

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

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

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

TIME: 10:31 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, April 8, 2025

State Board of MedicineApril 8, 2025BOARD MEMBERS:

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

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel
Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel
Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Counsel Division, Department
of State
Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Patrick Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Adrianne R. McClendon, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Courtney J. Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Saiyad Ali, Board Administrator
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State
Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State

ALSO PRESENT:

Angie Armbrust, Senior Associate, McNees-Winter
Group LLC
Paolo Gregorio, M.D., Penn Medicine
Cynthia Anderson, M.D., UPMC Maternal Fetal Medicine
Katie Gruber, MSW, CADC, Case Manager, Physicians'
Health Program, Foundation of the PA Medical
Society

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ALSO PRESENT (cont.):

Misha Patel, M.D., Curriculum Education Assistant,
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
Randy M. Stevens, M.D., Randy Stevens Family Footcare
Susan DeSantis, PA-C, Pennsylvania Society of
Physician Assistants
Heather Wilson, MSW, CFRE, Executive Director,
Physicians' Health Program, Foundation of the
Pennsylvania Medical Society
William Reynolds, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA
Jamison Cassel
Christina Edwards, Behavior Specialist
Rachel Wilbur-Adams, Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

State Board of Medicine

April 8, 2025

[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. Archer, Esquire, Senior 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.]

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
Board of Medicine was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.
Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, called the
meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

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

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

1 participation constituted consent to be recorded.

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

6 ***

7 Introduction of Board Members/Attendees

8 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, requested an
9 introduction of Board members and attendees. A
10 quorum of Board members was present.]

11 ***

12 Approval of Minutes of the March 4, 2025 meeting

13 CHAIR YEALY:

14 I'd entertain a motion to approve the
15 Minutes.

16 DR. KUTZ:

17 So moved.

18 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

19 Second.

20 CHAIR YEALY:

21 We have a motion and a second.

22 Any questions or concerns about the
23 Minutes? Hearing none. Saiyad, do you
24 want to do a voting roll call?
25

1 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
2 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
3 Eisenhower, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
4 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, abstain; Ms.
5 Okereh, aye.

6 [The motion carried. John Kutz abstained from voting
7 on the motion.]

8 ***

9 Report of Prosecuting Attorneys

10 [Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Acting Senior Board
11 Prosecutor and Prosecution Liaison, presented the
12 Consent Agreement for VRP Case No. 25-49-001487.]

13 CHAIR YEALY:

14 Seeing no questions, I'd entertain a
15 motion.

16 DR. KUTZ:

17 So moved.

18 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

19 Second.

20 CHAIR YEALY:

21 We have a motion.

22 Any further discussion or
23 questions? Hearing none. Let's take a
24 voting roll call.

25

1 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
2 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
3 Eisenhower, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
4 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, abstain; Ms.
5 Okereh, aye.

6 [The motion carried unanimously.]

7 ***

8 [Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
9 presented the Consent Agreements for Case No. 21-49-
10 017638, Case No. 24-49-018733, and Case No. 25-49-
11 000129.]

12 CHAIR YEALY:

13 Shana, can we pose a motion for all
14 three of these actions?

15 MS. WALTER:

16 I believe the Board would entertain a
17 motion to approve the Consent Agreements
18 at the following Agenda Items No. 4,
19 Case No. 21-49-017638; No. 5, Case No.
20 24-49-018733; and No. 6, Case No. 25-49-
21 000129.

22 DR. KUTZ:

23 So moved.

24 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR YEALY:

2 We have a motion and a second.

3 Any further discussion? Seeing
4 none, Sai, do you want to have a roll
5 call for vote?

6
7 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
8 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
9 Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
10 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh,
11 aye.

12 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
13 name in at Item No. 4, Case No. 21-49-017638, is
14 Fatimah Omar Jah, M.D. The Respondent's name in Item
15 No. 5, Case No. 24-49-018733, is Jeffrey Howard
16 Pinsk, M.D. The Respondent's name in Item No. 6,
17 Case No. 25-49-000129, is Samuel Elliot Fischer.]

18 ***

19 [Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecution
20 Liaison, presented the Consent Agreements for Case
21 No. 24-49-002832 and Case No. 24-49-018789.]

22 CHAIR YEALY:

23 Any questions for Mr. Bashore? Hearing
24 none.

1 Shana, do you want to pose a
2 motion?

3 MS. WALTER:

4 I believe the Board would entertain a
5 motion to approve the Consent
6 Agreements at Agenda Item No. 7, Case
7 No. 24-49-002832, and No. 8, Case No.
8 24-49-018789.

