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, April 16, 2024
State Board of Medicine
April 16, 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
Gerard F. Dillon, Ph.D., Public Member
Michael Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP
Walter A. Eisenhauer, MMSc, M.Ed., PA-C
Sirisha Reddy, Special Assistant, on behalf of Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, FABM, Acting Secretary of Health, Department of Health
John D. Six, M.D.
John A. Kutz, M.D., FACS
Benjamin S. Abella, M.D., MPhil
Catherine N. Udekwu, M.D.

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel
Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel
Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor and Prosecution Liaison
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Kelsey B. Ashworth, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Patrick Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
CJ Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Saiyad Ali, Board Administrator
Carolyn A. DeLaurentis, Esquire, Executive Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of State
Cynthia K. Montgomery, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel, Counsel Division, Department of State
Michael McDonald, Policy Director, Department of State
Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director, Department of State
Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State
State Board of Medicine  
April 16, 2024

ALSO PRESENT:

Andrea Wandling, Human Resources Manager,  
Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers
Angie Armbrust, Senior Associate, McNees-Winter Group LLC
Liliana Fisher, Esquire, CGA Law Firm
Mary Marshall, Director, Workforce & Professional Development, The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
Susan DeSantis, PA-C, Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants
Wesley J. Rish, Esquire, Rish Law Office, LLC
Dinno Francis Mendiola, M.D., University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine
R. Perry Monastero, Ed.D., Coordinator, The Trevor Project
Mitchell Robert Kho, M.D.
Joseph Henry Yanta, M.D.
Mangesh Harendra Kanvinde, M.D.
Christina Edwards
Ian Weeber, Sargent’s Court Reporting Service, Inc.
Fabian Königer, M.D.
Tanya Miller
Randy Stevens, M.D.
Tanner Mobley, The Trevor Project

Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.  
(814) 536-8908
State Board of Medicine
April 16, 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, April 16, 2024. Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

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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 everyone silence electronic devices.]

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

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Approval of minutes of the March 5, 2024 meeting

CHAIR WOODLAND:

The next item is approval of the minutes. Do I have a motion to approve?

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion. I know the minutes were circulated. I know that people gave feedback, so I appreciate everybody reading them ahead of time.

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Report of Prosecuting Attorneys

[Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Liaison, presented the VRP Consent Agreements for Case No. 24-49-002785 and Case No. 24-49-002952.]

MS. WALTER:

Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, the Board entered into quasi-judicial deliberations at 8:45 a.m. and also received the advice of counsel on the matters that are on the agenda.

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the VRP Agreements at items 3 and 4 on the agenda, Case No. 24-49-002785 and Case No. 24-49-002952.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, exited the meeting at 10:41 a.m. for recusal purposes.]

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VICE CHAIR YEALY ASSUMED THE CHAIR

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[Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 22-49-007184.]

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreement at number 5 on the agenda at Case No. 22-49-007184, noting Dr. Woodland is recused.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.
MR. DILLON:

Second.

VICE CHAIR YEALY:

Any further discussion before we vote? Seeing none. Let's do a roll call vote, please.

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Abella, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried. Mark Woodland recused himself from deliberations and voting on the motion. The name for number 5 is Mitchell Robert Kho, M.D.]

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[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, reentered the meeting at 10:44 a.m.]

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CHAIR WOODLAND RESUMED THE CHAIR

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[Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair, exited the meeting at 10:44 a.m. for recusal purposes.]

***

[Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 24-49-001279.]

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreement at number 6 on the agenda at Case No. 24-49-001279, noting Dr. Yealy is recused.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

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

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Abella, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried. Donald Yealy recused himself from deliberations and voting on the motion. The name for number 6 is Joseph Henry Yanta, M.D.]

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[Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair, reentered the meeting at 10:47 a.m.]

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[Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 24-49-000292.]

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreement at number 7 at Case No. 24-49-000292.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously. The name for number
7 is Mangesh Harendra Kanvinde, M.D.]

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[Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented the Consent Agreement for Case Nos. 18-49-02823 & 20-49-013895.]

