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

FINAL MINUTES  

MEETING OF:  

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE  

TIME:  10:32 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  

Tuesday, March 5, 2024  

Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.  
(814) 536-8908
State Board of Medicine
March 5, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS:

Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair
Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair
Michael F. Dillon, Ph.D., Public Member - Absent
Michael Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP
Walter A. Eisenhauer, MMSc, M.Ed., PA-C - Absent
Sirisha Reddy, Executive Assistant, on behalf of Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, FABM, Acting Secretary of Health
John D. Six, M.D.
John A. Kutz, M.D., FACS
Benjamin S. Abella, M.D., MPhil - Absent
Catherine N. Udekwu, M.D.

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel
Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel
Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor and Prosecution Liaison
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Lindsay Szymanski, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Saiyad Ali, Board Administrator
Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State
Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director, Department of State
State Board of Medicine  
March 5, 2024

ALSO PRESENT:

Ted Mowatt, CAE, Vice President/Lobbyist, Wanner Associates, on behalf of the Association for Professional Acupuncture  
Susan DeSantis, PA-C, Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants  
Angie Armbrust, Senior Associate, McNees-Winter Group LLC  
Rebecca Belles, LGC, Geisinger Danville - Genetics  
Wesley J. Rish, Esquire, Rish Law Office, LLC  
Misha Patel, M.D., Curriculum Education Assistant, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine  
Tanya Miller, MS, LAT, ATC, Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers’ Society  
Andrea Wandling, Human Resources Manager, Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers  
Deniz Cataltepe, M.D., Director of Chapter Development & Curriculum Development, Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic, Inc.  
Dorothy Novick, M.D., Practice-Based Scholar, Center for Violence Prevention, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Kimberly Sterner-Stein, MSW, MPH, Center for Violence Prevention, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Christina Edwards  
Lauren Chambers, D.O.  
Catherine Policina, M.D.  
Derek Richmond
State Board of Medicine

March 5, 2024

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

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The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Medicine was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Chair Woodland noted March to be the month recognizing women in medicine and thanked everyone participating who is a woman in the medical field.

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Acknowledge Public - Turn Off Electronic Devices

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and those who continued to participate were giving their consent to be recorded. He also requested electronic...]

Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.
(814) 536-8908
Introduction of Board Members/Attendees

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, provided an introduction of Board members and attendees.]

Approval of minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting

CHAIR WOODLAND:

The next item on the agenda is approval of the minutes. The minutes were distributed ahead of time, and I think the edits are back. These are for the minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting.

DR. YEALY:

I move to approve the minutes as circulated.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Do I have a second?

DR. UDEKWU:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on the minutes? Hearing none. Saiyad, could we have a roll call, please, for approval?
Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Appointment – Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic (SAFE) Presentation

[Deniz Cataltepe, M.D., Director of Chapter Development & Curriculum Development, Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic, Inc., stated she is a pediatrics resident at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). She introduced Dr. Dorothy Novick and Kimberly Sterner-Stein.

Dr. Cataltepe addressed the work they do at CHOP regarding firearm storage, counseling patients and their families, distributing gun locks to families free of charge, and providing some education.

Dr. Cataltepe provided an overview of why safe storage matters, the role of physicians, and how to discuss this issue with patients and their families.

Dr. Cataltepe addressed gun sales in the United States from 2000 to 2022. She reported gun sales
correlated with events and mass shootings that occurred, such as Sandy Hook in 2012 and San Bernardino in 2015. She noted the biggest peak was during the pandemic with the death of George Floyd when many people took to the streets. She mentioned that fear oftentimes drives people to purchase weapons.

Dr. Cataltepe reported teen suicide has increased 4-10%, and they use family member weapons 82% of the time, noting a 90% completion rate associated with teen suicide by way of a firearm. She also noted unintentional firearm death and injury are four times higher and occur in the home 90% of the time. She pointed out that even toddlers can pull the trigger.

Dr. Cataltepe reported violent crime has increased, and 380,000 guns have been lost or stolen since the pandemic and used in violent crimes.

Dr. Cataltepe addressed gun safety, noting the least safe option is to have ready access to a weapon because they are worried about the risk of an intruder in the home or another imminent threat to their safety and keep the weapon loaded or unlocked next to their bed. She stated one step up from that would be that the weapon is unloaded but still very readily available, unlocked, and ammunition is
somewhere nearby. She reported the ideal scenario is to have the firearm locked away loaded or unloaded and separate from ammunition also locked away elsewhere in the home.

