

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**

July 1, 2025

State Board of Medicine  
July 1, 2025

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  
Gerard F. Dillon, Ph.D., Public Member  
Walter A. Eisenhauer, MMSC, M.Ed., PA-C - Absent  
Robert Bonacci, M.D., Department of Health  
John D. Six, M.D. - Absent  
John A. Kutz, M.D., FACS  
Catherine N. Udekwu, M.D. - Absent  
Adanma S. Okereh, CNM, CRNP, Nurse Midwife

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel  
Dana Archer, Esquire, Board Counsel  
Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
Jamison Cassel, Board Administrator  
Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
Andrew Lafratte, Deputy Policy Director, Department  
of State  
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
Patrick Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
Adrianne R. McClendon, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
Saiyad Ali, Board Administrator  
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State  
Tanya Miller, Clerical Assistant 2

ALSO PRESENT:

Michelle Colley, NP  
Thomas Hoffman, DPM, FACFAOM  
Jennifer Smeltz, Senate Consumer Protection and  
Professional License Committee  
Kaylin Bower, Registered Respiratory Therapist  
Muneeza Iqbal, Deputy Secretary of Health Resources  
and Services at the Pennsylvania Department of  
Health  
Tara Czekner, Esquire  
Natalie Cook, PA-C, McNees  
Bharadwaj Venkata Chirravuri, M.D.

State Board of Medicine  
July 1, 2025

ALSO PRESENT (cont.)

William Reynolds  
Suzanne Landis Kaczor, D.Ac. L.Ac.  
Stephen Behun, Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
Danie Bendesky, Standards Aligned System, Special  
Assistant for Strategic Initiatives  
Randy Stevens  
Catherine Policarpio Policina, MD  
Ted Mowatt, Vice President, Wanner Associates  
Robert Beecher, Law and Policy Professional  
Andrea Wandling, PHR, SHRM-CP, Pennsylvania  
Association of Community Health Centers  
Lisa Stevenson, Senior Associate Counsel, UPMC  
Gregory Dischman, M.D.  
Misha Patel, M.D., Curriculum Education Assistant,  
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine  
Allison Walker, Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

1 \*\*\*

2 State Board of Medicine

3 July 1, 2025

4 \*\*\*

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

14 \*\*\*

15 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State  
16 Board of Medicine was held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025.  
17 Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, called the  
18 meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

19 \*\*\*

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

23 \*\*\*

24 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,  
25 noted the meeting was being recorded and voluntary

1 participation constituted consent to be recorded.  
2 Ms. Walter also noted the Board entered into quasi-  
3 judicial deliberations this morning to discuss  
4 matters on the agenda and to receive the advice of  
5 counsel.]

6 \*\*\*

7 Roll Call of Board Members

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

10 \*\*\*

11 Introduction of Attendees

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

14 \*\*\*

15 Approval of Minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting

16 CHAIR YEALY:

17 First will be the approval of the  
18 minutes. These were distributed in  
19 advance to the Board members for any  
20 additions, deletions, or corrections.  
21 Happy to entertain a motion.

22 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

23 So moved.

24 DR. KUTZ:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR YEALY:

2 So we have a motion and a second to  
3 approve the Board minutes as they  
4 exist. Any conversation?

5 If not, can we have a roll call on  
6 the vote?

7  
8 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
9 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
10 Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
11 Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 \*\*\*

14 Appointments - Pennsylvania Department of Health  
15 [Muneeza Iqbal, MPH, Deputy Secretary of Health  
16 Resources and Services at the Pennsylvania Department  
17 of Health, reported on the work conducted at the  
18 Pennsylvania Primary Care Office (PCO). She  
19 discussed conducting data collection and licensure  
20 surveys.

21 Ms. Iqbal stated the focus of PCO's work was on  
22 providing medical, mental health, and dental care for  
23 areas in Pennsylvania that were medically  
24 underserved. A variety of programs help the  
25 underserved areas of need. She stated the data that

1 is collected through their survey services  
2 significantly helps the PCO to assist the Board in  
3 applying for the PCO programs, thereby increasing the  
4 workforce in Pennsylvania of same.