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreement at number 8 at Case Nos. 18-49-02923 & 20-49-013895.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously. The name for number
Report of Board Counsel - Final Adjudications for Board Approval

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to adopt as Final the Draft Adjudication and Order for Danice Blaise, M.D., Case No. 23-49-007946.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion? Hearing no further discussion. Saiyad, could we have a roll call, please?

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***
Report of Board Counsel - Other

MS. WUCINSKI:

Agenda item 14. I believe the Board would entertain a motion to grant an Unrestricted License to Practice Medicine and Surgery to Akhilesh Reddy, M.D.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on this one? The one thing I will note is that the reentry course was well done and very meaningful for us considering this situation. So we really appreciate it. Any other further discussion? Hearing none. Saiyad, could we have a roll call, please?

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

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MS. WUCINSKI:

Agenda item 15 is tabled to allow Board staff to obtain additional information from Kathryn Shaw, M.D., regarding her completion of reentry.

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Applications for Licensure - Allied Health Professionals

MS. WUCINSKI:

Agenda items 16 and 17. I believe the Board would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the following Applications to Practice as a Behavior Specialist: Adrianna Bokalo and Emily Owens.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on either of these cases? Hearing no discussion. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote,
please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye;
Dr. Yealy, aye or 16 and nay for 17;
Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye;
Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye;
Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr.
Abella, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.
[The motion carried. Donald Yealy opposed the motion
for item 17.]

***

MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a
motion to table agenda item 18 to allow
Susan Renee Sautner complete a reentry
program.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on this one? We
do have a reentry option for
respiratory therapy, which is great.
Hearing nothing else. Saiyad, could we
have a roll call vote, please?

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

Applications for Licensure - Graduate Medical Trainee

MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to direct L.S., M.D., to enroll in the VRP for a minimum period of one year.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on item 19?

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

Applications for Licensure - Unrestricted Physician and Surgeon

MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to table agenda item 20 to invite Isma Ali, M.D., to apply for an Institutional License, noting Dr. Ripchinski is recused.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

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; Mr. Dillon, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr.
Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Abella, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried. Michael Ripchinski recused himself from deliberations and voting on the motion.]

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MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to grant the following Licenses to Practice as a Physician and Surgeon:

Agenda item 21, Mohammad Dairi, M.D.; agenda item 22, Dane Floberg, M.D.; agenda item 24, Lokesh Khanna, M.D.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on any one of them? Hearing none. Saiyad, could we have a roll call vote, please?

Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz,
aye; Dr. Abella, 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 23, 25, 26, and 27 and advise the following Applicants to Apply for an Institutional License: Fnu Jeevika, M.D.; Japinder Khosa, M.D.; Fabian Nikolaus Koeninger, M.D.; Joao Arthur Trein, M.D.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

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

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

***

Applications for Licensure - Reactivations

MS. WUCINSKI:

Agenda item 28 is tabled to allow Board staff to obtain additional information from David Bruce Evans, M.D., regarding the Reactivation Application.

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MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to table agenda item 29 and send a Standard Reentry Letter to Katherine Margo, M.D.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

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; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye;
Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz,
aye; Dr. Abella, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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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:
Omotay Fasan, M.D.; Dinno Francis
Mendiola, M.D.; Ivo Petoe, M.D.; Ramak
Roohipourmoallai, M.D.

DR. KUTZ:
So moved.

MR. DILLON:
Second.

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]***

Miscellaneous - Kjerstin Klein Request for
Reconsideration

MS. WUCINSKI:

Agenda item 35. I believe the Board
would entertain a motion to deny the
Reconsideration Request of Kjerstin Klein
regarding her Application to Practice as
an Athletic Trainer.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

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; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr.
Ripchinski, aye; Mr. Eisenhauer, aye;
Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Kutz, aye; Dr. Abella, aye; Dr. Udekwu, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

Report of Board Counsel - Regulatory Report

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

Chair Woodland commented that bills are still working their way through the legislative process, such as the telemedicine initiative, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, and some other bills discussed over the last few years, including the midwifery update bill.