9 DR. KUTZ:

10 So moved.

11 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

12 Second.

13 CHAIR YEALY:

14 We have a motion and a second.

15 Any further discussion? Hearing
16 none. Sai, can we have a roll call for
17 a vote?

18
19 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
20 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
21 Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
22 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh,
23 aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
25 name at Item No. 7, Case No. 24-49-002832, is Michael

1 S. Sirkin, M.D. The Respondent's name at Item No. 8,
2 Case No. 24-49-018789, is Sajad Zalzala, M.D.]

3 ***

4 [Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
5 presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 23-49-
6 009432.]

7 CHAIR YEALY:

8 I don't see any questions.

9 Shana, would you like to pose a
10 motion?

11 MS. WALTER:

12 I believe the Board would entertain a
13 motion to approve the Consent Agreement
14 at No. 9 on the Agenda, Case No. 23-49-
15 009432.

16 DR. KUTZ:

17 So moved.

18 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

19 Second.

20 CHAIR YEALY:

21 We have a motion and a second.

22 Any further discussion? Hearing
23 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
24 vote?
25

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

6 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
7 name at Item No. 9, Case No. 23-49-009432, is Javed
8 Zia, M.D.]

9 ***

10 [Courtney J. Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
11 presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 23-49-
12 012911.]

13 CHAIR YEALY:

14 Seeing no questions, Shana, would you
15 like to pose a motion?

16 MS. WALTER:

17 I believe the Board would entertain a
18 motion to approve the Consent Agreement
19 at No. 10 on the Agenda, Case No. 23-
20 49-012911.

21 DR. KUTZ:

22 So moved.

23 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

24 Second.

25 CHAIR YEALY:

1 We have a motion and a second.

2 Any further discussion? Seeing
3 none, Sai, can we have a roll call
4 vote?

5
6 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
7 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
8 Eisenhower, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
9 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh,
10 aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
12 name at Item No. 10, Case No. 23-49-012911, is Gerald
13 R. Phelan, M.D.]

14 ***

15 Report of Board Counsel

16 Proposed Reports from Hearing Examiner

17 MS. ARCHER:

18 At Agenda Item No. 11, I believe the
19 Board would entertain a motion to adopt
20 the proposed Adjudication and Order for
21 Joanna Chioma Usifo, M.D. at Case No.
22 24-49-010621.

23 DR. KUTZ:

24 So moved.

25 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR YEALY:

3 We have a motion and a second.

4 Any further conversation? Seeing
5 none, Sai, can we have a roll call
6 vote?

7

8 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
9 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
10 Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
11 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh,
12 aye.

13 [The motion carried unanimously.]

14 ***

15 MS. ARCHER:

16 I believe the Board would entertain a
17 motion to direct Board Counsel to drop
18 the final Adjudication and Order as
19 discussed in Executive Session for
20 Marcus R. Williams, M.D. at Case No.
21 19-49-005850.

22 DR. KUTZ:

23 So moved.

24 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR YEALY:

2 We have a motion and a second.

3 Any further conversation? Seeing
4 none, Sai, can we have a roll call
5 vote?

6
7 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
8 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
9 Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
10 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh,
11 aye.

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 ***

14 MS. ARCHER:

15 I believe the Board would entertain a
16 motion to direct Board Counsel to issue
17 the final Adjudication and Orders for
18 Christina Edwards, Behavior Specialist,
19 at Case No. 24-49-003923, and Elias
20 Karkalas, M.D., at Case No. 22-49-
21 007974.

22 DR. KUTZ:

23 So moved.

24 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR YEALY:

2 We have a motion and a second.

3 Any further discussion? Hearing
4 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
5 vote, please?

6

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

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 ***

14 MS. ARCHER:

15 I believe the Board would entertain a
16 motion to adopt the proposed
17 Adjudication and Order for Kjerstin
18 Klein, Athletic Trainer at Case No. 24-
19 49-003509, and to vacate the Board's
20 prior vote to direct Board Counsel to
21 draft a final Adjudication and Order.

22 DR. KUTZ:

23 So moved.

24 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR YEALY:

2 We have a motion and a second.

3 Any further discussion? Hearing
4 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
5 vote, please?

6

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

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 ***

14 Applications for Licensure

15 Applications - Allied Health Professionals

16 [Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, noted
17 that the Board is tabling Agenda Item No. 24 to allow
18 the Board time to obtain additional information
19 related to the application.]

20 MS. ARCHER:

21 I believe the Board would entertain a
22 motion to grant the following
23 applications: The Application to
24 Practice as a Behavioral Specialist of
25 Derek Brandon Cling, Alisha Pelkey, and

1 Cynthia Shain; and the Application to
2 Practice as a Graduate Orthotist and
3 Prosthetist under Act 41 of Kingsley
4 Isiguzo.

5 DR. KUTZ:

6 So moved.

7 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

8 Second.

9 CHAIR YEARLY:

10 We have a motion and second.

11 Any further discussion? Hearing
12 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
13 vote, please?

14

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

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 ***

22 MS. ARCHER:

23 I believe the Board would entertain a
24 motion to provisionally deny the
25 following applications: The

1 Applications to Practice as a
2 Behavioral Specialist of Jacqueline M.
3 Fabian, Haley Michelle Juristy; and the
4 Application to Practice as a Certified
5 Nurse-Midwife of Metta Weaver.