Dr. Cataltepe referred to studies regarding safe firearm storage that have shown a reduction in youth suicide, unintentional injury, and lost or stolen guns. She reported a 30% reduction in youth firearm death even with a modest increase in safe firearm storage.

Dr. Cataltepe noted that trigger locks are the simplest storage option because they are inexpensive and do not require the weapon to be unloaded as opposed to cable locks, which requires the weapon to be unloaded. She mentioned that safes are the most secure option, and biometric safes are available for ready access but expensive in the $200 range.

Dr. Cataltepe addressed how to discuss safe storage with patients and their families. She discussed how she addresses the issue in the pediatric primary care setting and tells patients and their family that she is asking about it because they live in Philadelphia, where it is a public health issue that affects pretty much everyone.

Dr. Cataltepe noted the importance of talking
about this as a safety issue and to not use the term gun control, so the issue remains collaborative. She mentioned that the Board members practice many different specialties and suggested they lean on their own expertise within the realm of medicine as opposed to speaking as if they were an expert on firearms.

Dr. Cataltepe also mentioned the importance of being educated on local gun culture and local laws and having the option of distributing educational materials through their clinics or practices.

Dr. Cataltepe addressed questions providers may ask when the patient seems amenable to discussing firearms, including where the firearm is stored, if there are any children in the house and whether they know where the firearm is stored, and the reason they have the firearm.

Dr. Cataltepe noted it is totally fine if the patient does not want to discuss firearms. She also noted the provider can share that the discussion will remain confidential as long as there is no threat to their own safety or safety of others, emphasizing that they care about violence prevention. She mentioned that kids are exploratory and is the reason they might unintentionally find a weapon in the home.
She noted they could also discuss the risk of depression if teenagers around and whether a firearm is accessible to that teenager.

Dr. Cataltepe addressed the importance of discussing firearm training, self-defense laws, biometric safes, and safe storage with patients who have ready access to a weapon because they are concerned about self-protection.

Dorothy Novick, M.D., Practice-Based Scholar, Center for Violence Prevention, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, noted a study showing the distribution of a free locking device at the time of counseling can make an enormous difference in moving the needle toward encouraging people to store a firearm safely and is where they can have the greatest impact.

Dr. Yealy thanked and congratulated them on what they assembled and how they created an approach usable by many that starts with the actions that might change behavior.

Chair Woodland echoed Dr. Yealy's comments. He mentioned the importance of clinicians facilitating conversations regarding gun safety.

Dr. Udekwu mentioned being a pediatrician in Pittsburgh, noting it to be a difficult subject to
bring up but offering someone options as opposed to just discussing the issue makes a lot of sense. She reported not having that available to them at this point.

Chair Woodland mentioned the importance of raising awareness at the State Board of Medicine on a repetitive basis to heighten the issue even more.]

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Report of Prosecuting Attorneys

[Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Liaison, presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 23-49-007245.

Chair Woodland asked whether there were any thoughts of continuing medical education and counseling that would be documented.

Ms. McCarthy noted that it could be considered if the Board finds it too lenient, where there may be continuing medical education (CME) on verbal communications with patients but were hoping that the criminal conviction was discipline enough as far as a deterrent for such future conduct.

Dr. Yealy commented that he understands the penalty regarding licensure, the duration of it, and its alignment with the criminal side. He noted they are permitting return to the practice of medicine
and cannot fully assess whether that, which is separate from the criminal punishment, is the appropriate matching of the offense and any particular licensure action.

Dr. Yealy mentioned that it is a negotiated agreement but requested Ms. McCarthy address it more due to the lack of detail available.

Ms. McCarthy noted the agreement would bring the matter to a close without the time of a hearing, but if it were to progress to a hearing, the Board would have more detail, including testimony from the doctor. She noted prosecution likes to resolve cases by a consent agreement when there is an agreed sanction that both sides feels is fair.

Ms. McCarthy mentioned that it is based on solely the low-level criminal conviction, third-degree misdemeanor, and somewhat minimal punishment he received in the criminal system.