Ms. Wucinski addressed House Bill 2178 regarding implicit bias and cultural competence continuing education requirements. She referred to the cosponsorship memoranda noting that the legislation was created to ensure healthcare providers are providing inclusive care.

Ms. Wucinski explained that all health-related boards within the Department of State would have to complete implicit bias training as part of each profession's continuing education requirements with the goal to help marginalize communities to feel more
connected and supported by providers while healthcare grows, not only to acknowledge but nurture and honor differences among individuals in their health.

Ms. Wucinski informed Board members that Ms. Walter and she would reach out to Board members for their position on the bill if the Board were asked to complete a bill analysis.

Acting Commissioner Claggett stated Chair Woodland and he met with Representative Cephas to discuss the bill and noted being in full support of requiring folks to take the training.

Chair Woodland commented on asking licensees as far as mandatory training but believed explicit bias courses are really pertinent. He mentioned that many institutions have annual mandatory training, including Reading Hospital/Tower Health.

Chair Woodland noted it to be part of a larger constellation of what is called the Momnibus movement, where the Black Maternal Health Caucus is putting forth ideas looking at inequities in healthcare to create a more equitable healthcare space.

Dr. Yealy noted implicit bias training to be a good idea but also mentioned the importance of keeping track of the total amount that individual
practitioners and groups have to go through, whether it is at the Commonwealth level, individual level, or at healthcare systems and facilities. He also mentioned the importance of making sure people practicing through their efforts have the best training and frequency and to be thoughtful of the total overall training burden.

Chair Woodland commented that individuals do get education (.edu) fatigue but also noted the importance of raising awareness to bias for the clinical learning environment as a whole.

Ms. Walter noted House Bill 2200 requires criminal background checks for state and federal healthcare practitioners under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA).

Chair Woodland asked whether criminal background checks would occur every two years with renewal or only with the initial license.

Ms. Walter explained that the background check would occur with initial licensure and not during renewal. She further explained that licensees are required separate and apart from House Bill 2200 to report criminal convictions within 30 days.

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Report of Board Counsel – BPOA Statement of Policy
Against Conversion Therapy

Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, noted the statement of policy sets forth guidelines that should be considered by licensees regarding conversion therapy on minors.

Ms. Wolfgang noted the Shapiro Administration and Department of State are strongly committed to protecting the rights and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual/aromantic/agender (LGBTQIA+) Pennsylvanians, especially young members of those communities.

Ms. Wolfgang stated Governor Shapiro is calling on the licensing boards to adopt statements of policy clarifying that the practice of conversion therapy may constitute a disciplinable offense.

Ms. Wolfgang referred to Executive Order 2022-02, which was adopted by Governor Wolf to protect Pennsylvanians from conversion therapy and supporting LGBTQIA+ Pennsylvanians.

Ms. Wolfgang noted Executive Order 2022-02 specifically indicates that conversion therapy has been rejected by the scientific, medical, and educational communities, and numerous professional organizations have denounced conversion therapy due
to its lack of scientific validation and negative and
dangerous impact on the health and well-being of
LGBTQIA+ persons and communities, along with the
specific harm it causes to the mental health of
LGBTQIA+ children.

Ms. Wolfgang stated all agencies of the
Governor's jurisdictions were directed to protect
Pennsylvanians, including children and youth, from
conversion therapy under the Executive Order. She
noted the Executive Order specifically directs the
Department of State to discourage the practice and
inform the public of mechanisms to report licensed
professionals who cause harm to patients as a result
of practicing conversion therapy.

Ms. Wolfgang also stated a recent report by a
national research and advocacy organization found
that conversion therapy is practiced by licensed
professionals across the country, including
Pennsylvania.

Ms. Wolfgang provided information regarding the
role of a statement of policy as compared to a
regulation. She explained that a statement of policy
is a guidance document and basically an announcement
to the public of a policy an agency intends to
implement in future adjudications. She noted it also
serves as a notice to licensees.

