State Board of Medicine March 4, 2025

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BOARD MEMBERS:

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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 Robert Bonacci, M.D., on behalf of Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, FABM, Secretary of Health John D. Six, M.D. - Absent John A. Kutz, M.D., FACS - Absent Catherine N. Udekwu, M.D. - Absent Adanma S. Okereh, CNM, CRNP, Nurse Midwife

Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel Michael Merten, Esquire, Counsel Division, Department of State Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Counsel Division, Department of State Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Patrick Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Adrianne Rachelle McClendon, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Courtney J. Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Saiyad Ali, Acting Board Administrator Jamison Cassel, Board Administrator Kathleen A. Mullen, Executive Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of State Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director, Department of State

Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State

Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc. (814) 536-8908

$\frac{\texttt{State Board of Medicine}}{\texttt{March 4, 2025}}$

ALSO PRESENT:

Mary Marshall, Director, Workforce & Professional Development, The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

Angie Armbrust, Senior Associate, McNees-Winter Group LLC

Lisa Claypool Stevenson, Senior Associate Counsel, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Nicole Sidle, Republican Executive Director, House Professional Licensure Committee

Misha Patel, M.D., Curriculum Education Assistant, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

Randy Stevens, Director of Legislative Affairs, Pennsylvania Orthotic and Prosthetic Society

Heather Swimley, Behavior Specialist

Susan DeSantis, PA-C, Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants

Suzanne Landis Kaczor, Owner, Indian Valley Acupuncture

Wesley J. Rish, Esquire, Rish Law Office, LLC Heather Wilson, MSW, CFRE, Executive Director, Physicians' Health Program, Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society

Tracey Ziegler, RN, BSN, NHP, Nurse Consultant and NHP Advisory Committee Member, Physicians' Health Program

Tanya Miller, MS, LAT, ATC, Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society

Tracy L. Adams, BC, Program Manager, KSTAR Physician Program, A&M Rural and Community Health Institute Stephen Walling, M.D., KSTAR Physician Program, A&M Rural and Community Health Institute

Laura Neil

| William Reynolds

40 | Stephanie 41 | Rachel Wi

Rachel Wilbur-Adams, Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.

4 State Board of Medicine 1 2 March 4, 2025 3 * * * 4 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, 5 at 8:45 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session with Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, 6 7 and Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial 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 12 10:30 a.m.] 13 * * * 14 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State 15 Board of Medicine was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. 16 Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, called the 17 meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. 18 Chair Yealy welcomed everyone and thanked them 19 for their support. * * * 20 21 Acknowledge Public - Turn Off Electronic Devices 22 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, requested all 23 electronic devices be silenced.] 24

Introduction of Board Members/Attendees

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1
   [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, requested an
2
   introduction of Board members and attendees.
3
   quorum of Board members was present.]
 4
5
   Approval of minutes of the January 28, 2025 meeting
   CHAIR YEALY:
6
                  The minutes from our previous meeting
8
                  that was Chaired by Dr. Woodland have
9
                  been circulated and are available now
10
                  for approval.
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
11
                  So moved.
12
13
   MR. EISENHAUER:
14
                  Second.
15
   CHAIR YEALY:
16
                  Any discussion, conversation, or
17
                  concerns? Hearing none.
18
                       Can we get a roll call, Saiyad?
19
20
                  Mr. Claggett, abstain; Dr. Yealy, aye;
21
                  Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye;
22
                  Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye;
23
                  Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
24
   [The motion carried. Arion Claggett abstained from
25
   voting on the motion.]
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2 | Appointment - KSTAR Assessment Presentation

- 3 | [Tracy L. Adams, BBC, Program Manager, KSTAR
- 4 Physician Program, A&M Rural and Community Health
- 5 Institute, provided an overview of the history of A&M
- 6 Rural and Community Health Institute. She noted
- 7 KSTAR stands for Knowledge, Skills, Training,
- 8 Assessment, and Research.
- 9 Ms. Adams stated A&M Rural and Community Health
 10 Institute offers physician and physician assistant
 11 assessments, fitness for duty evaluations, late12 career physician evaluations, mini-residency reentry,
- 13 local reentry, and return to board eligibility.
- 14 Ms. Adams addressed physician and physician
- 15 assistant assessments and competency of practice.
- 16 She explained that the reasons for assessments are
- 17 | typically either reentry or remediation. She noted
- 18 reentry assessment are usually third-party referrals
- 19 but can also be self-referrals.
- Ms. Adams addressed remediation, where there is
- 21 usually an identified concern of either the people
- 22 around them or a patient. She discussed assessment
- 23 modalities, including a peer review chart
- 24 presentation, cognitive screening, ethics and
- 25 professionalism testing, and psychological evaluation

if appropriate.

Ms. Adams noted a typical assessment is two days and includes orientation, cognitive screening, a pharmacology test, an ethics test, and then the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) test. She provided a list of specialties for the Board's information.

Ms. Adams stated the information is sent to their committee for review, noting a consult would review the assessment if there is not a committee member of that specialty. She discussed the final report, including the recommendations.

Ms. Adams explained that fitness for duty assesses overall health, physical ability, mental ability, cognitive screening, fine motor skills, and 360 feedback for someone who has been out for an illness or an injury but ready to return. She noted the individual can be self-referred or from the facility.