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MS. WALTER:

Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, the Board entered into Executive Session at 8:45 a.m. to receive the advice of counsel and conduct quasi-judicial deliberations.
regarding matters on the agenda.

Item 4 at Case No. 23-49-07245, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to reject as too lenient the Consent Agreement at item 4.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on this? Hearing none. Saiyad, could we have a roll call, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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[Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison, presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 20-49-000440, Case No. 20-49-013656, and Case No. 20-49-002662.]

MS. WALTER:
I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreements at agenda items 5 through 7. Item 5 is Case No. 20-49-000440; item 6, Case No. 20-49-013656; and item 7, Case No. 20-49-002662.

DR. YEALY:
So moved.

DR. KUTZ:
Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:
Any further discussion on these three items? Hearing none. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's name at item 5 is Brian C. Bigler, M.D.; item 6, John D. Horton, M.D.; and item 7, David P. Deutsch, M.D.]

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[Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 24-49-
MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreement at agenda item 8 at Case No. 24-49-002368.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further information or questions on this one? Hearing none. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's name is Barry Kenneth Nelson, M.D.]

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Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Reports from Hearing Examiner

MS. WALTER:
Moving on to item 9, Danice Blaise, M.D., Case No. 23-49-007946. This matter will be tabled until the April 16 meeting.

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Report of Board Counsel – Regulatory Status Report

[Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted she and regulatory counsel are updating the list of regulations for a future meeting.

Ms. Wucinski informed Board members that Act 53 final rulemaking was delivered to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the standing committees of the House and Senate on February 14, 2024. She noted all those who commented were also notified of the delivery and availability of the final-form rulemaking. She mentioned that it is posted on the Independent Regulatory Review Commission's (IRRC) website and is expected to be on IRRC's agenda for the public meeting on March 21, 2024.

Ms. Wucinski addressed Regulation 16A-4955 regarding physician assistants and provided comments from the public and IRRC for the Board's review.

Chair Woodland asked Ms. Wucinski to explain the concept of a substitute supervising physician because
most of them have affiliate physicians who participate in the institutional agreements.

Ms. Wucinski explained that the substitute supervising physician is what they refer to anybody who is not the primary supervising physician. She stated the way it currently works is if a physician assistant wants to practice in the absence of their primary supervising physician that they need to name substitute supervising physicians and then they can have numerous other substitutes that are on file with the facility or wherever they are practicing.

Ms. Wucinski mentioned that the Health Care Facilities Act is a little bit different than physician assistants who are practicing in a healthcare facility because they do not have substitutes. She stated their primary supervising physician is whoever is the attending physician.

Dr. Yealy suggested counsel integrate that final input into the responses and the revisions and present it to the Board moving forward.]

MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to direct Board Counsel to draft the final rulemaking addressing the comments from the public and the
Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

DR. YEALY:
So moved.

DR. KUTZ:
Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:
Any further discussion? Hearing none. Saiyad, could we have a roll call, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Report of Board Counsel – Other

MS. WUCINSKI:
I believe the Board would entertain a motion to table the Reconsideration Request of Richard Brown, M.D., to allow him to complete a preceptorship program.

DR. YEALY:
So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion? Hearing none. Could we have a roll call, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to direct Board Counsel to issue an Order Removing the Limitation on the License to Practice as a Physician and Surgeon of Matthew Schreiber, M.D.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on this one?
Hearing none. Saiyad, could we have a roll call, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to deny the Request to Approve an Alternate Reentry Evaluation for Akhilesh Reddy, M.D.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further comments or questions?

Hearing none. Saiyad, could we have a roll call, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

Applications - Allied Health Professionals

MS. WUCINSKI:

At agenda items 15 through 17, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the following Applications for a License to Practice as a Behavior Specialist: Christina Edwards, Benjamin Paul Kotchi, Shirley Williams.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further comments or discussion?

[Christina Edwards asked why her application was denied. Ms. Wucinski explained that she would receive a letter explaining why the Board voted to provisionally deny her application, along with the process to appeal.]

CHAIR WOODLAND:
Anybody else have any comments or questions? Hearing None. Saiyad, we'll take a vote.