6 DR. KUTZ:

7 So moved.

8 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

9 Second.

10 CHAIR YEARLY:

11 We have a motion and a second.

12 Any further discussion? Hearing
13 none. Can we have a roll call vote,
14 please, Sai?

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

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 ***

23 MS. ARCHER:

24 I believe the Board would entertain a
25 motion to deny the Application to

1 Practice as a Behavioral Specialist of
2 Dahan Tommy Sheref.

3 DR. KUTZ:

4 So moved.

5 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

6 Second.

7 CHAIR YEARLY:

8 We have a motion and a second.

9 Any further discussion? Hearing
10 none. Can we have a roll call vote,
11 please, Sai?

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

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19 ***

20 Applications - Unrestricted Physician and Surgeon

21 MS. ARCHER:

22 At Agenda Item No. 33, I believe the
23 Board would entertain a motion to grant
24 the Initial Application for License to

1 Practice as a Physician and Surgeon of
2 Gal Altberg, M.D.

3 DR. KUTZ:

4 So moved.

5 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

6 Second.

7 CHAIR YEARLY:

8 We have a motion and a second.

9 Any further discussion? Hearing
10 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
11 vote, please?

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

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19 ***

20 MS. ARCHER:

21 I believe the Board would entertain a
22 motion to table the following
23 applications to allow the applicants to
24 apply for and practice on an
25 institutional license to allow them to

1 obtain U.S. clinical experience: Agenda
2 Item No. 34, Hannan Mohammad Kayali,
3 M.D., and Agenda Item No. 35, Elchanan
4 Schlomo Zloczower Orbach, M.D.

5 DR. KUTZ:

6 So moved.

7 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

8 Second.

9 CHAIR YEARLY:

10 We have a motion and a second.

11 Any further discussion? Hearing
12 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
13 vote, please?

14

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

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 ***

22 MS. ARCHER:

23 At Item No. 36, I believe the Board
24 would entertain a motion to grant the
25 Initial Application for License to

1 Practice as a Physician and Surgeon of
2 Anjan Trikha, M.D.

3 DR. KUTZ:

4 So moved.

5 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

6 Second.

7 CHAIR YEARLY:

8 We have a motion and a second.

9 Any further discussion? Hearing
10 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
11 vote, please?

12
13 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
14 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, nay; Mr.
15 Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
16 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh,
17 aye.

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]***

19 Applications - Reactivations

20 MS. ARCHER:

21 I believe the Board would entertain a
22 motion to table the following
23 Reactivation Applications to allow the
24 applicants to obtain a re-entry
25 assessment and follow through with any

1 recommendation: The Reactivation
2 Application to Practice as a
3 Respiratory Therapist of Walter R.
4 Kizzie III, and the Reactivation
5 Applications to Practice as Physician
6 and Surgeon of Aletha Yvette Akers,
7 M.D., Gail Barsky Slap, M.D., and Susan
8 Hart Wyatt, M.D.

9 DR. KUTZ:

10 So moved.

11 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

12 Second.

13 CHAIR YEARLY:

14 We have a motion and a second.

15 Any further discussion? Hearing
16 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
17 vote, please?

18
19 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
20 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
21 Eisenhower, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
22 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh,
23 aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously.]

25 ***

1 [Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, noted
2 Agenda Items No. 39 and 40 were tabled to allow the
3 applicants time to provide additional information
4 regarding clinical practice.]

5 ***

6 Ratifications

7 MS. ARCHER:

8 I believe the Board would entertain a
9 motion to ratify the granting of the
10 following applications: the Application
11 to Practice as a Genetic Counselor of
12 Rachael Leah Monaghan, and the
13 Applications to Practice as a Physician
14 and Surgeon of Mohammad Alkhateeb,
15 M.D., Can Emre Bas, M.D., Paulo
16 Henrique Peitl Gregorio, M.D., and
17 Olamide Olowoyo, M.D.

18 DR. KUTZ:

19 So moved.

20 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

21 Second.

22 CHAIR YEARLY:

23 We have a motion and a second.

1 Any further discussion? Hearing
2 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
3 vote, please?

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

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11 ***

12 Miscellaneous

13 MS. ARCHER:

14 The last item for voting right now is
15 Agenda Item No. 49. I believe the
16 Board would entertain a motion to grant
17 the Reconsideration Request of Barbara
18 G. Matthews, M.D., and to grant her
19 Reactivation Application to Active
20 Retired Status.

