easier for individuals and
7 organizations to sign up for the stakeholder list.]

8 ***

9 FSMB Updates

10 [Gerard F. Dillon, Ph.D., Public Member, shared the
11 Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) distributes
12 pending draft reports to the individual state boards
13 for review and comments. He noted FSMB has three
14 draft reports to distribute and encouraged Board
15 Members to read the reports. He asked Mr. Cassel if
16 he could compile any comments to provide to FSMB.

17 Chair Yealy asked if there were any updates for
18 the FSMB election.

19 Mr. Dillon stated he did not have any updates but
20 felt Dr. Woodland had a good shot at being elected as
21 chair elect.]

22 ***

23 Miscellaneous - Review of Committees and Elections

24 [Dana Archer, Esquire, Board Counsel asked if the
25 Board wished to discuss the Committee members since

1 Mr. Eisenhower was no longer with the Board.

2 Chair Yealy preferred for the only change to be
3 for Dr. Ripchinski to serve has the Chair for the
4 Committee on Allied Health Professionals. Otherwise,
5 he stated all remaining committees and leadership
6 roles within the committees could remain the same.

7 Ms. Archer noted the Agendas moving forward would
8 be corrected to reflect Mr. Eisenhower's departure.]

9

10 MS. ARCHER:

11 So we do these elections every year. I
12 would start by asking, are there any
13 nominations for the office of Chair for
14 the State Board of Medicine?

15 MR. DILLON:

16 This is Dillon. I'd like to nominate
17 Dr. Yealy to continue as the Chair of
18 the Board of Medicine.

19 MS. ARCHER:

20 Dr. Yealy, do you accept the
21 nomination?

22 CHAIR YEALY:

23 I do.

24 MS. ARCHER:

25 Are there any further nominations for

1 Chair? Hearing none, we can close the
2 nominations. Is there a second for
3 this nomination of Dr. Yealy?

4 DR. KUTZ:

5 I'll second.

6 MS. ARCHER:

7 Okay. Any discussion? If no further
8 discussion, we can proceed to a vote.
9 Jamison, can you do a roll call vote
10 please?

11

12 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, abstain;
13 Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye;
14 Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr.
15 Six, aye.

16 [The motion carried. Chair Yealy abstained from
17 voting on the matter.]

18

19 MS. ARCHER:

20 We can move on to the vote for the Vice
21 Chair. Are there any nominations for
22 the office of Vice Chair for the State
23 Board of Medicine?

24 DR. KUTZ:

25 This is Kutz. I'll nominate Dr.

1 Ripchinski for Vice Chair.

2 CHAIR YEALY:

3 And I'll second that.

4 MS. ARCHER:

5 Dr. Ripchinski, do you accept the
6 nomination?

7 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

8 I do. Thank you.

9 MS. ARCHER:

10 Are there any further nominations for
11 Vice Chair? Hearing none, the
12 nominations are closed. We already
13 have our second. Is there any
14 discussion? Hearing none, let's
15 proceed to a roll call vote.

16

17 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
18 Ripchinski, abstain; Mr. Dillon, aye;
19 Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr.
20 Six, aye.

21 [The motion carried. Dr. Ripchinski abstained from
22 voting on the matter.]

23

24 Miscellaneous - FYI - *Shah v. Commonwealth of*
25 *Pennsylvania, State Board of Medicine*, Case No. 21-

1 49-012805

2 [Dana Archer, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the
3 Board's Final Adjudication and Order was appealed by
4 Dr. Shah. There was currently a request to stay the
5 suspension pending the appeal. She was in the
6 process of responding to the appeal and would keep
7 the Board informed of any Commonwealth Court
8 decisions.]