5 Ms. Iqbal explained that shortage designations  
6 identify an area, population or facility experiencing  
7 a shortage of health care services. The Health  
8 Resources and Services Administration, (HRSA),  
9 creates new shortage designations and preserves the  
10 underserved ones already included.

11 The surveys include all occupational positions  
12 within the medical field. The timing of the surveys  
13 coincided with the two-year re-licensure periods.  
14 The information gathered from the surveys and re-  
15 licensure periods helps the PCO understand the  
16 specific nature and practice of each practicing  
17 medical professional. Included in the surveys are  
18 requests for the geographical locations of the  
19 medical professionals, the hours per week providing  
20 direct patient care, the percentage of patients  
21 paying with Medicaid, and others areas of specific  
22 interest that impact the potential designations of  
23 new shortage locations and preserve the already  
24 existing underserved ones. This is the primary data  
25 used by the PCO as it supports a workforce analysis

1 understanding. It helps the Department of Health,  
2 state legislators, and stakeholders design strategies  
3 for where and when to address underserved healthcare  
4 needs. There are over 400 geographic populations and  
5 facility health professional shortage areas  
6 designated in the state of Pennsylvania and another  
7 155 medically underserved areas in same.

8 Ms. Iqbal commented that helping practitioners to  
9 qualify for federal or state recruitment helps boost  
10 the workforce in that area. She noted the need for  
11 up-to-date data from medical professional between and  
12 during the two-year period in which re-licensures are  
13 conducted.

14 Ms. Iqbal requested members visit the CMS website  
15 in the NPI and update their practice details. She  
16 strongly encouraged members to reach out to other  
17 professionals to explain the importance of completing  
18 these surveys.

19 Ms. Iqbal discussed focusing on general medical  
20 providers and not necessarily specialties like  
21 audiologists or chiropractor. This was due to the  
22 fact that the federal and state grants were geared  
23 towards general medical, mental health and dental  
24 care providers. It is a survey that is not required  
25 legislatively, but it is required for statistical



1 data.

2 Dr. Woodland asked if the surveys were collecting  
3 information on the age of the providers. Ms. Iqbal  
4 answered in the affirmative with the stipulation that  
5 gathering this type of data helps to acknowledge that  
6 a number of older practitioners could be retiring in  
7 five years or so. She discussed keeping the data  
8 accurate regarding practicing providers.

9 Dr. Woodland then inquired if there were concerns  
10 about the new budget. Ms. Iqbal agreed that it was a  
11 concern but countered with the information that  
12 Governor Shapiro had proposed a fifteen million  
13 dollar increase to help with the loan repayment  
14 program, which would be split across different  
15 providers.]

16 \*\*\*

17 Report of Prosecuting Attorneys

18 [Todd Kriner, Board Prosecution Liaison, presented  
19 Agenda Item No. 4, VRP Case No. 25-49-007566.]

20 MS. WALTER:

21 I believe the Board would entertain a  
22 motion to approve this agreement  
23 pending some corrections where the  
24 agreement refers to the participant as  
25 a nurse. I understand it also may be

1 licensed as a nurse. However, there's  
2 something conflicting between the two  
3 designations of the agreement. So that  
4 could be edited and provided at the  
5 next meeting.

6 CHAIR YEALY:

7 So a motion and a second please.

8 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

9 So moved.

10 DR. KUTZ:

11 Second.

12 CHAIR YEALY:

13 Any further discussion?

14 Hearing none, can we have a roll  
15 call vote?

16  
17 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
18 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
19 Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
20 Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 \*\*\*

23 [Mr. Kriner presented Agenda Item No. 5, VRP, Case  
24 No. 25-49-008152.]

25 CHAIR YEALY:

1                   Seeing no questions, can we have a  
2                   motion framed?

3 MS. WALTERS:

4                   I believe the Board would entertain a  
5                   motion to approve the Consent Agreement  
6                   and Order at No. 5 on the agenda, Case  
7                   No. 25-49-008152.