21 DR. KUTZ:

22 So moved.

23 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

24 Second.

25 CHAIR YEARLY:

1 We have a motion and a second.

2 Any further discussion? Hearing
3 none. Sai, can we have a roll call
4 vote, please?

5
6 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
7 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
8 Eisenhower, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
9 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh,
10 aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12 ***

13 MS. ARCHER:

14 I believe the Board would entertain a
15 motion to approve the KSTAR Re-entry
16 Program as a Board-Approved re-entry
17 assessment program and update the
18 website to list it as such.

19 DR. KUTZ:

20 So moved.

21 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

22 Second.

23 CHAIR YEARLY:

24 We have a motion and a second.

25 Any further discussion?

1 I will add that we had a nice
2 presentation from this group at our
3 last meeting. A very comprehensive set
4 of opportunities that they offer that
5 is another option for some of the
6 people in the Commonwealth who might
7 request or require these services.
8 Seeing no other discussion.

9 Sai, may we have a roll call vote,
10 please?

11
12 Dr. Yealy, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
13 Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr.
14 Eisenhauer, aye; Dr. Bonacci, aye; Dr.
15 Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Ms. Okereh,
16 aye.

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18 ***

19 Regulatory Status Report

20 [Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
21 discussed the Regulatory Status Report.

22 Ms. Wolfgang brought the Board's attention to the
23 proposed Physicians Assistants regulation at section
24 16A-4955 of the Regulatory Report. It is a final
25 regulation that was delivered to the Independent

1 Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and other
2 committees on March 3, 2025. It will be presented to
3 IRRC at its May 15, 2025 public meeting. Upon its
4 approval, the regulation would be sent to the Office
5 of Attorney General (OAG) for its final review. An
6 answer from the OAG would then be received by the
7 Board within 30 days. If approved, the regulation
8 will be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin in
9 summer 2025.

10 Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, asked if the
11 regulation clarifies electronic prescriptions and
12 allows up to 36 hours for off-site approval. Ms.
13 Wolfgang replied that Dana Archer, the drafter of the
14 regulation, could better articulate an answer.

15 Dana M. Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,
16 confirmed Dr. Woodland's inquiry. She added that a
17 number of updates to the regulations involved
18 updating the regulatory language and to implement Act
19 79 of 2021 as well.

20 Dr. Woodland then brought up questions about the
21 supervision issues involving the number and
22 activities of the oversight. He also wanted to know
23 what changed on the written agreement due to the
24 updated language.

25 Ms. Archer stated that the written agreements are

1 only filed with the Board and no longer reviewed by
2 the Board. The agreements are kept with the
3 supervising physician and physician's assistant and
4 only go into effect upon their filing of it.

5 Dr. Woodland questioned what the next step in
6 getting the regulation approved was after sending it
7 to IRRC. Ms. Wolfgang responded that if the Agency
8 for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) approves
9 the final regulation, it would then be submitted to
10 the OAG. An approved regulation will get published
11 in the *PA Bulletin* and officially become a
12 regulation.

13 Ms. Wolfgang continued discussing the regulatory
14 status report. She stated that the Board has a fee
15 regulation on its regulatory report that was
16 initiated several years ago. The fee regulation's
17 purpose is to decrease renewal and biennial fees
18 while increasing application fees to get the fees
19 more in line with the cost to process initial
20 applications. This regulation has been put on hold
21 at various stages. The Board has historically
22 carried a surplus or remaining balance that is
23 somewhat in excess of the expenses in the biennial
24 period.

25 Ms. Wolfgang explained that this surplus is

1 what the Bureau of Finance and Procurement (BFP)
2 reviews. A board should generally maintain a balance
3 in their surplus which would cover those expenses
4 during the biennial period.

5 Ms. Wolfgang asked whether the Board wanted her
6 to pursue this fee regulation for them. She
7 mentioned that the Board has periodically waived its
8 renewal fees in an effort to decrease that surplus,
9 which is an option pursuing their proposed fee
10 regulation. If the Board pursued it, it would have
11 to revise the fee regulation since the recommended
12 fee increase was done years ago and BFP would have to
13 review it.

14 Dr. Woodland commented that the Board's surplus
15 was helpful during the pandemic and allowed the Board
16 to enhance providers to be in the Commonwealth. He
17 asked what the switching of reducing one fee and
18 upping the other fee would do to the Board's annual
19 income. He wanted to know if their income would
20 still surpass the regular expenses if the regulation
21 was put into effect.

22 Ms. Wolfgang explained that the increase in the
23 application fee would not have a major impact on the
24 bottom line. She estimated that application fees are
25 less than 5% of the Board's budget. The reason BFP

1 has been pursuing this issue across all boards is due
2 to an excess of fees. Many fee amounts in this Board
3 were set years ago. Ms. Wolfgang's department
4 considers initial application fees and sets those
5 fees to cover the cost to process those applications.
6 Some time ago, BFP looked at all initial application
7 fees across all boards and made various
8 recommendations to increase those fees. Most boards
9 have increased their fees when a biennial increase is
10 needed, but this Board has not considered that.