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MS. WUCINSKI:

At agenda items 18 and 19, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to table the following Applications to allow them to obtain a Reentry Evaluation for the Application to Practice as a Respiratory Therapist of Jeffrey Toussaint and Kristina M. Schrull-Valiente.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion? Hearing None.
Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

Applications - Unrestricted Physician and Surgeon

MS. WUCINSKI:

At agenda item 20, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to grant the Application for a License to Practice as a Physician and Surgeon of Katherine G. Vital-Daley, M.D.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on this item? Hearing None. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?
Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

MS. WUCINSKI:

At agenda item 21, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to table this agenda item to invite Syeda Kashfi Qadri, M.D., to apply for an Institutional License.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on this item? Hearing None. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.
[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to table agenda items 22 through 24 and send a standard reentry letter to Cathleen Roxas, M.D.; Kathryn Shaw, M.D.; and Parul Yadav, M.D.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on any of these items? Hearing None. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Applications - Reactivations

MS. WUCINSKI:
Agenda item 25 is tabled to allow the Board to obtain additional information from Bruce Baldwin, M.D. concerning his clinical practice in the last four years.

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MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to table agenda items 26 and 27 and send standard reentry letters to the following Reactivation Applicants: Howard Bronstein, M.D.; Daniel Leonard, M.D.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on these two items? Hearing None. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz,
aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

MS. WUCINSKI:

At agenda item 28, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the Reactivation Application for Eric Welling, M.D.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on item 28? Hearing None. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MS. WUCINSKI:

Agenda item 29 is tabled to allow the
Board to obtain additional information regarding the clinical practice of 

Baligh Yehia, M.D.

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Ratifications

MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to Ratify the granting of the following Applications for a License to Practice as a Physician and Surgeon:

Satkiran Grewal, M.D.; Aditi Gupta, M.D.; Jonathan Noonan, M.D.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on any of these three items? Hearing None. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.
[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

For the Board's Information/Discussion - Old

Business/New Business - USMLE Security Incident

Discussion

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, read the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) program statement on the notification of invalidated exam, dated January 31, 2024, where the United States Medical Licensing Examination has helped to ensure physicians licensed to practice in the United States have the knowledge and clinical skills necessary to care for patients safely and effectively.

USMLE noted they regularly monitor and analyze examinees test performances for unusual score patterns or variations, and the USMLE program has identified a pattern of anomalous exam performance associated with Nepal. USMLE also noted that examinees with results in question are being notified by the USMLE Secretariat's Office that their previous Step scores have been invalidated and will be required to take additional validation exams.

Chair Woodland noted it impacted about 800 or so individuals.]

***
For the Board's Information/Discussion - Proposed Language for the Genetic Counseling Licensure Amendment

[Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, asked whether Board members read the correspondence from Rebecca Belles regarding the proposed language for the genetic counseling licensure amendment.

Rebecca Belles, LGC, Geisinger Danville - Genetics, stated the proposed licensure amendment would allow genetic counselors in the state of Pennsylvania to sign orders on genetic testing. She noted it to currently not be part of their licensure scope of practice.

Ms. Belles reported identifying appropriate tests for patients but requiring a physician to sign off on their orders for patients. She informed Board members that they would like to sign their own orders with respect to just the genetic testing portion of testing for patients.

Ms. Walter explained that any expansion of the scope of practice would most likely require a legislative change. She noted the Board has read the information but may be limited in the next steps without a change of scope of practice from the
Ms. Belles stated they wanted to run their proposed language for the amendment by the Board prior to seeking out a legislator to introduce the bill because they wanted to make sure that everyone was going to be on board with the proposed amendment prior to getting that introduced. She noted that their plan is to move forward with getting the bill introduced.

Ms. Walter addressed the normal course of action, noting once the bill is proposed and introduced, it would be sent to the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs for a bill analysis, at which time she and Ms. Montgomery would reach out to the Board members to obtain their opinions on the proposed language, along with reaching out to other stakeholders and prepare an analysis of the bill.

Ms. Walter stated the bill occasionally comes back and amendments are made, and Board members do have the opportunity to have input after the bill is actually introduced.

Dr. Yealy commented that the Board understands what Ms. Belles is seeking but will be following the usual processes.

Acting Commissioner Claggett mentioned that the
proposed amendment was sent to the Policy Office, and they are aware of it.

Chair Woodland informed Ms. Belles that the Board has a path forward that they follow through the legislative route.]