Ms. Adams addressed remediation, where the physician is just not acting as they used to act. She reported complaints are usually by those around them but could be from their patients. She mentioned the complaints are usually from a facility but could be from a physician health plan or state medical

board.

Ms. Adams discussed evaluation modalities, including a physical exam and occupational therapy. She mentioned cognitive screening is not done unless the facility or the referral source has already identified a cognitive issue.

Ms. Adams explained that a full neurocognitive evaluation would be requested upfront. She mentioned a neuropsychological exam would be performed, and the 360-degree feedback if the physician is still in practice. All of the information would be in their final report. She noted the information will be reviewed by one of their medical facilitators and then write a final report with recommendations.

Ms. Adams addressed late-career physician assessment, noting there are not many. She mentioned some facilities have mandated that all of their physicians at age 70 have a screening and then every two years after. She explained that the assessment is not an identified concern and just a screening, which includes a physical exam, cognitive screening, review of their recent patient charts, and 360-degree feedback.

Ms. Adams addressed reentry programs, including their mini-residency program. She reported on

working with UTMB Health in Galveston and Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, noting someone would have to be approved by the facility to work with their residency program. She mentioned the individual would get hands-on clinical care for three months but not actually be part of the program.

Ms. Adams stated the Texas Medical Board will give them a KSTAR visiting physician temporary permit and the Texas Medical Liability and Trust (TMLT) will give them insurance. She also discussed local opportunities for someone who wants to go back into outpatient practice by providing KSTAR assessment and education if they can identify somebody in their area willing to give them the clinical opportunity.

Ms. Adams noted Texas can provide a permit for anyone in Texas, but anyone not in Texas would have to have a medical license to be able to put their hands on patients and get their own insurance.

Ms. Adams also discussed their return to board eligibility program for those who have timed out of Board eligibility who may need a baseline assessment and six months of education and supervision.

Chair Yealy asked for the location of the reentry program and direct cost for individuals aside from living expenses.

Ms. Adams explained that the reentry program is in Galveston with UTMB or in Corpus Christi if at Driscoll. She reported the cost of a KSTAR assessment \$12,600, along with a \$350 application fee, cost of a mini-residency of \$13,500, insurance between \$900 and just over \$1,000.

Ms. Adams further explained that local reentry would still have the assessment, but the reentry piece to them would be \$3,000 for the education and oversight, and any payment to the supervisor would be between them.

Dr. Woodland asked how clinical sites are approved or not approved from the judgment in the program. He requested information regarding how many people successfully completed the program and whether they have any personal stories.

Ms. Adams explained that anybody can have an assessment but to get into the mini-residency program they must have completed a residency in the United States in the same specialty they want to return to, have no previous board issues, and no substance abuse issues. She mentioned it is up to the facility as far as program capacity.

Ms. Adams explained that there are usually two to four individuals in the program a year that have

mostly gone back to work. She mentioned a couple of them returned to administration instead of going back into practice but almost everyone has gone back into practice. She also mentioned it gives them the cases they need to get through credentialing.

Dr. Woodland asked whether they have reentry programs for athletic trainers, respiratory therapists, and behavioral therapists, and Ms. Adams noted they have not approached any of that.

Stephen Walling, M.D., KSTAR Physician Program, A&M Rural and Community Health Institute, stated their primary tasks at KSTAR are to generate a valid and actionable assessment on each referred physician and getting people who are worthy of practicing in their community.

Ms. Archer informed Board that it could deliberate on the presentation at the next Board meeting and vote to maybe add KSTAR to the list of Board-approved reentry programs.

Chair Yealy thanked Ms. Adams and Dr. Walling for their presentation.]

22 **

[Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, noted the meeting was being recorded and voluntary participation constituted consent to be recorded.