9

10 Miscellaneous - Sunshine Act and Recusal Guidelines
11 [Dana Archer, Esquire, Board Counsel, presented the
12 biannual Sunshine Act and Recusal Guidelines
13 Presentation. She summarized that the Sunshine Act
14 ensures transparency in government by requiring open
15 meetings for all official actions and deliberations
16 involving agency matters. Any time a quorum of Board
17 members meets to discuss Board business, the meeting
18 must be publicly advertised. Deliberations are
19 defined as discussions intended to lead to decisions,
20 and official actions include votes or policy
21 decisions.

22 Public notice of meetings must be issued at the
23 beginning of the calendar year and at least three
24 days in advance, with any changes requiring 24-hour
25 notice. Emergency meetings are exempt but must be

1 justified. All meetings and Agendas are posted
2 publicly, including in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and
3 on the Board's website.

4 Ms. Archer noted that amendments to the Sunshine
5 Act in 2021 require that if the agenda changes within
6 24 hours of the meeting, an amended agenda must be
7 published afterward. Meeting locations and agendas
8 must be made available in advance, and discussions
9 outside the posted agenda are only allowed if there
10 is a natural connection. All votes must be publicly
11 cast, so virtual participant members must have
12 cameras on. Meeting minutes must include the time,
13 place, attendance, and substance of discussions,
14 though not verbatim. Executive Sessions may be held
15 for limited purposes, such as discussing litigation
16 strategy, deliberation matters, or personnel issues,
17 though personnel issues typically fall outside Board
18 purview. Executive Sessions must be announced with
19 reasons and remain confidential even after the
20 meeting.

21 She warned that violations of the Sunshine Act
22 can invalidate meeting actions and lead to litigation
23 or attorney fees. Criminal penalties are rare and
24 require District Attorney action. She clarified that
25 actions of Board committees like the Application

1 Committee or Probable Cause Committee are not
2 considered to be a meeting if there is no quorum and
3 if actions are preliminary or administrative.

4 Regarding recusals, Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board
5 Counsel, outlined the types of recusals and the
6 impact of those recusals. Mandatory recusals include
7 involvement in prosecution, being a complainant, or
8 having a direct financial interest. Strongly
9 recommended recusals include personal connections or
10 outside knowledge of a case. Discretionary recusals
11 apply when impartiality is uncertain. She advised
12 Board members to consult Counsel in advance when
13 unsure. Abstentions from voting are allowed for lack
14 of preparation or uncertainty but prevent a member
15 from requesting reconsideration later. Members may
16 still attend for quorum purposes, but recusals count
17 against quorum.

18 Ms. Keefer also detailed conflict-of-interest
19 rules. Professional members may not serve as officers
20 or agents of statewide professional associations, and
21 public members may not be part of the regulated
22 profession or have immediate family members who are.
23 Public members must not hold any other appointed
24 office in the Commonwealth.

25 Chair Yealy noted he is always impressed with

1 Board Members veracity in identifying potential
2 conflicts and sharing them. He added the willingness
3 for people to be open and discuss potential and real
4 conflicts is a sign of a healthy Board.]

5 ***

6 Report of Board Counsel - FYI- HB 2121 -

7 Internationally Trained Physicians

8 [Dana Archer, Esquire, Board Counsel, explained HB
9 2121, *Internationally Trained Physicians*, had been
10 introduced in the Pennsylvania House and was referred
11 to the House Professional Licensure Committee on
12 January 8, 2026. The House bill would allow
13 internationally trained physicians to obtain a
14 provisional medical license in Pennsylvania if they
15 meet specific requirements including Educational
16 Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
17 (ECFMG) certification, passing United States Medical
18 Licensing Exam (USMLE) steps one and two, English
19 proficiency and having at least three years of
20 practice abroad. The provisional license could last
21 up to four years under supervision with the goal of
22 easing physician shortages and improving access to
23 underserved areas.

24 Mr. Dillon had three concerns. He stated one of
25 the primary features of the bill had to do with the

1 physician working under the supervision of a
2 Pennsylvania licensed facility. He asked what the
3 responsibility of the institution would be and what
4 the Commonwealth expectations would be.