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For the Board's Information/Discussion - Board Meeting Dates

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, noted the approved 2024 and 2025 Board meeting dates listed on the agenda.]

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Miscellaneous - Committee Assignments Discussion

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, stated committee assignments have been discussed and slightly restructured due to the expansion of the Board. He informed everyone that the Probable Cause Screening Committee consists of Don Yealy, Mike Ripchinski, and Gerry Dillon as an alternate. He noted the Board is looking to add Catherine Udekwu as a full member to that committee also.

Chair Woodland noted the Committee on Allied Health-Related Professionals is currently chaired by Walt Eisenhauer and cochaired by Mike Ripchinski, along with Gerry Dillon, who sits on that committee,
as well.

Chair Woodland stated the Committee on Legislation/Policy Development and Review is chaired by Mike Ripchinski, and Don Yealy sits on that committee. He noted John Kutz and Ben Abella would like to join that committee and have recommended them to be on that committee as well.

Chair Woodland stated the Committee on Licensure Qualifications currently consists of Gerry Dillon, Don Yealy, and Walt Eisenhauer, noting John Kutz would like to also join that committee.

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Miscellaneous - Vote for Board Member Representatives at the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Annual Meeting

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, requested a vote for Board members to attend the Annual Federation of State Medical Boards Meeting in Nashville, TN, April 18-20. He mentioned being privileged to serve on the FSMB Board of Directors representing the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine in that role for the last two years. He informed Board members that his term is up this year and will be running for a reelection to rejoin the board in a three-year position to be voted on at the upcoming...
s annual meeting.

Chair Woodland noted the vote is secured by all
of the 70 state medical boards in the country and
explained that there are 70 state medical boards
because there are 20 states with legacy medical and
osteopathic boards like the state of Pennsylvania.

Chair Woodland mentioned that he would be
attending the meeting and is happy to serve as their
delegate, along with other members, noting the State
Board of Osteopathic Medicine also has members
attending and will elect their own delegate.]}

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a
motion to approve the cost of travel
for two Board members and Board
administrator to travel to Nashville,
Tennessee in April 2024 for attendance
at the FSMB Annual Meeting for Mr.
Gerry Dillon to be one of those members
and to be the voting delegate for the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Is there a motion?

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. KUTZ:
Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion? Hearing None. Saiyad, could you do a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Miscellaneous – Vote for Correction Votes for January 2024 Agenda Items 22 and 23

MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to correct the votes from the January 2024 meeting for agenda items 22 and 23 to reflect the following applications were tabled to allow the applicants to have a reentry evaluation. The names are Ruth Namuyinga, M.D. and Akhilesh Basi Reddy, M.D.

DR. YEALY:
So moved.

DR. KUTZ:
Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion? Hearing None.

Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Report of Board Chair

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, again noted March is Women in Medicine Month and recognized all of the contributions of women in the field of medicine.]

Chair Woodland also recognized March 8 as International Women's Day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women globally. He mentioned the day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. He reported the International Women's Day has occurred
for well over a century with the first gathering in
1911 supported by over a million people.

   Chair Woodland noted March 2024 Health Awareness
includes National Nutrition Month, National
Colorectal Cancer Month, and National Women and Girls
HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. He mentioned that Healthy
People 2030 provides a lot of resources on their
website.

   Chair Woodland stated the Kaiser Family
Foundation (KFF) has put out a states’ ranking by
physician assistants per 100,000 people for 2024,
noting Pennsylvania is in the top 20. He also noted
a states’ ranking by primary care physicians per
100,000 people, again noting Pennsylvania ranked in
the top 10.

   Chair Woodland informed everyone of a webinar
series State of the States: What key health issues
are in play this year? for anybody interested in
looking at legislative affairs as they apply to state
of the states and what key health care issues are in
play. He mentioned one of their areas on the last
month's agenda was the venue change and how it's
impacted malpractice claims. He reported malpractice
mega verdicts have hit a record high.

   Chair Woodland informed Board members that he has
been involved in the two sets of recommendations and
guidelines offered at the Annual FSMB Meeting this
year. He noted one to be the physicians in training
recommendations and guidelines to help modernize some
of the approaches to how they approach physicians in
training as it relates to regulation and licensure.
He reported the second is artificial intelligence in
medicine and professional regulation recommendations
and guidelines.