11 Ms. Wolfgang added that when BFP looked at this
12 Board years ago, they recommended that it should
13 possibly decrease its biennial fee. Under its
14 Practice Act, the Board is obligated to have
15 sufficient revenue to cover its expenses. If the
16 Board gets to the point where its revenue is
17 insufficient, it is mandated to do a fee increase. A
18 fee decrease, however, is not mandated. The Board
19 was willing to entertain the proposed fee decrease,
20 but it was never put into effect.

21 Chair Yealy asserted that this could be an ideal
22 time to reassess the Board's inflow and outflow of
23 cash and offer solutions that would include both
24 initial application and reapplication fees. He
25 recognized that the Board should focus not only on

1 what money comes in and how it comes in, but also
2 whether their spending is efficient. He then asked
3 if the act of processing, particularly of
4 reapplications, has gotten easier over time due to
5 electronic solutions. He commented that everything
6 does not have to become more expensive.

7 Chair Yealy noted that the Board should work
8 through what new conditions might look like moving
9 forward and consider both the revenue and the expense
10 side of the equation.

11 Dr. Woodland agreed with Chair Yealy's approach.
12 He added that the Board should also be conscious of
13 changes happening within the country. Federal or
14 state changes that the Board might feel could warrant
15 a response requiring defense or support in some way
16 may take necessary funds from their surplus. He
17 stated that the Board has always maintained their
18 surplus for a reason.

19 Dr. Woodland acknowledged that the Board's
20 surplus has grown to a point where it could be
21 creative with it and facilitate giving something back
22 to the Commonwealth. He again agreed with Chair
23 Yealy's idea to look at potential action plans
24 involving the surplus instead of changing the
25 application fees.

1 Ms. Wolfgang reminded the Counselors that their
2 Board is a standalone fiscal board and not part of
3 the Professional Licensing Augmentation Account. If
4 their Board needs additional funding or if the Board
5 gets sued, it must rely on their surplus, whereas
6 other boards are part of the Augmentation Account
7 with 25 other boards contributing to the funds. She
8 stated that the Board's surplus is very important due
9 to this. She added that from a legal standpoint, it
10 is important to note that pursuing the regulation
11 would decrease biennial fees while increasing fees
12 for applicants beginning their careers.

13 Ms. Wolfgang stated that her department has
14 presented ideas similar to Chair Yealy's to IRRC that
15 did not go over well. She cautioned the Board that
16 there could be a resistance to their plans. Chair
17 Yealy expressed that that is why a fresh assessment
18 of inputs and outputs and a menu of choices are
19 necessary. One choice could be no change at all.

20 Ms. Wolfgang changed the topic to Regulation 16A-
21 4960, the Continuing Education and Volunteer License
22 regulation. She then brought up that the regulatory
23 report indicated the Board did not receive any
24 comments, but it received one comment from the
25 Pennsylvania Medical Society. The comment focused on

1 some issues that overlap with another regulatory
2 package being drafted by Ms. Archer. She and Ms.
3 Wolfgang are working together to make sure the
4 language is consistent with both of these
5 regulations. Ms. Wolfgang expressed hope for this
6 regulation to be finalized and presented at the next
7 Board meeting.

8 Chair Yealy thanked Ms. Wolfgang for undertaking
9 this issue since many activities and opportunities
10 are done with good intent, but with blinders on about
11 how it may interact with an individual physician's
12 practice training and ongoing education or with other
13 requirements. He commented that that is how boards
14 can end up with collective requirements that seem
15 burdensome and without the same level of return as
16 was thought of in their initial drafts.

17 Dr. Woodland asked Ms. Wolfgang if their
18 discussion was in reference to Regulation 16A-4960.
19 Ms. Wolfgang affirmed. Chair Yealy added that many
20 of the requirements in the regulation sound good, but
21 when put into context with other physician
22 requirements from the Commonwealth or elsewhere, may
23 not deliver the desired impact. He stated that being
24 thoughtful about that issue before moving forward
25 would pay off.

1 Dr. Woodland brought up a poster that the Board
2 prepared looking at the mandatory continuing medical
3 education (CME) across all medical boards. While
4 many different topics are chosen, none have been
5 studied in their efficacy in terms of their impacts
6 on health outcomes of communities. The topics may
7 raise awareness to issues like opioid use disorder,
8 but none have been studied to see their real-world
9 results.]

10 ***

11 Other

12 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, asked if anyone
13 wanted to comment on any of the four different House
14 or Senate bills listed in the Agenda.