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12
        Ms. Walter also noted the Board entered into
1
2
   quasi-judicial deliberations this morning to discuss
3
   matters on the agenda and to receive the advice of
4
   counsel.]
                              * * *
5
   Report of Prosecuting Attorneys
6
7
   [Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Acting Senior Board
   Prosecutor and Prosecution Liaison, presented the
   Consent Agreement for VRP Case No. 25-49-000017 and
   VRP Case No. 25-49-000194.1
10
11
   MS. WALTER:
                  I believe the Board would entertain a
12
13
                  motion to approve the Consent
14
                  Agreements at numbers 4 and 5 on the
15
                  agenda, VRP Case No. 25-49-000017 at
16
                  number 4 on the agenda and number 5,
                  Case No. 25-49-000194.
17
18
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
                  So moved.
19
20
   MR. EISENHAUER:
21
                  Second.
22
   CHAIR YEALY:
23
                  Any conversation? Hearing none.
24
                  Saiyad, can we have a roll call?
25
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13
1
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
2
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
3
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
 4
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
5
   [The motion carried unanimously.]
                              * * *
6
7
   [Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
   presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 24-49-
9
   010578.1
   MS. WALTER:
10
11
                  I believe the Board would entertain a
12
                  motion to approve the Consent Agreement
13
                  at Case No. 24-49-010578.
14
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
15
                  So moved.
   MR. EISENHAUER:
16
17
                  Second.
18
   CHAIR YEALY:
19
                  Any conversation? Hearing none.
20
                  Saiyad, can we have a roll call vote?
21
22
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
23
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
24
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
25
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
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14
1
   [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
2
   name is Jared Raymond Halverson.
3
4
   [Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
5
   presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 23-49-
   017339.1
6
7
   MS. WALTER:
                  I believe the Board would entertain a
8
9
                  motion to approve the Consent Agreement
10
                  at number 7 on the agenda at Case No.
                  23-49-017339.
11
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
12
13
                  So moved.
14
   MR. EISENHAUER:
15
                  Second.
   CHAIR YEALY:
16
17
                  Any further conversation? Hearing
18
                  none. Can we have a roll call vote?
19
20
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
21
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
22
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
23
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
24
   [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
25
   name is Albert M. Bleggi, M.D.]
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2
   [Courtney J. Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
3
   presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 21-49-
   006862.1
4
5
   MS. WALTER:
                  I believe the Board would entertain a
6
7
                  motion to approve the Consent Agreement
8
                  at number 8 on the agenda at Case No.
9
                  21-49-006862.
10
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
11
                  So moved.
   MR. EISENHAUER:
12
13
                  Second.
14
   CHAIR YEALY:
15
                  Any further conversation? Hearing
16
                  none. Roll call vote, please.
17
18
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
19
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
20
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
21
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
22
   [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
23
   name is Steven Brian Pawelczak.]
                              * * *
24
25
   [Courtney J. Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
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16
1
   presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 22-49-
2
   008891.1
3
   MS. WALTER:
                  I believe the Board would entertain a
 4
 5
                  motion to approve the Consent Agreement
                  at number 9 at Case No. 22-49-008891.
 6
7
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
8
                  So moved.
9
   MR. EISENHAUER:
10
                  Second.
11
   CHAIR YEALY:
12
                  Any further conversation? Hearing
13
                  none. Can we have a roll call vote,
14
                  please?
15
16
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
17
18
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
19
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
20
   [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
   name is Richard Shunan Chang, M.D.]
21
                              * * *
22
23
   [Courtney J. Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
24
   presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 24-49-
25
   014644.]
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17
1
   MS. WALTER:
2
                  I believe the Board would entertain a
3
                  motion to approve the Consent Agreement
                  at number 10 at Case No. 24-49-014644.
 4
5
   MR. DILLON:
6
                  I so move.
7
   MR. EISENHAUER:
8
                  Second.
9
   CHAIR YEALY:
10
                  Any further conversation? Hearing
                  none. Can we have a roll call vote?
11
12
13
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye;
14
                  Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye;
15
                  Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
16
   [The motion carried. Donald Yealy and Michael
17
   Ripchinski recused themselves from deliberations and
18
   voting on the motion. The Respondent's name is
19
   Nkemdilim Obiorah Stanley Ezeife, MD.]
                              * * *
20
21
   [Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
22
   informed Board members that he has accepted a
23
   position with another Commonwealth agency and this
24
   would be his last meeting. He expressed his
25
   admiration and gratitude to Board members and staff.
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18
        Chair Yealy also noted being grateful for Mr.
1
   Williams and wished him luck with his new
2
3
   opportunity.
4
        He presented the Consent Agreement for Case No.
5
   20-49-009383.1
   MS. WALTER:
6
                  I believe the Board would entertain a
8
                  motion to approve the Consent Agreement
9
                  at number 11 at Case No. 20-49-009383.
10
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
11
                  So moved.
   MR. EISENHAUER:
12
13
                  Second.
14
   CHAIR YEALY:
15
                  Any conversation? Hearing none.
16
                  we have a roll call vote?
17
18
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
19
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
20
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
21
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
22
   [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
23
   name is David Kalkstein, M.D.]
                              * * *
24
25
   Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Reports from
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Hearing Examiner/Adjudications for Board Approval
1
2
   MS. ARCHER:
3
                  At agenda items 12 and 15, I believe
                  the Board would entertain a motion to
 4
 5
                  direct Board Counsel to draft an
 6
                  Adjudication and Order as discussed in
7
                  Executive Session for Christina
                  Edwards, Case No. 24-49-003923 and
9
                  Elias Arthur Karkalas, M.D., Case No.
                  22-49-007974.
10
11
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
                  So moved.
12
13
   MR. EISENHAUER:
14
                  Second.
15
   CHAIR YEALY:
16
                  Any conversation on either of these two
                  cases? Can we have a roll call vote?
17
18
19
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
20
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
21
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
22
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
23
   [The motion carried unanimously.]
24
                              * * *
25
   MS. ARCHER:
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At agenda items 13 and 14, I believe
1
2
                  the Board would entertain a motion to
3
                  adopt the Proposed Adjudication and
 4
                  issue a Final Board Order for Gretchen
 5
                  Manbeck, Case No. 24-49-008434, and
 6
                  Harold L. Mignott, M.D., Case No. 18-
7
                  49-005488.
8
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
9
                  So moved.
10
   MR. EISENHAUER:
11
                  Second.
   CHAIR YEALY:
12
13
                  Any further conversation? Hearing
14
                  none. Can we have a roll call vote?
15
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
16
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
17
18
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
19
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
20
   [The motion carried unanimously.]
                              * * *
21
22
   Report of Board Counsel - Final Adjudications for
23
     Board Approval
   MS. ARCHER:
24
25
                  At agenda item 16, I believe the Board
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21
1
                  would entertain a motion to adopt as
2
                  Final the Draft Adjudication and Order
3
                  for Heather Swimley, Case No. 24-49-
                  009076.
 4
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
5
                  So moved.
6
7
   MR. EISENHAUER:
8
                  Second.
9
   CHAIR YEALY:
10
                  Any further conversation? Hearing
11
                  none. Roll call vote, please.
12
13
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
14
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
15
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
16
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
17
   [The motion carried unanimously.]
                              * * *
18
19
   Applications for Licensure - Allied Health
20
     Professionals
   MS. ARCHER:
21
22
                  At agenda item 21, I believe the Board
23
                  would entertain a motion to
24
                  provisionally deny the Application to
25
                  Practice as a Behavior Specialist of
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22 1 Azoti Kossu. 2 DR. RIPCHINSKI: 3 So moved. MR. EISENHAUER: 4 5 Second. 6 CHAIR YEALY: 7 Any conversation? Hearing none. Roll 8 call vote. 9 10 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. 11 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. 12 Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. 13 Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye. 14 [The motion carried unanimously.] 15 MS. ARCHER: 16 At agenda items 22 through 25, I 17 18 believe the Board would entertain a 19 motion to grant the following 20 Applications: The License to Practice 21 as a Behavior Specialist of Jessica 22 Sara Leach, Maimouna Ndongo, Stephanie 23 Chara Trujillo, and the Application for 24 a Registration to Practice as a 25 Naturopathic Doctor for Michal