8 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

9                   So moved.

10 DR. KUTZ:

11                   Second.

12 CHAIR YEALY:

13                   Any further discussion?

14                   Hearing none, can we have a roll  
15                   call vote please?

16

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

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22                   \*\*\*

23 [Mr. Kriner presented Agenda Item No. 6, the Consent  
24 Agreement for Case No. 24-49-014392.]

25 CHAIR YEALY:

1                   Seeing no questions, can we have a  
2                   motion framed?

3 MS. WALTER:

4                   I believe the Board would entertain a  
5                   motion to approve the Consent Agreement  
6                   at No. 6 on the Agenda, Case No. 24-49-  
7                   014392.

8 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

9                   So moved.

10 DR. KUTZ:

11                   Second.

12 CHAIR YEALY:

13                   We have a motion and a second.

14                   Any further discussion? Hearing  
15                   none, can we have a roll call vote?

16  
17                   Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
18                   Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
19                   Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
20                   Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

21 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's  
22 name at Case No. 24-49-014392 is Ashok Panigrahy,  
23 MD.]

24                   \*\*\*

25 [Mr. Kriner presented Agenda Item No. 7, the Consent

1 Agreement for Case No. 25-49-006944.]

2 CHAIR YEALY:

3                   Hearing no questions, can you frame a  
4                   motion for us please?

5 MS. WALTER:

6                   I believe the Board would entertain a  
7                   motion to approve the Consent Agreement  
8                   at No. 7 on the Agenda, Case No. 25-49-  
9                   006944.

10 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

11                   So moved.

12 DR. KUTZ:

13                   Second.

14 CHAIR YEALY:

15                   Any further discussion? Can we have a  
16                   roll call please?

17

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

22 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's  
23 name at Case No. 25-49-006944 is Brooke Alexander-  
24 Bucher, LRT.]

25

\*\*\*

1 [Mr. Kriner presented Agenda Item No. 8, the Consent  
2 Agreement for Case No. 23-49-003551.]

3 CHAIR YEALY:

4                   Hearing no questions can we have a  
5                   motion for please?

6 MS. WALTER:

7                   I believe the Board would entertain a  
8                   motion to approve the Consent Agreement  
9                   at No. 8 on the Agenda, Case No. 23-49-  
10                  003551.

11 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

12                  So moved.

13 DR. KUTZ:

14                  Second.

15 CHAIR YEALY:

16                  Any further discussion?

17                  Hearing none, can we have a roll  
18                  call please?

19  
20                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
21                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
22                  Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
23                  Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's  
25 name at Case No. 23-49-003551 is Rajesh Movva, MD.]



1 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's  
2 name at Case No. 25-49-000323 is George Moutsatsos,  
3 MD.]

4 \*\*\*

5 [Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, presented Item No. 10 on  
6 the Agenda, the Consent Agreement for Case No. 23-49-  
7 000856.]

8 CHAIR YEALY:

9 Hearing no other questions, I'd be  
10 willing to entertain a motion.

11 MS. WALTER:

12 I believe the Board would entertain a  
13 motion to approve the Consent Agreement  
14 at No. 10 on the Agenda, Case No. 23-  
15 49-000856.

16 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

17 So moved.

18 DR. KUTZ:

19 Second.

20 CHAIR YEALY:

21 Any further discussion?

22 Hearing none, can we have a roll  
23 call please?

24

25 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.



1 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
2 Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
3 Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

4 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's  
5 name at Case No. 23-49-000856 is Craig Donald  
6 Ramsdell, MD.]

7 \*\*\*

8 [Mr. Demiral presented Item No. 11 on the Agenda, the  
9 Consent Agreement for Case No. 23-49-013623.]

10 CHAIR YEALY:

11 Hearing no questions, I'd be open to a  
12 motion please.

13 MS. WALTER:

14 I believe the Board would entertain a  
15 motion to approve the Consent Agreement  
16 at No. 11 on the Agenda, Case No. 23-  
17 49-013623.

18 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

19 So moved.

20 DR. KUTZ:

21 Second.

22 CHAIR YEALY:

23 Any further discussion?

24 Hearing none, can we have a roll  
25 call please?

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Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's  
name at Case No. 23-49-013623 is Troy Lane Potthoff,  
MD.]