15 Dr. Woodland commented that Item No. 20 on the
16 Agenda, FYI-SB 507 (regarding Certified Midwives),
17 has recently come back up in discussions. He wanted
18 people to raise awareness of the discussion about
19 this particular legislative action. He added that a
20 section of the American College of Obstetricians and
21 Gynecologists, located in Pennsylvania, has worked
22 hard with nurse-midwives to bring some of this
23 modernization forward.

24 Dr. Woodland then expressed his support for
25 Agenda Item No. 21, FYI-SB 421, regarding Disclosure

1 of Complaints. He explained to the Board that once
2 someone has filed a complaint with the State Medical
3 Board, they are required to disclose that complaint,
4 even if the outcome finds the complaint unfounded and
5 no further actions are taken. The complaint can
6 raise an undue bias against one's skill set even if
7 it goes away without any action. He found the
8 legislation to be very positive for providers who
9 expressed a desire to have the complaint erased or to
10 not have to disclose the complaint.

11 Mr. Dillon asked if the physician is required to
12 report the complaint if it is ongoing. Shana M.
13 Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, replied that
14 this is a Senate bill and has been referred to
15 committee. The Board as a whole does not necessarily
16 opine on the acts of the legislature, unless it has
17 been specifically asked to do so. This bill refers
18 only to physicians and allows them the ability to not
19 disclose a complaint where no discipline or
20 corrective action has been imposed or the complaint
21 has been closed with no action. The bill only refers
22 to cases in which a decision has been made.

23 Dr. Woodland acknowledged Ms. Walter's
24 clarification. He remarked that his understanding is
25 an individual must disclose an ongoing complaint

1 against themselves. The bill facilitates when a
2 complaint has been dismissed or has no action taken
3 on its behalf, the complaint will be erased from
4 their record moving forward. He noted that this
5 would be helpful for those with unfounded complaints
6 against them as it would affect things like insurance
7 applications.]

8 ***

9 For the Board's Information - Discussion
10 Board Meeting Dates

11 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, brought up the
12 upcoming Board meeting dates. The next Board meeting
13 will be on May 20, 2025. This will be followed by
14 meetings on July 1, 2025 and August 19, 2025. Three
15 more Board meetings will take place after the August
16 2025 meeting.

17 Chair Yealy stated that the Board would likely
18 begin to develop the 2026 Board meeting schedule at
19 the end of 2025. A draft of the 2026 calendar is
20 available for anyone who wants knowledge on the
21 dates, including people across the Commonwealth. He
22 noted that the Board's hybrid approach allows more
23 people to participate or at least be aware of
24 contemporaneous Board activity. He expressed a

1 desire to welcome people from the Commonwealth to
2 participate by joining the group virtually.]

3 ***

4 Report of Committee on Licensure Qualifications -
5 None

6 ***

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

9 [Michael Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP, noted the
10 need to update the members of the Committee on the
11 Agenda to reflect changes in their positions.

12 Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, brought up
13 Agenda Item No. 22, FYI-HB 157, the Rural Health Care
14 Grant Program. He suggested that the Board could use
15 some of their surplus to help fund the program.

16 Dr. Woodland mentioned the annual Federation of
17 State Medical Boards (FSMB) meeting is coming up at
18 the end of April 2025 in Seattle, Washington. The
19 Board will be presenting a poster on Mandatory CME
20 for State Medical Board that will be focused on
21 cultural competency. He announced that the final
22 poster will be available for the next Board meeting.

23 Dr. Woodland stated the poster will be
24 informational and will not endorse any opinions
25 regarding proposals or legislation. It will,

1 however, feature opinions about cultural competency
2 expressed by New Jersey and Connecticut as two states
3 that have mandatory CME regarding cultural
4 competency. Their state boards hosted a meeting of
5 providers to review what cultural competency means to
6 them, which will be presented on the poster as well.

7 He concluded the report by adding that the
8 Board's poster will also present how mandatory CME
9 gets instated. It can come into being by various
10 methods, though mostly through legislative means.]

11 ***

12 Report of Committee on Health-Related Professionals -
13 None

14 ***

15 Report of Department of Health
16 [Robert Bonacci, M.D., gave the report on behalf of
17 Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, FABM.

18 Dr. Bonacci first provided a brief update about
19 the epidemiologic situation regarding the various
20 measles outbreaks occurring across the country as
21 well as some information from the Department of
22 Health. He announced that as of April 6, 2025, there
23 have been 636 confirmed cases of measles across the
24 United States in 22 jurisdictions. Six outbreaks,
25 which are defined as three related cases or more,

1 have occurred this year, and 92% of the confirmed
2 cases are outbreak-associated. He stated that there
3 was recently a third death from measles in 2025, the
4 second of which was related to the Texas outbreak.

