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

FINAL MINUTES

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, May 21, 2024
State Board of Medicine  
May 21, 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 R. Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP
Walter A. Eisenhauer, MMS, M.Ed., PA-C - Absent
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 - Absent
Benjamin S. Abella, M.D., MPhil
Catherine N. Udekwu, M.D. - Absent

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior 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
Mark R. Zogby, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Patrick Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Adrienne Rachelle McClendon, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Courtney J. Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Saiyad Ali, Board Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Angie Armbrust, Senior Associate, McNees-Winter Group LLC
Emily Hoffman
Fabian Koninger, M.D.
Mary Marshall, Director, Workforce & Professional Development, The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
Misha Patel, M.D., Curriculum Education Assistant, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
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ALSO PRESENT: (cont.)

Randy Stevens, Director of Legislative Affairs,
Pennsylvania Orthotic and Prosthetic Society
Jeevika Singh
Jennifer Smeltz, Republican Executive Director,
Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure
Committee
Susan DeSantis, PA-C, Pennsylvania Society of
Physician Assistants
Jackson Teague
Ted Mowatt, CAE, Vice President/Lobbyist, Wanner
Associates
Wesley J. Rish, Esquire, Rish Law Office, LLC
Heather Wilson, MSW, CFRE, Executive Director,
Physicians' Health Program, Foundation of the
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Christina Edwards
Rachel Wilbur-Adams, Sargent’s Court Reporting
Service, Inc.
State Board of Medicine

May 21, 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, 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 10:29 a.m.]

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The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Medicine was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

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Acknowledgment 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. A quorum of Board members was present.]

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Approval of minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting

CHAIR WOODLAND:

The first order of business is approval of the minutes from the last meeting on April 16, 2024.

DR. YEALY:

I move to approve.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Report of Prosecuting Attorneys

[Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board]
Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Liaison, introduced and welcomed new Board prosecutors, Patrick Greene, Berk Demiral, Courtney Restemayer, and Adrianne McClendon.

Ms. McCarthy presented the VRP Consent Agreements for Case No. 24-49-006400, Case No. 24-49-006741, Case No. 24-49-007095, Case No. 24-49-007334, and Case No. 23-49-007245.]

MS. WALTER:

Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, the Board entered into Executive Session at 8:45 a.m. to enter into quasi-judicial deliberations and to receive advice of counsel on matters on the agenda at items 17, 22 through 42, and 45 through 46.

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the VRP Agreements at Number 3, Case No. 24-49-006400; Number 4, Case No. 24-49-006741; Number 5, Case No. 24-49-007095; and Number 6, Case No. 24-49-007334.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:
CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on those four cases? Hearing none, roll call, please, Saiyad.

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreement at Number 7 on the agenda, Case No. 23-49-007245.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on this item? Hearing none, could we have a roll call, please?
Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Abella, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's name at Number 7 is Mohan Maganlal Patel, M.D.]

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[Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 22-49-018713.]

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreement at Number 8 on the agenda, Case No. 22-49-018713.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on item 8? Hearing none, could we have a roll call, please?

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

[The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's name at Number 8 is Suryanarayan Jiaraj, M.D.]

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[Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented the Consent Agreements for Case No. 22-49-007142, Case No. 22-49-016357, Case No. 23-49-005897, Case No. 23-49-007616, and Case No. 23-49-008327.]

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreements at the following agenda items: Number 9, Case No. 22-49-007142; Number 10, Case No. 22-49-016357; Number 12, Case No. 23-49-007616, and Number 13, Case No. 23-49-008327.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on those four cases? Hearing none, could we have a
roll call, please, Saiyad?

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

[The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's name at Number 9 is Balakrishna R. Ragoor, M.D.; Number 10, Bassem R. George, M.D.; Number 12, Steve Wayne Powell, M.D.; and Number 13, Rowena T. Grumbine, M.D.]

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MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agreement at Case No. 23-49-005897.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Motion?

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

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

Mr. Claggett, nay; Dr. Woodland, aye;
Dr. Yealy, aye; Mr. Dillon, nay; Dr.
Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr.
Six, aye; Dr. Abella, aye.

[The motion carried. Arion Claggett and Gerard
Dillon opposed the motion. The Respondent's name at
Number 11 is Justin A. Mourt, LRT.]

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[Mark R. Zogby, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
the Consent Agreement for Case No. 22-49-013712.]

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a
motion to approve the Consent Agreement
at Number 14 on the agenda, Case No. 22-
49-013712.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion? Hearing none.
Could we have a roll call, please?
Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Abella, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's name at Number 14 is Elizabeth Cooke Sowerby, LRT.]

***

Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Reports from Hearing Examiner

MS. WALTER:

Number 15 on the agenda. I believe the Board would entertain a motion to adopt the proposed Adjudication of the hearing examiner and substitute the Board Order in the Matter of Dominique R. Etienne, Case Nos. 22-49-018715 & 23-49-016295.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on this item? Hearing none, could we have a roll call, please, Saiyad?
Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, nay; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Abella, aye.

[The motion carried. Donald Yealy opposed the motion.]