Chair Woodland noted he is the Chair of the FSMB
Ethics and Professionalism Committee and offered to
provide Board members with several highlights
hopefully at the next meeting. He reported that a
historic memorandum of understanding signed between
the International Association of Medical Regulatory
Authority (IAMRA) and the World Health Organization
occurred on Monday, February 19, 2024.

Chair Woodland explained that the memorandum
identified evidence as it relates to research in
healthcare workforce regulation, inclusion of
regulatory perspectives and areas of development by
the World Health Organization, the provision of
technical support for capacity building in medical
regulation, closer collaboration and sponsorship in
dealing with low- and middle-income countries, and
the development of educational webinar series to focus on issues of medical regulators in low- and middle-income series.

Chair Woodland noted that the 2025 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) awards are open and recognizing notable designated officials and program directors, coordinators, residents, and fellows for their outstanding work and contributions.

Chair Woodland also noted the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has come out with their strategic plan and includes strengthening medical education, supporting students, focus on inclusivity, diversifying tomorrow's doctors, strengthening the research environment, evolving leadership skills, improving access of care, advancing knowledge, promoting health equity and health justice, and adapting to change.

Chair Woodland provided websites and resources to many of the items listed in his report.]

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Report of Vice Chair

[Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair, stated he would like to seek the input of not only people who were on the call or in person in Harrisburg, but those who might read the minutes so that the Board of Medicine
could understand and become more informed about the positions and views of not only the people they serve who are seeking care but also those who are delivering care that falls underneath the State Board of Medicine about late career practitioner assessments and practice evaluation.

Dr. Yealy stated the Board currently does not have a specific position and mentioned that there are concerns across the country as to whether or not these should exist and whether cognitive and/or physical abilities should be assessed at a specific age.

Dr. Yealy asked whether there should be a pattern regarding the best way to balance the safety and fairness issues to the providers and all of the other concerns. He mentioned that it is not the goal of the Board to create a particular position or call for any specific legislative action but to understand the individuals providing the care and also the interest of citizens from the Commonwealth.

Dr. Yealy noted everyone agrees that they want the best possible care provided to citizens of the Commonwealth by individuals who can function underneath the licensure as it exists right now. He informed everyone that a federal evaluation has been
ongoing for almost six years based on some concerns at Yale University and the medical center. He mentioned that it has not been adjudicated yet but will be informative.

Dr. Yearly noted looking forward to any input to help inform any conversations that the Board might have at a future meeting.

Chair Woodland noted he has been looking at nodal points in transitioning from different aspects of a medical career from undergraduate medical education into graduate medical education, graduate medical education into fellowship or practice, and then the next nodal point that is not always discussed is the transitioning at the end of a person's career.

Chair Woodland stated the American College of Surgeons has looked at competency, especially surgical competency, as it relates to aging. He noted fatigue and those issues have been addressed as it relates to aging as well, which are other things they have to evaluate.

Dr. Kutz agreed stated the American College of Surgeons has also talked about duty hours, noting other professional organizations have established guidelines for this, but physicians have not, particularly surgeons.
Dr. Kutz reported that the American Society of Anesthesia has guidelines and advanced practitioners have guidelines but surgeons have made this an individual call on their own. He noted prior discussion as to whether there should be some sort of parameter in place or a policy, whether it be state or federal, to kind of guide this as it moves forward because it is going to continue to be an issue.

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Report of Acting Commissioner

[Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, informed Board members that the timeline for the Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS) replacement has been moved back from the end of 2024 to the spring of 2025. Acting Commissioner Claggett noted the Board room is pretty bare and invited local Board members to participate in person, along with the folks in the public.

Chair Woodland commented that the State Board of Medicine Meeting is valuable for everybody and invited everyone to attend in person. He mentioned that COVID opened the virtual window, and the window is not going to close. He noted appreciation for everyone who attended in person and online.
Acting Commissioner Claggett informed everyone that the Board is open for business and willing to engage in conversations with stakeholders to discuss their concerns or just talk about anything they may want to discuss. He reported having a meeting scheduled with the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) to discuss some items.