23 1 Waldfogel. 2 DR. RIPCHINSKI: 3 So moved. 4 MR. EISENHAUER: 5 Second. 6 CHAIR YEALY: 7 Any conversation? Hearing none. Roll 8 call vote, please. 9 10 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. 11 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. 12 Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. 13 Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye. 14 [The motion carried unanimously.] 15 16 Applications for Licensure - Unrestricted Physicians and Surgeons 17 18 MS. ARCHER: 19 At agenda item 26, I believe the Board 20 would entertain a motion to 21 provisionally deny Application for a 22 License to Practice as Physician and 23 Surgeon of Ona Colasante, M.D. 24 DR. RIPCHINSKI: 25 So moved.

24 1 MR. EISENHAUER: 2 Second. 3 CHAIR YEALY: 4 Any further conversation? Hearing 5 none. Can we have a roll call vote? 6 7 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. 8 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. 9 Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. 10 Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye. 11 [The motion carried unanimously.] 12 13 MS. ARCHER: 14 At agenda items 27 and 28, I believe 15 the Board would entertain a motion to 16 grant the Application for a License to 17 Practice as a Physician and Surgeon of 18 Thomas Dowhan, M.D. and Hassan 19 Khojasteh Jafari, M.D. DR. RIPCHINSKI: 20 21 So moved. 22 MR. EISENHAUER: 23 Second. 24 CHAIR YEALY: 25 Any conversation? Hearing none. Roll

25 call vote. 1 2 3 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. 4 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. 5 Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye. 6 7 [The motion carried unanimously.] * * * 8 9 MS. ARCHER: I believe the Board would entertain a 10 motion to table agenda item 29 to allow 11 12 Marah Shelbayh, M.D. to apply for and 13 practice on an Institutional License to 14 allow her to obtain U.S. clinical 15 experience. DR. RIPCHINSKI: 16 17 So moved. 18 MR. EISENHAUER: 19 Second. 20 CHAIR YEALY: 21 Any further conversation? Hearing 22 none. Roll call vote. 23 24 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. 25 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.

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26
1
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
2
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
3
   [The motion carried unanimously.]
 4
5
   Applications for Licensure - Reactivations
6
   MS. ARCHER:
7
                  At agenda item 31, I believe the Board
                  would entertain a motion to deny the
8
9
                  Waiver Request of Joel Scott Smiley to
10
                  accept the Act 126 Vector Solutions in
11
                  lieu of the child abuse training
12
                  requirement.
13
   DR. RIPCHINSKI:
14
                  So moved.
15
   MR. EISENHAUER:
16
                  Second.
   CHAIR YEALY:
17
18
                  Any further conversation? Hearing
                  none. Roll call vote.
19
20
21
                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
22
                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
23
                  Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr.
24
                  Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye.
25
   [The motion carried unanimously.]
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27 * * * 1 MS. ARCHER: 2 3 At agenda items 30 and 33, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to 4 5 grant the following Reactivation Applications: Eric J. Fritch, Michael 6 7 Dougherty. 8 DR. RIPCHINSKI: 9 So moved. 10 MR. EISENHAUER: 11 Second. CHAIR YEALY: 12 13 Any conversation? Hearing none. Roll 14 call vote, please. 15 16 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. 17 18 Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. 19 Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye. 20 [The motion carried unanimously.] * * * 21 22 MS. ARCHER: 23 I believe the Board would entertain a 24 motion to table agenda items 32, 35, 25 36, 37, 38, and 39 to allow the