\*\*\*

Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Reports from  
Hearing Examiner

MS. ARCHER:

I believe the Board would entertain a  
motion to adopt the proposed  
Adjudication and Order for Case No. 25-  
49-001674.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR YEALY:

Any further discussion?

Hearing none, may we have a roll  
call please?

1 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
2 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
3 Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
4 Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

5 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's  
6 name at Case No. 25-49-001674 is Olakunle Kayode  
7 Oluwole, MD.]

8 \*\*\*

9 MS. ARCHER:

10 I believe the Board would entertain a  
11 motion to direct Board Counsel to draft  
12 a Final Adjudication and Order for Wei  
13 Wei Song, M.D., at Case No. 24-49-  
14 015137.

15 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

16 So moved.

17 DR. KUTZ:

18 Second.

19 CHAIR YEALY:

20 Any further discussion?

21 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
22 call please?

23

1 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
2 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
3 Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
4 Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

5 [The motion carried unanimously.]

6 \*\*\*

7 MS. ARCHER:

8 Item No. 14, I believe the Board would  
9 entertain a motion to direct Board  
10 Counsel to draft the Final Adjudication  
11 and Order consistent with discussions  
12 in Executive Session for Emma McGowen,  
13 MD, at Case No. 24-49-002668.

14 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

15 So moved.

16 DR. KUTZ:

17 Second.

18 CHAIR YEALY:

19 Any further discussion?

20 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
21 call please?

22  
23 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
24 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.

1                   Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
2                   Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

3 [The motion carried unanimously.]

4                                   \*\*\*

5 Applications for Licensure - Allied Health  
6 Professionals

7 MS. ARCHER:

8                   Skipping down to Item No. 17 I believe  
9                   the Board would entertain a motion to  
10                  grant a provisional license to practice  
11                  as a behavior specialist by endorsement  
12                  to Michelle Culley to practice on for  
13                  at least 15 months before being granted  
14                  an unrestricted license.

15 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

16                  So moved.

17 DR. KUTZ:

18                  Second.

19 CHAIR YEALY:

20                  Any further discussion?

21                                  Hearing none, may we have a roll  
22                  call please?

23

24                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
25                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.

1                   Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
2                   Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

3 [The motion carried unanimously.]

4                                   \*\*\*

5 MS. ARCHER:

6                   Item No. 18, I believe the Board would  
7                   entertain a motion to provisionally  
8                   deny the application to practice as a  
9                   behavior specialist for Justin  
10                  Harriman.

11 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

12                  So moved.

13 DR. KUTZ:

14                  Second.

15 CHAIR YEALY:

16                  Any further discussion?

17                               Hearing none, may we have a roll  
18                  call please?

19  
20                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
21                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
22                  Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
23                  Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously.]

25                                   \*\*\*

1 Applications - Graduate Medical Trainee

2 MS. ARCHER:

3 At agenda Item Nos. 19 and 20, I  
4 believe the Board would entertain a  
5 motion to provisionally deny the  
6 applications to practice graduate  
7 medical trainee for Rula Atwani and  
8 Nivedita Jha.

9 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

10 So moved.

11 DR. KUTZ:

12 Second.

13 CHAIR YEALY:

14 Any further discussion?

15 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
16 call please?

17

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

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23 \*\*\*

24 Applications - Graduate Medical Trainee

25 MS. ARCHER:

1 I believe the board would entertain a  
2 motion to table the following  
3 applications and send standard reentry  
4 letters to the following applicants at  
5 agenda Item No. 21, Roy James, and at  
6 agenda Item No. 23, Kaleen Kovalovich.

7 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

8 So moved.

9 DR. KUTZ:

10 Second.

11 CHAIR YEALY:

12 Any further discussion?

13 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
14 call please?

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

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 \*\*\*

22 Applications - Initial Physician and Surgeon

23 MS. ARCHER:

24 Item No. 22 I believe the Board would  
25 entertain a motion to grant the



1 application to practice as a medical  
2 physician and surgeon for Pocharapong  
3 Jenjitranant.

4 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

5 So moved.

6 DR. KUTZ:

7 Second.

8 CHAIR YEALY:

9 Any further discussion?

10 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
11 call please?