Acting Commissioner Claggett addressed his participation, along with Mr. Ali and Ms. Wucinski, a couple months ago at the Penn State College of Medicine's Project Medical Education, where they were trained to be a doctor in one day. He noted the medical students shared their dreams and how important it is for them to get their license quickly. He mentioned taking notes and doing an internal processes review to make sure people receive their license as quickly as possible.

Lauren Chambers, D.O., requested information regarding the status of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). She mentioned that she did her fellowship in Pennsylvania and has been looking to return to the state. She noted being an IMLC member, and her state of primary licensure is in Utah. She stated legislation passed the IMLC for Pennsylvania in 2016 but that it has been
approximately eight years without any finalization. Dr. Chambers informed Board members that every state in the country except Pennsylvania has a contact phone number, email, or both on their website for anyone who has questions or inquiries. She noted contacting the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and was told to do her own search on the Pennsylvania Department of State.

Dr. Chambers mentioned reviewing minutes from six meetings since 2018 but that it was not very clear as to what has delayed the implementation of the IMLC. She noted locating Dr. Woodland's practice after searching for someone who attended the meetings and was provided a response by Dr. Woodland concerning the timeline of the IMLC.

Dr. Chambers read Dr. Woodland's response verbatim. "The Board is not currently confirming any specific time frames. The implementation process is still tentative and can be subject to change based on the process being adopted to our licensing system."

She noted the response was vague and presented to the Board to request more information regarding the delay.

Dr. Chambers addressed why the IMLC would be beneficial to the state of Pennsylvania. She
reported the general turnaround time for obtaining a medical license in Pennsylvania is approximately four to six months and does not include the empanelment process or obtaining hospital privileges, none of which can start until after their medical license. She also reported the new graduate season seems to delay the process by approximately one to three months further with return to baseline around November.

Dr. Chambers addressed long wait times when calling the State Board of Medicine that can be as long as 2 hours on Sundays. She mentioned not being able to necessarily speak to an evaluator but speaking with someone who provides the status, noting there may be a deficiency or a missing item, where oftentimes the item has actually already been submitted and then be reported that the evaluator has to locate that item, which can delay the process by another month.

Dr. Chambers stated the main delay seems to be getting the file to an evaluator, because once the file is with an evaluator, it generally is processed within about two to three weeks. She expressed concern with the Board being understaffed given the long turnaround time, long hold time, and it takes so
long for a file to get to an evaluator.

Dr. Chambers commented that understaffing creates barriers for physicians to relocate to Pennsylvania and leads to reduced healthcare coverage for patients. She referred to Becker's Physician Leadership, noting Pennsylvania is the fifth state with the highest medically underserved areas and mentioned that physicians may be going to work in another state.

Dr. Chambers informed Board members that she applied to do her fellowship in 2019 but almost did not get to complete it because her application for a medical license had not been processed by the Board in time for her to start. She believed the credentialing coordinator had to contact their government representative to get assistance processing her cohort class for her to even start.

Dr. Chambers also informed Board members that she recently looked into applying for locum tenens positions and also had a contract to return for a permanent position in Pennsylvania within the past couple of weeks but ultimately declined the permanent position because she was not sure when she would get her medical license and cannot not work for six months.
Dr. Chambers stated she took a permanent position in a state that is not IMLC but has a faster processing time. She noted also accepting a locum tenens provider position in the interim in an IMLC state, and it took two days to receive her medical license. She mentioned being a perfect example of a physician that Pennsylvania lost who otherwise would have been in Pennsylvania providing coverage for patients.

Dr. Chambers addressed the inequity of processing the applications among large healthcare systems. She stated Pennsylvania State has expressed that they have a contact at the Board and are able to get licenses processed in a matter of weeks if working a locum tenens position, whereas applying for a locum tenens position at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) may take up to six months and sometimes have to reach out to their government representatives to expedite applications once a physician is signed because they do not have a contact.

Dr. Woodland thanked Dr. Chambers for the extensive review of the issue, noting the Board is supportive but is the process to get it across that affects other states as well.
Ms. Walter also thanked Dr. Chambers for the very thorough analysis of the issues. She informed Dr. Chambers that the Board is aware that it has been several years since the IMLC was passed by the legislature, and the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) is working diligently on implementing either the IMLC partially or fully.

Ms. Walter stated Pennsylvania has partially implemented the nurse compact and is aware of the urgency related to the need for healthcare providers and the interest that providers have in Pennsylvania becoming an IMLC state.