1 following Applicants to complete a 2 Reentry Program: Valerie A. Brown, 3 Charlotte Morris, Robert M. 4 D'Alessandri, M.D., Steven Perkins, 5 M.D., Julie Zrubek, M.D. DR. RIPCHINSKI: 6 7 So moved. 8 MR. EISENHAUER: 9 Second. 10 CHAIR YEALY: 11 Any further conversation? Seeing no 12 conversation, can we have a roll call 13 vote, please? 14 15 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. 16 17 Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. 18 Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye. 19 [The motion carried unanimously.] * * * 20 MS. ARCHER: 21 22 At agenda item 34, I believe the Board 23 would entertain a motion to table this 24 agenda item to allow the Board to 25 obtain additional information regarding

29 hands-on care for Shannon Louise 1 2 Childs. 3 DR. RIPCHINSKI: 4 So moved. 5 MR. EISENHAUER: Second. 6 7 CHAIR YEALY: Any further conversation? Hearing 9 none. May we have a roll call vote, 10 please? 11 12 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. 13 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. 14 Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. 15 Bonacci, aye; Ms. Okereh, aye. 16 [The motion carried unanimously.] 17 18 MS. ARCHER: At agenda item 35, I believe the Board 19 20 would entertain a motion to grant the 21 Reactivation Application to Practice as 22 a Nurse Midwife of Tonja Greene, noting 23 Dr. Okereh has been recused. 24 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

So moved.

30 1 MR. EISENHAUER: 2 Second. 3 CHAIR YEALY: 4 Any further conversation? Hearing 5 none. May we have a roll call vote, please? 6 7 Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. 9 Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. 10 Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. 11 Bonacci, aye. [The motion carried. Adanma Okereh recused herself 12 13 from deliberations and voting on the motion.] 14 15 Ratifications MS. ARCHER: 16 At agenda item 40, I believe the Board 17 18 would entertain a motion to ratify the 19 granting of the Application for a 20 License to Practice as a Physician and 21 Surgeon of Rajesh Sasikumar, M.D. 22 DR. RIPCHINSKI: 23 So moved. 24 MR. EISENHAUER: 25 Second.

1 CHAIR YEALY:

Any further conversation? Hearing none. May we have a roll call vote, please?

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

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

Report of Board Counsel - Regulatory Status Report
[Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,
provided a Regulatory Status Report for the Board's
review.

Dr. Woodland thanked Counsel for the report and requested an update regarding the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC).

Ms. Walter noted receiving many applications with the partial implementation of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) and moving rapidly as far as becoming a state of principal licensure (SPL).

Mr. Ali reported receiving 1,415 applications, noting 588 licenses were granted for medical doctors and 104 for doctors of osteopathic medicine.

Chair Yealy stated the overall report

demonstrates the progress across the Commonwealth and

around the country on this activity, and their

ability to onboard effectively and efficiently

continues to grow.

Dr. Woodland noted the Federation of State

Medical Boards (FSMB) showed similar statistics in

other states that have implemented the IMLC.]

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Report of Board Counsel - FYI House Bill 76 - Right to Practice Medicine, Surgery, and Medically

12 related Acts

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13 [Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,

14 referred to House Bill 76, which would allow the

15 physician assistant to have a primary supervising

16 physician that is either an MD or a DO. She

17 mentioned the Board has done a previous bill

18 analysis, noting concerns have been raised by the

19 Board and statewide association.

Ms. Archer explained that it could go into their general revisions package if it moves forward but is currently pending.]

23 **

24 Report of Board Counsel - FYI House Bill 309 -

25 Visiting Team Physicians

- 1 [Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, commented that
 2 agenda item 19 was interesting concerning doctors and
 3 professionals on the teams that come into the cities
 4 for athletic events, like the Olympics.
- Ms. Walter stated House Bill 309 regarding
 visiting team physicians is an amendment to the
 Medical Practice Act as it relates to team
 physicians. She explained that the Medical Practice
 Act allows for team physicians who are licensed
 somewhere within the United States to be able to be
 accepted from the licensure requirement when
 traveling with a team.

- Mr. Walter further explained that the amendment would expand that to physicians who are licensed internationally and would also enlarge the time period that the physicians can be somewhere with their team and would go from 30 to 45 days. She reported House Bill 309 passed both the House and the Senate and is with the governor's office.
- Mr. Eisenhauer asked whether there are any limitations on who they can provide care for while they are in the state.
- Ms. Walter explained that it is limited to practicing and having a contractual relationship traveling and treating their team.

Dr. Woodland asked how caregivers that come to the state with theater groups or musicians are regulated because they do not have a state license to provide care in the state.

Ms. Walter explained that the team physician exception has been in existence for decades and is only now being proposed to be expanded to international physicians. She mentioned that national sporting organizations, like the National Hockey League (NHL), have hockey teams in Canada and hockey teams based in the United States.

Ms. Walter stated it has to be an organized sport under the existing Practice Act with a national body, where the care is limited to the team.

Dr. Woodland again referred to musicians and theater groups who bring their own out-of-state providers and referred to them as practicing medicine in Pennsylvania without a license.