5 He reported that there have been six confirmed
6 cases of measles in Pennsylvania in 2025. Three
7 cases were in Erie County, one in Bucks County, one
8 in Montgomery County, and one in Philadelphia County.
9 Most of these cases involved travel to countries with
10 known outbreaks, such as some countries in Southeast
11 Asia and possibly Canada. The MMR vaccine, which
12 prevents measles, is 93% effective after the first
13 dose and 97% effective after two doses. While some
14 people who get vaccinated may acquire measles, the
15 symptom severity is lessened in individuals who
16 received the vaccination. Vaccinated individuals are
17 also less likely to spread measles.

18 Dr. Bonacci encouraged all healthcare providers
19 to make sure they are routinely vaccinating their
20 patients for MMR. He also urged the general public
21 in the meeting to make sure their vaccinations stay
22 up to date. He supplied a link in the chat for a PA
23 Health Alert Network (PA-HAN) Health Advisory
24 released on March 13, 2025 by the Pennsylvania
25 Department of Health regarding the measles outbreak.

1 The Health Advisory gave detailed information for
2 clinicians and encouraged them to have a heightened
3 awareness around the issue. This included having
4 measles as a differential diagnosis for individuals
5 presenting with fever and rash, especially those who
6 are unvaccinated or who may have traveled to
7 countries with ongoing outbreaks.

8 Dr. Bonacci then gave a brief update on the State
9 Health Improvement Plan which is run out of the
10 Department of Health. The State Health Improvement
11 Plan (SHIP) is a multi-year strategic plan that was
12 developed in collaboration with a diverse group of
13 stakeholders across the Commonwealth. There are
14 three primary focus areas: health equity, chronic
15 disease prevention, and whole-person care. He posted
16 another link showing that the SHIP dashboard is live
17 on the Department of Health (DOH) website. This
18 allows others to view how the Commonwealth is
19 performing in relation to the goal statistics set
20 forth in the SHIP.

21 Dr. Bonacci stated that on March 25, 2025, the
22 Pennsylvania Department of Health, along with the
23 Department of Human Services and the Department of
24 Drug and Alcohol Programs, received notices from the
25 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

1 outlining the immediate termination of funds
2 associated with three federal grants. The
3 termination notices were specific to supplemental
4 grant awards awarded in response to the COVID-19
5 pandemic and its impacts. On April 1, 2025, Governor
6 Josh Shapiro joined a multi-state lawsuit against the
7 Department of Health and Human Services challenging
8 the termination of the funding. A temporary
9 restraining order was granted on April 3, 2025.

10 Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, inquired as
11 to if Dr. Bonacci knew the percentage of measles
12 cases and deaths involving unvaccinated individuals.

13 Dr. Bonacci stated that according to the CDC's
14 report from the week prior, 97% of the cases in the
15 outbreak had unknown or unvaccinated vaccine status.

16 Dr. Woodland asked Dr. Bonacci if this week was
17 Health Equity Week or Health Equity Month in
18 Pennsylvania and, if so, were any activities planned.
19 Dr. Bonacci responded that he was not sure if it was,
20 but relayed that the Health Equity Conference is
21 coming up in May 2025. The Health Equity Conference
22 that the department is running is virtual-only but
23 people are able to register and join online. Dr.
24 Bonacci stated that it is Public Health Week but he
25 was unsure if it was Health Equity Week nationally as

1 well. Dr. Woodland asked for a link to join the
2 Health Equity Conference. Dr. Bonacci obliged.

3 Chair Yealy asked Dr. Bonacci to thank Secretary
4 Debra L. Bogan, whom Dr. Bonacci was filling in for.

5 She was working with Allegheny County spreading the
6 message about the impact of public health efforts and
7 activities on the health of the public. Chair Yealy
8 commended her efforts and stated that he thinks the
9 positive reporting on her work is a good thing for
10 both the county and the Commonwealth.]

11 ***

12 Report of Acting Commissioner

13 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
14 Professional and Occupational Affairs, provided a
15 report to the Board.

16 He began by mentioning that a few meetings ago,
17 the Board discussed whether it was releasing doctors'
18 personal data to the FSMB. Acting Commissioner
19 Claggett initially responded that they did not do
20 that, but he discovered that the street addresses of
21 Medical Board licensees and Osteopathic Board
22 licensees were released.

23 Acting Commissioner Claggett then met with the
24 FSMB and explained the Board cannot release this
25 information. The Board considers it an invasion of

1 privacy and moving forward the Board would provide
2 the FSMB with only the city, state, and the license
3 status. The FSMB will not be provided with the email
4 addresses or actual street addresses of the
5 licensees.

6 He ended his report by announcing that the Board
7 received the final approval for the FBI to start
8 accepting FBI fingerprint-based background checks.
9 They are hoping push the compact live for the medical
10 licensees in June 2025.

11 Chair Yealy thanked Acting Commissioner Claggett
12 for clarifying information with the FSMB and creating
13 boundaries with them. Chair Yealy emphasized Acting
14 Commissioner Claggett moving forward on the
15 interstate licensure compact as well. Chair Yealy
16 expressed that the Board wants to encourage people
17 with the appropriate skills to help serve the
18 citizens of the Commonwealth, and this is one way to
19 accomplish that.]