Ms. Walter explained that the IMLC requires Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) background checks to be procured by the individual states who are acting as states of principal licensure. She mentioned that some states fully implemented the IMLC and then were told by the United States Department of Justice that they were not able to obtain the background checks as they had been doing from the FBI, so they had to walk back their implementation.

Ms. Walter noted Pennsylvania is working with state and federal partners on a solution that will allow them to obtain all of the information that is required for participation in the IMLC. She also
noted they understand the urgency and are doing their best. She invited Dr. Chambers to reach out to her or Attorney Wucinski for any progress.

Acting Commissioner Claggett addressed processing times and stated one of the primary reasons why PALS is being replaced is because PALS allows for partial submission of applications. He reported experiencing times where there are 100 applicants and 50 of that 100 submit a completed application and the other 50 submit a partial application.

Acting Commissioner Claggett stated staff created delays because they were reviewing both sets of applications. He noted they are going to attach a completion percentage to each application, so all of the applications that have a score of 100, meaning that all their requirements have been met, will be processed first. He also noted that folks who do not have a score of 100 will receive a weekly email outlining what items are still missing.

Acting Commissioner Claggett reported currently having only four applications for the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine in the system that are 100% complete and the rest are missing items.

Dr. Woodland informed Dr. Chambers that he appreciated her communications and thorough
Report of Department of Health

[Sirisha Reddy, Special Assistant, on behalf of Debra L. Bogen, M.D., announced that the Department of Health's Office of Health Equity is hosting a Health Equity Summit April 4-5 at the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology to discuss eliminating health disparities.

Ms. Reddy noted this year’s theme is joy and justice, and there will be several panel discussions around environmental justice, maternal health and health equity policy innovations. She informed everyone that an in-person and virtual option is available, and the registration deadline is March 22. She offered to drop a link to the health summit registration page.

Chair Woodland referred to the cyberattack on e-Prescribing (eRx), noting it can impact care delivery, but did not believe the Department of Health had any guidelines as of yet. He mentioned that institutions are developing workarounds on their own.

Ms. Reddy stated there is no guidance at this time but is hoping to have a more detailed update in
the coming months.

Catherine Policina, M.D., stated her hospital wanted to submit a J-1 visa application, but that area was withdrawn from the health professional shortage area (HPSA) list. She noted being told that a lot of areas in Pennsylvania were withdrawn from HPSA and are negotiating with the Department of Health so that the list can be updated.

Ms. Reddy informed Dr. Policina that the Department of Health is aware of that and are currently in negotiations. She offered to provide more information through the Board or at the next Board meeting after speaking with experts on that matter.

Dr. Policina reported being told that they do not know the specific timeline as to when it can be updated. She noted their training is going to end by June and do not know whether they are coming back to their country first or waiting for that update to file their waivers.

Chair Woodland thanked Ms. Reddy for addressing the issue for Dr. Policina.]

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Report of Committee on Health-Related Professionals – No Report

Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.
(814) 536-8908
Report of Committee on Legislation/Policy Development and Review - No Report

Report of Committee on Licensure Qualifications

[Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair, informed everyone that the Committee on Licensure Qualifications is one of the busier committees, where most of the work happens between meetings as the group evaluates, discusses, and acts upon nontraditional applications, working very effectively in vigorous conversations where they see consistency alongside of an appropriate amount of flexibility.

Ms. Walter clarified that the conversations taking place regarding the applications committee are related solely to the applications, and they are pursuant to prior authorization by vote of the Board. She noted the matters are ratified at the meeting following the granting of the licenses.]

Report of Board Administrator - No Report

Public Comments

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, noted the State Board of Medicine appreciated the questions]
and concerns brought forth by members of the public and all of the input from everybody else concerning state licensure.

Chair Woodland informed everyone that the next meeting will be held on April 16, again noting Acting Commissioner Claggett's open invitation for everyone to fill the room in Harrisburg.

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Adjournment

CHAIR WOODLAND:
I entertain a motion to adjourn.

DR. YEALY:
So moved.

DR. KUTZ:
Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:
I appreciate everybody being here.

***

[There being no other business, the State Board of Medicine Meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.]
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.

Derek Richmond,
Minute Clerk
Sargent’s Court Reporting Service, Inc.
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