Dr. Ripchinski thanked Ms. Walter for her heavy involvement in getting it across the finish line, noting it to be a very small and common-sense change to the Medical Practice Act to allow them to accommodate many international sporting events happening in Philadelphia.

Dr. Ripchinksi recognized Dr. Margot Putukian,

- 1 | the chief medical director for Philadelphia, and Dr.
- 2 | Katharina Grimm, the Medical Lead in Switzerland,
- 3 | with the Federation Internationale de Football
- 4 | Association (FIFA) who helped bring this to light
- 5 as a need in the Commonwealth and to recognize other
- 6 states have adopted similar language. He offered to
- 7 provide a link of the language change in their act.
- 8 Dr. Ripchinski commented that FIFA is not until
- 9 2026 in Philadelphia, but they are actually
- 10 qualifying games and beginning rounds as early as
- 11 | the middle of 2025.
- 12 Chair Yealy stated the Board provided feedback
- 13 about the proposed changes that encompass much of
- 14 what was discussed on both sides of the issue, and it
- 15 is now part of the law.]
- 16
- 17 | For the Board's Information/Discussion Committee
- 18 | Member Discussion
- 19 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, addressed the
- 20 review of committee member structure to ensure they
- 21 have the best people within their areas and the
- 22 importance of having enough people addressing the key
- 23 functions happening between meetings to help the
- 24 Board function and do its work.
- 25 Chair Yealy reported that everyone has agreed to

the current structure and is evidence of a healthy,
active, and dedicated Board. He noted changes across
all of the committees.

Mr. Ali noted the Chair of the Probable Cause
Screening Committee is Dr. Kutz with the addition of
Dr. Six. He reported no change to the Committee on
Health-Related Professionals. He noted proposing Dr.
Woodland as the new Chair of the Committee on
Legislation/Policy Development and Review and Ms.
Okereh as co-Chair with the addition of Dr. Six. He
reported one change for the Committee on Licensure
Qualifications with Dr. Ripchinski added as the
primary.

Chair Yealy noted appreciation for everyone's willingness to tackle the important duties to help the Board serve the Commonwealth.]

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Report of Board Counsel - Other - FYI Scam Alert
[Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,
reminded everyone of the licensure scam that has been
taking place off and on over the last several years
specifically targeting healthcare licensees
throughout many states. She asked everyone to be
vigilant and not provide any sort of financial
benefit to anyone who may call saying their license

1 is suspended. She noted it is not their office and
2 to contact them if they suspect they are a subject of
3 a license under investigation.]

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5 For the Board's Information/Discussion - Board 6 Meeting Updates

7 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, noted upcoming 8 meeting dates for the Board's review.]

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10 Miscellaneous - Sunshine Act and Recusal Guidelines

11 [Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,

12 informed Board members that the purpose of the

13 Sunshine Act is to allow the public to be present at

14 | all meetings of the agencies and witness

15 deliberations. She stated the basics of the Sunshine

16 Act is anytime an agency holds a meeting in which

17 there are deliberations or any official action taken

18 that the meeting must be open to the public, along

19 | with public notice.

Ms. Archer provided a definition of agency, deliberations, and official action.

Ms. Archer stated an agency is required to give public notice of its first regular meeting of each calendar year, not less than three days in advance of the meeting, and also has to give public notice on

special meetings scheduled or rescheduled within 24 hours in advance. She mentioned that public notice is not required in the case of an emergency meeting or a conference.

Ms. Archer addressed public notice and posting of the agenda. She discussed Act 64 of 2021 additional requirements for public notice, including the listing of each matter of the agency business. She noted there must be a recording of all votes and written minutes for all open meetings.

Ms. Archer stated the only exceptions to open meetings are conferences and executive session. She noted deliberation of agency business cannot occur at a conference. She explained that an executive session may be held to discuss personnel issues, consult with an attorney, and review and discuss agency business, which would violate a lawful privilege or lead to disclosure of confidential information if conducted in public.

Ms. Archer further explained that executive sessions can be held before, during, or after an open meeting or may be announced for a future time. She noted the reason for holding an executive session must be announced at the open meeting immediately prior or subsequent to the executive session. She

stated official action on matters discussed at executive session shall be taken at the open meeting.

Ms. Archer mentioned that executive session may not be used as subterfuge to defeat the purpose of the act. She noted legal challenges under the Sunshine Act must be made within 30 days from the date of the meeting or within 30 days of discovery that something occurred. She mention no action may be commenced more than a year from the date of the meeting at which the alleged violation occurred. She addressed penalties for violating the Sunshine Act.

Ms. Archer noted the takeaways of the Sunshine Act is that Board business, including deliberations and official action, should be conducted at open meetings, and Board members may not discuss agency business, especially executive session matters, outside of the Board meeting.

Ms. Archer stated deliberations of a committee with a role in formulating policy must take place in an open meeting with appropriate public notice, but a committee performing an administrative function, such as reviewing applications or performing prosecutorial functions such as probable cause screening committees, are not subject to open meeting requirements.

Ms. Archer informed Board members that it is mandatory to recuse if the Board member had a prosecutorial role in a matter or has a direct personal or financial interest in the outcome of the matter.