20 ***

21 Report of Vice Chair

22 [Michael R. Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP, Vice
23 Chair, provided a report.

24 Dr. Ripchinski noted that he appreciated hearing
25 about the progress they are making regarding

1 interstate medical licensure. He reminded the
2 physicians across the Commonwealth and the licensees
3 this board oversees about the importance of
4 connecting with their senators and local
5 representatives regarding several of the bills on the
6 Agenda. He reiterated that the Board often does not
7 have direct control over how much CME is mandated for
8 their licensees and is often done through the
9 legislative process. Dr. Ripchinski emphasized the
10 importance of staying connected to their professional
11 associations across the Commonwealth as well as
12 connecting themselves to their local senators and
13 representatives regarding the support for or against
14 proposed legislation.

15 Dr. Ripchinski concluded his report by noting
16 how much work is done by the members of the State
17 Board of Medicine. He expressed his appreciation and
18 thanks toward the Board members for their thoughtful
19 engagement and diligent review of all the items on
20 their Agenda. He stressed that only through thorough
21 analysis and discussion were they able to bring forth
22 a seemingly quick series of votes during the meeting.
23 Dr. Ripchinski asserted that the Board's deliberation
24 process is strong and it has a very consistent
25 membership who are engaged and detail-oriented in

1 their review of the applications and cases before
2 them.]

3 ***

4 Report of Board Chair

5 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., FACEP, Chair, gave the final
6 report of the meeting.

7 Chair Yealy noted his appreciation for the Board
8 members' hard work and stated that he was proud to be
9 a part of it.

10 Chair Yealy relayed that March 30, 2025 was
11 Doctor's Day. He noted that since one of the Board's
12 major functions is licensing physicians across the
13 Commonwealth, it was important to recognize the role
14 that physicians take in the Commonwealth and across
15 the country. He remarked that the Board works
16 together with many professionals to make sure people
17 can attain or maintain the health that they want and
18 deserve. Chair Yealy congratulated the Board and
19 thanked them for Doctor's Day.

20 He mentioned the recent shooting at a York County
21 hospital that brought focus to healthcare workplace
22 violence. He stated that individuals, organizations,
23 systems, peace officers, and the Commonwealth are
24 working through solutions to prevent these types of
25 incidents.

1 Chair Yealy emphasized that it is not about a
2 specific device or singular action. Rather, it is
3 about education, identification and de-escalation as
4 much as it is about deterrence and peace officer
5 responses. The Board doesn't have a specific role in
6 this, except to say they hear and know how important
7 it is. He emphasized that he wants physicians and
8 patients to feel safe while receiving care and having
9 access to providers in a way that facilitates optimal
10 health.

11 Chair Yealy concluded his report by mentioning
12 that it was Match Day across the Commonwealth of
13 Pennsylvania a week or two prior to the meeting.
14 Match Day allows medical students to move on to the
15 next stage of their career. He stated that it went
16 exceptionally well across the Commonwealth and that
17 an overwhelming majority of students finishing their
18 last year of medical school are entering into
19 programs.

20 He called Pennsylvania a powerhouse for both
21 undergraduate medical education and graduate medical
22 education. Chair Yealy said the Pennsylvania Board
23 of Medicine is a leader in their approach toward
24 licensure and re-licensure of people. He emphasized
25 his pride in being a part of the state of

1 Pennsylvania. He stated his well wishes for the new
2 graduates in the upcoming months and his hopes for
3 more of them to become interested in the State Board
4 of Medicine and the oversight of care.]

5 ***

6 Adjournment

7 CHAIR YEALY:

8 There is one final motion that I'd be
9 happy to entertain, and that's
10 adjournment of the meeting.

11 DR. KUTZ:

12 So moved.

13 ***

14 [There being no other business, the State Board of
15 Medicine Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.]

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CERTIFICATE

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



Rachel Wilber-Adams,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
REFERENCE INDEX

April 8, 2025

TIME	AGENDA
8:45	Executive Session
10:30	Return to Open Session
10:31	Official Call to Order
10:32	Acknowledge Public - Turn Off Electronic Devices
10:32	Introduction of Board Members/Attendees
10:34	Approval of Minutes
10:35	Report of Prosecuting Attorneys
10:50	Report of Board Counsel
10:55	Applications for Licensure
11:03	Ratifications
11:04	Miscellaneous
11:06	Report of Regulatory Counsel
11:24	Other
11:30	For the Board's Information/Discussion
11:31	Report of Committee on Legislation/Policy Development and Review
11:34	Report of Department of Health
11:41	Report of Acting Commissioner
11:43	Report of Vice Chair
11:45	Report of Board Chair
11:49	Adjournment