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

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18 \*\*\*

19 Applications - Graduate Medical Trainee

20 MS. ARCHER:

21 This is agenda item 24. I believe the  
22 Board would entertain a motion to table  
23 agenda item 24 to invite the applicant  
24 Rim Abou Chakra and D to apply for and  
25 practice on an institutional license to

1 allow them to obtain US clinical  
2 experience before being granted an  
3 unrestricted license.

4 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

5 So moved.

6 DR. KUTZ:

7 Second.

8 CHAIR YEALY:

9 Any further discussion?

10 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
11 call please?

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

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18 \*\*\*

19 Applications - Reactivations

20 MS. ARCHER:

21 I believe the Board would entertain a  
22 motion to table the following  
23 applications and send a standard  
24 reentry letter to the applicants at  
25 Agenda Item No. 25, Frank Milani, MD,

1 and at Agenda Item No. 27, Sariya  
2 Pacheco-Smith, MD.

3 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

4 So moved.

5 DR. KUTZ:

6 Second.

7 CHAIR YEALY:

8 Any further discussion?

9 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
10 call please?

11

12 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
13 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
14 Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
15 Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

16 [The motion carried unanimously.]

17 \*\*\*

18 MS. ARCHER:

19 I believe the Board would entertain a  
20 motion to grant the reactivation  
21 application for prescriptive authority  
22 for Emma Rose.

23 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

24 So moved.

25 DR. KUTZ:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR YEALY:

3 Any further discussion?

4 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
5 call please?

6

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

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12 \*\*\*

13 Ratifications

14 MS. ARCHER:

15 And agenda Item Nos. 28 through 36. I  
16 believe the Board would entertain a  
17 motion to ratify the granting of the  
18 following applications to practice as a  
19 physician and surgeon: Hasan Alarawi,  
20 MD; Christopher Glenn Bruce, MD.;  
21 Pingal Anilbhai Desai, MD; Catherine  
22 Policarpio Policina, MD; Saban Subedi,  
23 MD; Akhil Tanwar, MD; Shohei Yoshida,  
24 MD; Bo Ram Kim, MD; and Sameh Mikhail,  
25 MD.

1 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

2 So moved.

3 DR. KUTZ:

4 Second.

5 CHAIR YEALY:

6 Any further discussion?

7 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
8 call please?

9

10 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
11 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
12 Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
13 Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 \*\*\*

16 MS. ARCHER:

17 The final vote for agenda Item No. 39,  
18 I believe the Board would entertain a  
19 motion to deny the reconsideration  
20 request of Garrett Blanchet.

21 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

22 So moved.

23 DR. KUTZ:

24 Second.

25 CHAIR YEALY:

1 Any further discussion?

2 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
3 call please?

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

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10 \*\*\*

11 FSMB Update - No Report

12 \*\*\*

13 For the Boards Information - Discussion / Board  
14 Meeting Dates

15 CHAIR YEALY:

16 There is one typographical error in the  
17 2026 proposed Board meeting dates  
18 instead of June 3rd. I believe that  
19 needs to be changed. Mr. Cassell, do I  
20 have that correct?

21 MR. CASSELL:

22 Yes. June 30th.

23 CHAIR YEALY:

24 Happy to entertain a motion to approve  
25 with the singular change noted in 2026.

1 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

2 So moved.

3 DR. KUTZ:

4 Second.

5 CHAIR YEALY:

6 Any further discussion?

7 Hearing none, may we have a roll  
8 call please?

9

10 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.  
11 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.  
12 Dillon, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms.  
13 Okereh, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 \*\*\*

16 Regulatory Report

17 [Ms. Shana Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel, presented  
18 on regulatory issues. She stated that the physician  
19 assistant regulation will be published effective July  
20 5th, 2025.

21 She commented that Item No. 15 is for the members  
22 information regarding House Bill 1640. It is the  
23 Judiciary code as it relates to the production of  
24 reproductive health records and other things.

1        Ms. Walter informed members that Item No. 16 on  
2 the Legislative Reference Bureau, Bill 507, has been  
3 modified and created a licensure class, the first for  
4 certified midwives, currently in committee.