- Ms. Archer explained that it is strongly suggested to recuse if a Board member has a personal affection for someone directly involved in the subject at issue or has knowledge from outside and cannot make an unbiased judgment.
- Ms. Archer noted that a discretionary recusal is when a Board member cannot hear or dispose of the case fairly without prejudice. She recommended Board members reach out to Board Counsel if they have any questions.
- Ms. Archer addressed abstention versus recusal, noting an abstention is to withhold their vote but does not affect the quorum. She noted recusal is when a Board member cannot vote, which can affect the quorum.
- Ms. Archer discussed conflicts of interest, where no member of any professional examining or licensing board shall at the same time be an officer or agent of any statewide association or organization representing the profession or occupation subject to

board actions. She advised anyone with any questions
about their participation in an organization or
association to reach out to counsel.

Ms. Archer also noted that public Board members cannot be a member of any profession or occupation regulated by the Board, cannot be related or be a part of an immediate family of any member of the profession or occupation, cannot be affiliated in any way with the profession or occupation, or hold any other appointed or elected public office or position within the Commonwealth, another state, or United States government agency. She noted that any person not meeting the standards set forth is ineligible for membership on the Board.

Dr. Yealy thanked Ms. Archer for the overview and thanked Board Counsel for their help working through issues. He noted the importance of transparency and conversation in advance to ensure they make the best individual and Board decisions.]

20 ***

21 Miscellaneous - DOH Accreditation Review

22 | [Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,

23 MS. ARCHER:

At agenda item 44, the Board was asked to review the Pennsylvania Department

of Health Office of Drug Surveillance and Misuse Prevention Comprehensive Approaches to Pain Management, Opioid Prescribing, and Substance Use Care Curriculum to determine whether it is an approved curriculum to satisfy the continuing medical education in the subjects of patient safety, risk management, and Act 124 opioid prescribing.

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the curriculum as presented, noting Dr. Bonacci is recused.

15 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

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16 So moved.

17 MR. EISENHAUER:

18 Second.

19 CHAIR YEALY:

20 Any conversation?

21 | [Dr. Woodland noted he would soon be attending the

22 | national Tri-Regulator Symposium and Opioid

23 Regulatory Collaborative Summit representing the FSMB

24 but also carrying the Pennsylvania State Medical

25 | Board. He noted the review and curriculum assembled

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could serve as interesting information for that group
1
2
   as well, since there are many states that are
3
   struggling with the curriculum, especially when it
   comes to opioid use disorder and how it has evolved.
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5
        Dr. Woodland thanked the Department of Health for
   putting this together and will look at referencing it
6
7
   on Thursday and Friday.
8
        Chair Yealy also noted being proud to be part of
9
   that evolution with particular thanks to Secretary
10
   Bogen and Dr. Bonacci.]
11
                  Roll call vote.
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                  Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr.
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                  Ripchinski, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr.
16
                  Dillon, abstain; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye;
17
                  Ms. Okereh, aye.
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18 [The motion carried. Robert Bonacci recused himself
19 from deliberations and voting on the motion. Gerard

20 Dillon abstained from voting on the motion.]

21

22 | Miscellaneous - BPOA Annual Report

23 [Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, noted

24 the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

25 Annual Report for the Board's review.]

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2 Miscellaneous - TOEIC Approval

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equivalent.

3 [Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,

4 referred to correspondence from UPMC asking the Board

5 to accept the Test of English for International

6 | Communication (TOEIC) advanced English language

assessment in lieu of the Test of English as a

8 Foreign Language (TOEFL). She noted they are not

9 able to consider that at this time but did bring to

10 the Board's attention that the § 17.2 may need to be

11 updated to reflect the English proficiency language

12 in both Act 41 and the acupuncture section.

Ms. Archer noted it expanded the different ways English proficiency can be established, including if their program was taken in English, if they trained in an English-speaking facility, or if their entry exam was in English. She mentioned it provided guidelines on the TOEFL and the Occupational English Test (OET) but also allowed the Board to approve other English proficiency exams that they deem

Ms. Archer stated the Board will include this in the general revisions rulemaking package. She mentioned the Board cannot answer UPMC's question but consider it on a case-by-case basis when an applicant

has taken the TOEIC.

Chair Yealy noted the Board looks forward to lending more clarity within the framework that guides and binds them.]

* * *

6 Report of Committee on Licensure Qualifications - No 7 Report

8 ***

9 Report of Committee on Legislation/Policy Development 10 and Review

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, again noted he would be representing the FSMB at the Tri-Regulator Symposium and presenting the artificial intelligence (AI) for medical regulation and update. He mentioned speaking at the Artificial Intelligence Medical

Regulation Panel recently held in Toronto.

Dr. Woodland referred to the announcement at the last meeting that they were preparing a poster based on the request by their own Black Women's Maternal Health Caucus of Pennsylvania about cultural competency and mandatory continuing medical education (CME). He noted Drexel students helped to prepare the poster, along with a member of the FSMB and other members of the Board. He also noted they submitted it for a presentation at the annual meeting of the

FSMB, which will be held in Seattle.

Chair Yealy thanked Dr. Woodland for working with Dr. Ripchinski during the transition period. He mentioned the Board and the committee in general does have significant input in legislation and policy development throughout the year.]