5 Ms. Archer stated, once the bill passed, she
6 would assume the Board would need to draft
7 regulations outlining the specifics of the law,
8 similar to what was done regarding the institutional
9 license.

10 Mr. Dillon's second concern was vagueness in a
11 part of the bill which stated the physician could
12 serve in an approved specialty.

13 Ms. Archer replied, if the law passed as written,
14 the Board would have to discuss if cases would be
15 handled on a case-by-case basis or would be spelled
16 out in the regulations.

17 Mr. Dillon's third concern questioned the
18 additional requirements to be granted a license in
19 Pennsylvania after the four years of a provisional
20 license.

21 Ms. Archer stated the Board would likely be able
22 to require training such as opioid and child abuse or
23 other administrative requirements but likely would
24 not be able to require additional requirements on top
25 of the statute.

1 Chair Yealy noted the legislation was a framework
2 which the Board would have to put together with the
3 actual steps. He added, in the Commonwealth,
4 pathways exist for people who have done their
5 training outside of the United States. HB 2121 would
6 add to the existing pathways which are used every
7 meeting.]

8 ***
9 Report of Board Counsel - FYI - SB 1062 - Delivering
10 Better Health Care for our Veterans
11 [Dana Archer, Esquire, Board Counsel, explained SB
12 1062, *Delivering Better Health Care for our Veterans*,
13 would be similar to the child abuse CE requirement.
14 The legislation would require the completion of CMEs
15 in order to obtain or renew a license. The proposed
16 regulation contemplates three hours total for renewal
17 and would require the Board to promulgate a
18 regulation regarding the requirement for initial
19 licensure. The bill was referred to the Health and
20 Human Services Committee on December 5, 2025. The
21 ultimate goal of the bill would be to ensure adequate
22 education regarding complex health issues often
23 encountered in the care of veterans.]

24 ***
25 Report of Board Administrator - No Report

1 Dr. Bonacci also provided a link to CDC
2 information regarding measles outbreaks. He noted
3 there was a large and rapidly growing outbreak in
4 South Carolina which has approximately 850 cases
5 between the end of 2025 and into the current year.
6 He added the total current case count for measles in
7 the United States for 2025 was 2,267. He further
8 added the case count thus far for 2026 is 588 across
9 the United States. He noted measles activity remains
10 very high when compared to historical recent years.
11 He encouraged practitioners to keep measles on their
12 differential for individuals presenting with signs
13 and symptoms consistent with measles, particularly
14 for people who have travels to areas with known
15 cases.

16 Dr. Bonacci shared the American Academy of
17 Pediatrics (AAP) had released their 2026 update to
18 the Child and Adolescent Immunization schedule. DOH
19 continues to recommend practitioners follow
20 immunization recommendations from AAP; American
21 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG);
22 and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). He
23 added AAP's schedule largely remained the same,
24 recommending the same number of core vaccines as in
25 2025.

1 Chair Yealy congratulated DOH for the clarity in
2 their positions and how they have communicated in a
3 time of confusion. He stated physicians need to be
4 prepared to advise those they come in contact with.
5 He understood there was a brand-new measles cluster
6 in central Pennsylvania, which may have been imported
7 from the South.

8 Dr. Bonacci was not sure how much information had
9 been publicly shared but confirmed there were a few
10 measles cases identified in central Pennsylvania. He
11 reiterated practitioners need to maintain a high
12 degree of awareness.

13 Chair Yealy noted most people had forgotten what
14 measles looked like thanks to pervasive vaccination.
15 He wanted to bring awareness to opioid data which
16 shows mortality rates have dropped year over year.
17 He attributed the decline in mortality to multiple
18 factors including education programs, particularly
19 for naloxone; supply issues; and wraparound support
20 services. He noted the problem is too complex to
21 declare victory. He added Pennsylvania is home to
22 groups, who are not just experts but are passionate
23 about how to make sure the opioid scourge is managed
24 from both a personal and public health perspective in
25 the best way possible.