Ms. Wolfgang explained that any agency applying
the statement of policy in a particular situation
must be prepared to support the policy as if the
statement of policy had never been issued. She
mentioned that a statement of policy is not a rule to
be used in adjudication or a case. She explained
that a regulation establishes a standard of conduct
which has a force of law, whereas a statement of
policy does not create that binding norm.

Ms. Wolfgang explained that the conversion
therapy statement of policy provides guidelines that
should be considered by licensees to ensure
compliance with the practice act and the Board's
regulations. She noted the statement of policy
explains that being lesbian; gay; bisexual;
transgender; queer; questioning; intersex; or asexual
is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or
shortcoming.

Ms. Wolfgang explained that the statement of
policy also announces that a licensee who uses
conversion therapy on a minor may be subject to
discipline by the Board. She requested the Board
adopt the statement of policy.

Chair Woodland addressed his experience with
conversion therapy as a 16-year-old gay man, noting it to be a very dark moment in his life. He believed conversion therapy set him back a few years as far as general acceptance as an adolescent. He noted the importance of raising awareness and applauded the Governor for bringing it to their attention. He also noted being wholeheartedly in support of the policy statement.

Dr. Abella thanked Dr. Woodland for sharing those heartfelt remarks. He noted the importance of having open discussions and applauded the Board for considering the statement of policy.]

MS. WUCINSKI:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the statement of policy regarding conversion therapy for 16A-4961 and to direct regulatory counsel to take the necessary steps to publish the statement of policy in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:
On the annex and face sheet, my degrees are not listed correctly. Saiyad will have to correct that; otherwise, it's moving forward.

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Report of Department of Health

[Sirisha Reddy, Special Assistant, on behalf of Debra L. Bogen, M.D., Department of Health, reported an increase in global and domestic measles cases. She stated the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health issued health advisories in March. Ms. Reddy noted the CDC updates the number of measles cases every Friday, and reported 121 measles cases as of April 12, 2024, in 18 jurisdictions, including Pennsylvania. She mentioned that 82% of]
cases occurred in unvaccinated individuals.

Ms. Reddy also reported measles to be highly contagious and transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread. She noted the virus can remain infectious in the air and on surfaces for up to 2 hours after an infected person leaves the area, and one person infected with measles can infect 9 out of 10 unvaccinated individuals.

Ms. Reddy noted the best defense is to get both doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination, especially if traveling internationally.

Ms. Reddy provided an update concerning congenital syphilis, which is a sexually transmitted disease that occurs when a pregnant individual with syphilis passes the infection on to the baby during pregnancy. She reported an increase in both the state and nationwide due to the large number of pregnant individuals not engaged in prenatal care.

Ms. Reddy explained that 65% of reported cases in Pennsylvania were identified in pregnant individuals not engaged in prenatal care. She mentioned that the Department of Health is focused on educational outreach to remind healthcare professionals about the importance of testing patients for syphilis, especially during pregnancy.
Ms. Reddy announced that the Department of Health has posted the 2024 Maternal Mortality Review Commission Report on its website. She reported 107 identified maternal deaths in 2020, and mental health conditions, including substance abuse, was the leading cause of death. She noted recommendations were also listed in the report.

Chair Woodland commented that vaccines work. He stated pregnancy is an unprotected health condition and noted the importance of checking for sexually transmitted diseases.

Chair Woodland referred to the 2024 Maternal Mortality Review Commission Report, stating that obstetrical causes related to maternal mortality represents a small portion of maternal mortalities.

Chair Woodland mentioned examining the maternal mortality, not only for the antenatal and perinatal period but also for the 12 months after birth, where more mental illness and substance-related issues are being observed. He noted the importance of those issues being reported to the maternal mortality reports.

Chair Woodland addressed the importance of postpartum compliance and follow up after giving birth to help identify people at risk for depression,
psychiatric disorders, and substance use. He suggested having someone provide the Board with an update on the Maternal Mortality Review Commission Report.]

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Report of Board Chair

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, acknowledged National Health Observances for April, including National Minority Health Month, Alcohol Awareness Month, and National Public Health Week. He stated alcohol substance use disorder is becoming a little more prevalent. He mentioned the importance of bringing alcohol and cannabis use forward, especially since cannabis is now legal for medical use, emphasizing the fact that it can become addictive and problematic.