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8 Report of Committee on Health-Related Professionals 9 No Report

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11 Report of Department of Health

12 [Robert Bonacci, M.D., on behalf of Debra Bogen,

13 Secretary of Health, referred to the Department of

14 Health's Respiratory Virus Dashboard, noting it has

15 been a particularly nasty influenza season. He noted

16 reaching peak influenza cases in mid-February, which

17 | are on the decline.

Dr. Bonacci mentioned hospital admissions continue to rise because they have not reached their peak for influenza-related hospitalizations. He referred to 2024 and 2025, noting influenza deaths continue to rise and have also not reached their peak and notably have exceeded COVID-related deaths in this respiratory virus season.

Dr. Bonacci reinforced a prior message concerning

vaccinating patients and recommended the general public receive vaccines for influenza or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) if eligible.

Dr. Woodland requested information regarding the number of deaths of individuals related to vaccinated individuals versus unvaccinated individuals.

Dr. Bonacci was unable to provide that information.

Dr. Woodland noted the importance of vaccines, especially with the measles outbreak.

Dr. Bonacci acknowledged the measles outbreaks across the country, particularly in Texas and New Mexico. He noted the first confirmed measles case in Pennsylvania in a returning traveler. He reminded clinicians to have a heightened vigilance and awareness of the potential for measles outbreaks and individuals presenting with measles. He provided an overview of common symptoms and strongly encouraged vaccination with the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. He noted the importance of having discussions with patients and family members about vaccine status and the impactful health effects over the many decades the vaccines have been around.

Chair Yealy thanked Dr. Bonacci for the important information concerning immunization to prevent

1 maladies and death.]

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3 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

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5 Report of Board Administrator - No Report

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7 Report of Vice Chair

8 [Michael R. Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP, Vice

9 Chair, noted it to be a pleasure to serve and wanted

10 to thank Dr. Woodland for delivering the legislative

11 report and continuing that committee's important

12 work, along with his personal desire on that topic to

13 continue to advance and keep the Board informed on

14 all related topics. He referred everyone to his

15 remarks earlier on visiting team physicians.]

16

17 Report of Board Chair

18 | [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, asked everyone

19 to take a moment to reflect on the healthcare workers

20 involved in the shooting at UPMC in York, PA. He

21 stated a person with great distress inflicted harm on

22 | not only a law officer who lost his life but to

23 multiple healthcare workers who were simply there to

24 serve. He mentioned that providing safety for people

25 serving members of the community across the

Commonwealth is still an important issue.

Chair Yealy noted the importance of developing programs to help recognize, decrease the frequency, and improve the responses to events. He commented that violence in society seems to be growing and is now touching healthcare, which is generally where people go when they have the most need and are the most vulnerable. He again asked for everyone to reflect on those who were injured and the officer who lost his life.

Chair Yealy welcomed Jamison Cassel as the new Board administrator. He thanked Dr. Woodland for his dedication and being a voice for many who need healthcare and who are underserved across the Commonwealth and across the country.

Chair Yealy also thanked Dr. Woodland for his service on the Board and using his position as a physician leader at his healthcare institution and FSMB to make sure everyone is doing their best to serve people across the country.]

* *

22 Adjournment

23 CHAIR YEALY:

I would be happy to entertain a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.

	50
1	DR. RIPCHINSKI:
2	So moved.
3	MR. EISENHAUER:
4	Second.
5	* * *
6	[There being no other business, the State Board of
7	Medicine Meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.]
8	* * *
9	
10	CERTIFICATE
11	
12	I hereby certify that the foregoing summary
13	minutes of the State Board of Medicine meeting, was
14	reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and
15	that the minutes accurately summarize the substance
16	of the State Board of Medicine meeting.
17	
18	0 1 1 11
19	Richel Wilbur-Adams
20	Rachel Wilber-Adams,
21	Minute Clerk
22	Sargent's Court Reporting
23	Service, Inc.
24	
25	

		51
1 2		STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE REFERENCE INDEX
3 4 5		March 4, 2025
6 7	TIME	AGENDA
8 9 10	8:45 10:30	Executive Session Return to Open Session
11	10:33	Official Call to Order
12 13 14 15	10:33	Acknowledge Public - Turn Off Electronic Devices
16 17	10:35	Introduction of Board Members/Attendees
18	10:38	Approval of Minutes
19 20 21 22	10:38	Appointment - KSTAR Assessment Presentation
23 24	11:00	Report of Prosecuting Attorneys
25 26	11:18	Report of Board Counsel
27 28	11:21	Applications for Licensure
28 29 30	11:30	Ratifications
31 32	11:31	Report of Board Counsel (cont.)
33 34	11:42	For the Board's Information/Discussion
35 36	11:45	Report of Board Counsel (cont.)
37 38	11:47	For the Board's Information/Discussion (cont.)
39 40	11:48	Miscellaneous
41 42 43 44 45	12:04	Report of Committee on Legislation/Policy Development and Review
46	12:06	Report of Department of Health
47 48 49 50	12:12	Report of Vice Chair

		[
	STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE REFERENCE INDEX (cont.) March 4, 2025	
TIME	AGENDA	
12:13	Report of Board Chair	
12:19	Adjournment	