5        Information and analysis are requested from our  
6 legislative office.

7        Chair Yealy then asked Ms. Walter, if he was  
8 correct about inferring from the language in the bill  
9 the privacy aspect of reproductive services and the  
10 potential protection of same. Ms. Walter stated it  
11 was in the Judiciary committee at this point.]

12                                \*\*\*

13 Report of Board Administrator - No Report

14                                \*\*\*

15 Report on Committee of License Qualifications

16 [Gerald Dillon, Ph.D., reported to members that  
17 graduates of Canadian medical schools will no longer  
18 be accredited because the LCME (Liaison Committee on  
19 Medical Education) has withdrawn its accreditation  
20 status from Canadian medical schools.

21        Dr. Dillon wanted to let the Pennsylvania State  
22 Board of Medicine know the volume of his committee's  
23 input. He further explained that their committee  
24 oversees requests to review applications and license  
25 issues in order to expedite those that can move



1 forward more quickly. For the first half of 2025 the  
2 committee received approximately 45 applicant cases  
3 to review and was able to approve about two-thirds of  
4 them, thus allowing those cases to move forward  
5 without requiring review and approval by the full  
6 Board."

7 Report of Committee on Legislation/Policy Development  
8 and Review

9 [Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, informed  
10 members that this committee is to bring forth issues  
11 that might impact licensure workforce within  
12 legislative issues within the Commonwealth.

13 He stated the Pennsylvania Rule of Civil  
14 Procedure 1006A1 contained a venue rule change. In  
15 the late 1990s, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court  
16 initially declared a venue change in the rule of  
17 Civil Procedure, 1006.81, that medical cases filing  
18 against medical providers were limited to filing  
19 within the same venue that they had occurred. This  
20 lowered the cost of medical malpractice liability and  
21 caused a decrease in the number of cases filed  
22 throughout the state.

23 This rule of 2023 was repealed by the Superior  
24 Court of PA which has had a significant impact on the  
25 medical community. Plaintiff awards have increased.

1 Legal filings are submitted to different venues,  
2 depending on what might be the most favorable venue  
3 to file pleadings or how much a certain court or  
4 venue might award the plaintiff should they win their  
5 case.

6 Dr. Woodland commented that the Procedure Rules  
7 Committee of the Supreme Court will review the impact  
8 rule change.

9 Dr. Woodland advised members that the Federation  
10 of State Medical Boards has held that the deadline  
11 for submitting comments regarding alternate pathways  
12 for licensure is July 11th, 2025.

13 He further informed the members that the US  
14 Supreme Court (SCOTUS) issued a ruling at the end of  
15 June in favor of the Affordable Care Act.

16 Additionally, Dr. Woodland suggested that anyone  
17 wanting to join the Journal Medical Regulation as  
18 part of the review panel to please let him know. He  
19 forewarned members about the ability of the United  
20 States Preventative Task Force to continue to make  
21 recommendations on preventative services and the fact  
22 that all states will have the culpability of abiding  
23 by those issues.

24 Dr. Woodland mentioned that the AMA had written a  
25 letter about the impact of the recent limitations on

1 visas and non U.S. citizens and the potential impact  
2 it may have on the workforce.

3 Lastly, he stated that Representative Arvin  
4 Venkat of Allegheny County proactively put together  
5 protecting vaccine access legislation that may be of  
6 interest for us here in the Commonwealth should  
7 things go south with vaccines.

8 Chair Yealy noted his concerns about what he  
9 believed to be a misunderstanding that individuals,  
10 who have completed medical training outside of  
11 Pennsylvania, must complete full retraining. He  
12 emphasized that anyone completing medical school or a  
13 residency elsewhere might need to do partial  
14 retraining. The state of Pennsylvania recognizes  
15 that there are several different pathways to  
16 licensure and that his hope was that the people of  
17 the Commonwealth understood that.]

18 \*\*\*

19 Report of the Committee of Health Related  
20 Professionals - No Report

21 \*\*\*

22 Report of the Department of Health  
23 [Robert Bonacci, M.D., Department of Health, informed  
24 members about the measles outbreak in the U.S. and

1 cautioned them about the importance of keeping up  
2 with the MMR vaccine.