Chair Woodland stated the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health celebrates National Minority Health Month as a chance to highlight the importance of improving the health of racial methods in minority communities and reducing health disparities. He mentioned that it builds awareness, encourages access, and explores the importance of the social determinants of health. He noted the origin of National Minority Health Month
was the 1915 establishment of National Negro Health Week by Booker T. Washington.

Chair Woodland reported that National Minority Health Month received support from the U.S. Congress in 2002 with the concurrent resolution that a National Minority Health and Health Disparities Month should be established to promote educational efforts on health problems currently facing minorities and other populations experiencing health disparities.

Chair Woodland stated the resolution encouraged all health organizations and Americans to conduct appropriate programs and activities to promote healthy behavior and care. He provided the website in his report for everyone to review.

Chair Woodland noted Alcohol Awareness Month is to help raise awareness for people to understand the health effects of alcohol use and misuse and to encourage everyone to make healthier choices. He mentioned that the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) has a variety of evidence-based products for health professionals and community leaders and also provided the website for everyone to review.

Chair Woodland noted Public Health Week was April 1 through 7 with the opinion this year on protecting,
connecting, and thriving. He stated the focus is on the interconnectedness of health and community wellbeing. He noted daily themes were civic engagement, healthy neighborhoods, climate change, new tools and innovations, reproductive and sexual health, emergency preparedness, and future of public health.

Chair Woodland addressed new tools and innovations, noting there is a lot being put forward about the use of smart watches and connectivity or healthcare devices in homes. He referred to Dr. Abella's presentation on the importance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the automated external defibrillator (AED). He asked Dr. Abella and Dr. Yealy to provide a brief update at a future meeting.

Chair Woodland stated the future of public health is about teaming up with others to end racism and advocate for community wellbeing to make sure every person has access to support and care.

Chair Woodland addressed PA Black Maternal Health Week. He referred to the presentations about the Pennsylvania Momnibus bill, which is a package of legislation that was established in 2018 to addresses maternal mortality issues. He noted it
also included the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee. He stated the PA Black Maternal Health Caucus advocates for investments in maternal health and passage of Pennsylvania's Momnibus.

Chair Woodland noted Momnibus would provide opportunities to improve maternal healthcare outcomes in Pennsylvania by requiring health insurance and Medicaid to cover home monitoring blood pressure devices for pregnant and postpartum enrollees. He also noted cardiovascular disease is one of the major impacts on maternal health and maternal mortality.

Chair Woodland addressed the Pennsylvania Health Equity Summit, where the Department of Health partnered with the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology to address health activities. He referred to maternity equitable care focusing on race and ethnicity and gender inequities. He mentioned pointing out at the Pennsylvania Health Equity Summit maternity is reimbursed at much lower rates than other healthcare interventions, like cardiology and orthopedics. He noted anesthesiologists make more from their impact on maternity care than an obstetrician does for their entire 12 months of care. He commented that the two-day event fostered solutions and raised awareness about health equity in
different communities.

Ms. Reddy also attended the Pennsylvania Health Equity Summit and offered to share slides with the Board.

Chair Woodland informed everyone that the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Annual Meeting was in Nashville. He noted the theme to be the science of sound decisions. He reported the keynote speaker is Cass Sunstein, who is currently a professor at Harvard and founder and director of the Program on Behavioral Economics and Public Policy.

Chair Woodland noted Mr. Dillon is the Board delegate this year and will be participating in their vote. He noted reports on the positions and training recommendations and guidelines, looking at issues that boards address regarding physicians in training, as well as presenting guidelines and recommendations for expediting licenses. He also noted working hard with the Ethics and Professionalism Committee on artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine and professional recommendations and guidelines.

Chair Woodland informed everyone that his term is up at the FSMB but would be running for reelection. He highlighted that the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) came out with a recent report
about the complexities of the physician supply and demand projections from 2021 to 2036. He noted the summary of key findings is in his report. He noted the shortage is still projected to be there but not as high as projected.