1 Dr. Bonacci agreed with Chair Yealy's sentiments
2 in the cause of the mortality decline. He noted the
3 trends looked hopeful that the downward trend would
4 continue. He stated the widespread distribution of
5 naloxone and use of naloxone by bystanders and first
6 responders was an important contributor to reducing
7 overdose deaths. He added DOH is encouraged and
8 heartened by the progress but remains steadfast in
9 their commitment to reducing overdose deaths.]

10 ***

11 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

12 ***

13 Report of Vice Chair

14 [Michael R. Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP, Vice
15 Chair, expressed appreciation for Chair Yealy for his
16 willingness to continue serving as Chair. He
17 appreciated the Board's support for Chair Yealy and
18 himself to continue in their leadership roles.]

19 ***

20 Report of Board Chair

21 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, thanks Dr.
22 Ripchinski for being willing to serve as Vice Chair
23 again. He added he gets to work with a collection of
24 dedicated, intelligent, and principled people on the
25 Board and Board staff. He noted it was the first

1 meeting without Dr. Eisenhower, a longtime Board
2 Member, who ended his service with the Board in
3 December 2025. He stated the Board was looking for a
4 new candidate to represent the physician assistant
5 role on the Board.

6 Chair Yealy shared sad news in the passing of Dr.
7 Catherine Udekwu on February 1, 2026, who served with
8 the Board for the past four years. She was a
9 pediatrician in Western Pennsylvania, widely
10 recognized for her compassion, care, and commitment
11 to the community. He added the Board would remember
12 her kindness and integrate that into what they do
13 moving forward.

14 Chair Yealy shared remarks on Groundhog Day. He
15 noted February 3rd was National Women Physicians Day,
16 noting women serve in a variety of healthcare roles
17 across Pennsylvania. Related to Black History Month,
18 he stated there were a multitude of pioneering Black
19 women physicians. He stated Dr. Rebecca Crumpler,
20 born in 1831, was the first woman to earn a medical
21 degree in the United States at the New England Female
22 Medical College in 1864. He reminded everyone to
23 thank a female physician on February 3rd, 2026, and
24 to recognize throughout the month, the many Black

1 partners and predecessors who were instrumental to
2 what is done across the Commonwealth.]

3 ***

4 Public Comment - No Public Comments

5 ***

6 Adjournment

7 CHAIR YEALY:

8 I'm happy to entertain a motion to
9 adjourn the meeting

10 DR. KUTZ:

11 Kutz, so moved.

12 MR. DILLON:

13 Dillon, second.

14 CHAIR YEALY:

15 I will ask if there's anybody who
16 objects rather than do a roll call
17 vote. I apologize for that breach in
18 protocol, but hearing none, I thank you
19 all and we can consider the meeting
20 adjourned.

21 ***

22 [There being no other business, the State Board of
23 Medicine Meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.]

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CERTIFICATE

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



Jacob Hill,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
REFERENCE INDEX
February 2, 2026

	<u>TIME</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7	8:45	Executive Session
8	10:30	Return to Open Session
9		
10	10:30	Official Call to Order
11		
12	10:32	Roll Call
13		
14	10:33	Approval of Minutes
15		
16	10:34	Appointment - Annual Prosecution Report
17		
18	10:40	Report of Prosecuting Attorneys
19		
20	10:46	Report of Board Counsel
21		
22	10:48	Applications for Licensure
23		
24	10:51	Miscellaneous
25		
26	10:55	Regulatory Report
27		
28	11:04	FSMB Updates
29		
30	11:05	Miscellaneous
31		
32	11:21	Report of Board Counsel - Other
33		
34	11:27	Report of the Department of Health
35		
36	11:35	Report of Vice Chair
37		
38	11:36	Report of Board Chair
39		
40	11:41	Adjournment
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