3 He also updated members on HANS, health alerts,  
4 that have been issued for Pennsylvania including the  
5 recent heat dome that hovered over the state, as well  
6 as advising tips to avoid heat stroke.

7 Dr. Bonacci informed Board members about the  
8 existence of a drug known as medetomidine, typically  
9 used by veterinarians as a sedative or anesthesia for  
10 animals but now being recognized for its overdoses  
11 and withdrawal symptoms for human drug users.

12 He further alluded to the fentanyl drug supply in  
13 the state having been contaminated with xylazine, a  
14 sedative. The xylazine contamination in fentanyl is  
15 decreasing but the medetomidine is replacing it. He  
16 suggested that medications such as dexmedetomidine or  
17 clonidine can help with the withdrawal of  
18 medetomidine.

19 Dr. Woodland asked Dr. Bonacci about any updates  
20 on mosquito-borne illnesses or anything similar. Dr.  
21 Bonacci stated the bigger issue might be tick-borne  
22 illnesses and to take precautions when outside.

23 Chair Yealy recognized and introduced Dr. Mike  
24 Lynch and Dr. Jeanne Marie Perrone, who have  
25 contributed to educating the Commonwealth and the

1 entire U.S. about the rapidity, depth and withdrawal  
2 of the drug, medetomidine.]

3 \*\*\*

4 Report of the Acting Commissioner

5 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of  
6 Professional and Occupational Affairs, stated the  
7 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact would be up and  
8 running as of July 7th. A press release was issued  
9 and there will be instructions and videos on the  
10 Board's website on how to complete an application.]

11 \*\*\*

12 Report of the Vice Chairman

13 [Michael R. Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP, Vice  
14 Chair, stated a celebration was in order as the  
15 Commonwealth had become a state of principal  
16 licensure in the Interstate of Medical License for  
17 Compact. This would help with recruitment, physician  
18 retention, and other significant benefits.]

19 \*\*\*

20 Report of the Board Chair

21 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, stated June was Pride  
22 Month and National Cancer Survivals Day. He  
23 announced many of the holidays, both in the U.S. and  
24 Canada, that took place during the month of June but  
25 focused on World Hepatitis Day.

1 Chair Yealy emphasized the need for practical  
2 self-care, particularly regarding Hepatitis C.]

3 \*\*\*

4 Public Comments

5 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, asked if there were any  
6 questions from anyone either as part of the Board or  
7 outside of the Board.]

8 Dr. Gregory Dischman inquired as to the status of  
9 reactivating his license. Chair Yealy did not have  
10 the details but would later provide an answer. Ms.  
11 Walters would reach out to Dr. Dischman.]

12 \*\*\*

13 Adjournment

14 CHAIR YEALY:

15 I don't see any other hands up for  
16 questions. So happy to entertain a  
17 motion to adjourn.

18 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

19 So moved.

20 DR. KUTZ:

21 Second.

22 \*\*\*

23 [There being no other business, the State Board of  
24 Medicine Meeting adjourned at 11:57 p.m.]

25 \*\*\*

26

## 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Allison Walker', is written over a horizontal line.

Allison Walker,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE  
REFERENCE INDEX  
July 1, 2025

<u>TIME</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
8:45	Executive Session
10:30	Return to Open Session
10:32	Official Call to Order
10:34	Roll Call
10:36	Approval of Minutes
10:52	Report of Prosecuting Attorneys
11:11	Report of Board Counsel
11:13	Applications for Licensure
11:24	Report of Regulatory Counsel
11:50	Report of Board Chair
11:50	Report of Vicechair
11:48	Report of Acting Commissioner
10:37	Appointment - Licensure Survey
11:41	Report of the Department of Health
11:31	Report on Legislative - Policy Development and Review
11:28	Report of Committee on Licensure Qualifications
11:23	Miscellaneous
11:52	Other
11:54	Report of Committee on Legislation/Policy Development and Review
11:54	Public Session
11:57	Adjournment