Chair Woodland mentioned it not only focused on primary care but also surgical subspecialties, especially where training is changing and cases are going down because of better medical care. He noted references to websites are available in his report.

Mr. Dillon noted one of the other topics that is going to be discussed at the federation is investigation of pathways for expediting international medical graduates and whether or not there is a way for the states to collectively find alternate routes for physicians who are trained outside the U.S.

Chair Woodland commented on the current system for the evaluation of international medical graduates who do not have training and testing in the traditional pathways, and it will be interesting to see how the recommendations compare to current pathways.}

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Report of Vice Chair
[Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair, wished Chair Woodland well in the FSMB election. He noted looking forward to learning more about how things are done in other places to continue on the current path or maybe improve the trajectory. He agreed with Chair Woodland as far as having an appropriate structure regarding nontraditional candidates but also appropriate flexibility in understanding the value of individual pathways seeking licensure.

Dr. Yealy recognized that maternal mortality does not mean mortality related to gestation and delivery, noting it to be a bigger issue than that. He stated it is an important personal, societal, and interpersonal event when new life is brought into the world. He mentioned that it triggers many wonderful events and maybe a few that deserve attention.

Chair Woodland referred to a presentation from one of the nurses at Reading Hospital, whose mother died two months after she was born, noting it to be quite an impactful on a family and the individual who was born by that mother. He offered to have her return to the Board to share her story.

Chair Woodland thanked Dr. Yealy for the hope on the election, noting the election is not just for him but the entire Commonwealth and the state of
Pennsylvania to keep them in the national spotlight.]

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Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

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Report of Committee on Health-Related Professionals -
No Report

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Report of Committee on Legislation/Policy Development
and Review - No Report

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Report of Committee on Licensure Qualifications - No
Report

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Report of Board Administrator - No Report

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Public Comments

[Dinno Francis Mendiola, M.D., University of Miami,
Miller School of Medicine, experienced technical
difficulties.

Acting Commissioner Claggett suggested Dr.
Mendiola put his question in chat.

Christina Edwards asked whether the Board voted
on licensure for a behavior specialist. She also
requested a response to her Board appeal.

Ms. Walter informed Ms. Edwards that the
application was not on the agenda and will be heard by a hearing examiner.

Chair Woodland read Dr. Mendiola's question, noting a lot of areas in Pennsylvania lost their Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Area (MUA) status in January 2024, and asked whether the Department of Health has updated that status.

Ms. Reddy explained that the Department of Health's Primary Care Office is working with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on updating that but did not believe results would be available until the fall.]

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For the Board's Information/Discussion - Old Business/New Business - Upcoming 2024 and 2025 Meeting Dates

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, referred to the upcoming Board meeting dates available on the Board's agenda. He noted the next Board meeting will again be hybrid on May 21 and welcomed everyone to attend in person.

Chair Woodland thanked everyone for their activity on the Board and all of the staff for their contributions.]
Adjournment

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Motion to adjourn.

DR. KUTZ:

So moved.

MR. DILLON:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Take care everybody.

[There being no other business, the State Board of Medicine Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.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.

Ian Weeber,
Minute Clerk
Sargent’s Court Reporting Service, Inc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>AGENDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>Executive Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Return to Open Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:32</td>
<td>Official Call to Order</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:32</td>
<td>Acknowledge Public – Turn Off Electronic Devices</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:32</td>
<td>Introduction of Board Members/Attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:36</td>
<td>Approval of Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:37</td>
<td>Report of Prosecuting Attorneys</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:52</td>
<td>Report of Board Counsel</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:54</td>
<td>Applications for Licensure</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:02</td>
<td>Ratifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:03</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:04</td>
<td>Report of Board Counsel (cont.)</td>
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<td>11:20</td>
<td>Report of Department of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:24</td>
<td>Report of Board Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:36</td>
<td>Report of Vice Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>Public Comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:43</td>
<td>For the Board’s Information/Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:44</td>
<td>Adjournment</td>
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April 16, 2024