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MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to adopt the proposed Adjudication of the hearing examiner at Numbers 16 and 17. Number 16 is Gina Gilbert, Case No. 22-49-007653 and Number 17, John Chu, M.D., Case No. 23-49-003824.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

Report of Board Counsel - Other

MS. WALTER:

Number 22. I believe the Board would entertain a motion to grant the Reactivation Application of Judith K. Weinstein, M.D.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion? Hearing none. Let's have a roll call, please?

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Applications for Licensure - Allied Health
MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the Applications at Numbers 23 and 24. Number 23, the Application for Nurse-Midwife of Erin E. Koser and Number 24, the Application to Practice as a Behavior Specialist of Heather Swimley.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

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

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Applications for Licensure - Unrestricted Physician
and Surgeon

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to grant the Applications for Unrestricted Licensure as a Physician and Surgeon of Mohamad Bakro, M.D., Number 25 on the agenda and Sirisha Brennan, M.D., Number 27 on the agenda.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on these two items, 25 and 27? Hearing none, could we have a roll call, please?

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a
motion to offer Institutional Licenses to the following Applicants: Number 26, Giovanni Barbagli, M.D.; Number 29, Mona Al Rammah, M.D.; and Number 30, Sanoj Shahul, M.D.

DR. YEALY:
So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:
Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:
Any further discussion on these three items; 26, 29, and 30? Hearing none, could we have a roll call, please?

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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[Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair, exited the meeting at 11:00 a.m. for recusal purposes.]

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MS. WALTER:
I believe the Board would entertain a
motion to grant the Application to
Practice as a Physician and Surgeon of
Ahmed Doomi, M.D., Number 28 on the
agenda.

Dr. Yealy is recused from this
matter.

DR. ABELLA:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on Number 28?
Hearing none, Saiyad, could we have a
roll call, please?

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

[The motion carried. Donald Yealy recused himself
from deliberations and voting on the motion.]

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[Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair, reentered the
meeting at 11:01 a.m.]

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MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the Application for Unrestricted Licensure as a Physician and Surgeon of Jeffrey Strain, M.D.

DR. ABELLA:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Applications for Licensure - Reactivations

MS. WALTER:

Number 32 is the Reactivation Application of Karen Patrice Angell, M.D. I believe
the Board would entertain a motion to
direct the Board administrator to send a
reentry letter to Dr. Angell.

DR. YEALY:
So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:
Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:
Any further discussion on Number 32?
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; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr.
Six, aye; Dr. Abella, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MS. WALTER:
I believe the Board would entertain a
motion to grant the Reactivation
Applications of Bruce Baldwin, M.D.,
Number 33 on the agenda and Number 34,
David Bruce Evans, M.D.

DR. YEALY:
So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:
Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:
Any further discussion on items 33 and 34? Hearing none, could we have a roll call, please?

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MS. WALTER:
I believe the Board would entertain a motion to direct the Board administrator to send reentry letters to Morry Moskovitz, M.D., Number 35 on the agenda, and Number 36, Baligh Yehia, M.D.

DR. YEALY:
So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:
Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:
Any further discussion on these two items, 35 and 36? Hearing none, could we have a roll call, please, Saiyad?

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

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Ratifications

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to Ratify the granting of the Applications for the following Applicants for Licensure as a Physician and Surgeon at Numbers 37 through 42 on the agenda.

Number 37 is **Aws Atheel Ahmed Kamona, M.D.**; Number 38, **Tarun Kumar, M.D.**; Number 39, **Steven M. Malkin, M.D.**; Number 40, **Jobran Mansour, M.D.**; Number 41, **Senthil Kumar Thyagarajan, M.D.**; and Number 42, **Sunny Thumar, M.D.**

DR. YEALY:

So moved.
DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on items 37 through 42? 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; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Abella, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Miscellaneous

MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to deny the Request for Reconsideration for the Application of Fnu Jeevika, M.D. for consideration under Act 41 and Endorsement for an Unrestricted License as a Physician and Surgeon.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:
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; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Abella, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MS. WALTER:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to deny the Request for Reconsideration and provisionally deny the Unrestricted Licensure Request of Fabian Koninger, M.D.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion on 46? Hearing none, could we have a roll call?
Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Abella, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Report of Board Counsel - Regulatory Report

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

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Report of Board Counsel - Regulatory Report

[Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, stated the final rulemaking for regulation 16A-4958 implements Act 41 regarding licensure by endorsement. She noted the proposed rulemaking was published on August 13, 2022, and the Board received 36 public comments expressing support for the regulation, along with comments from the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and the House Professional Licensure Committee.

Ms. Wolfgang reported that Board Counsel previously reviewed the comments with the Board and was instructed to draft final rulemaking, noting the...
final regulation before the Board reflected the Board's instruction and was ready for their review and approval.

Chair Woodland commented that it does out naturopathic docs as well as a specific entity.

Ms. Walter explained that the final regulation related to naturopathic doctors was published on May 18, 2024.

Ms. Wolfgang further explained that IRRC asked that the final regulation be held until that regulation was published and was why it was being moved forward at this time.

MS. WOLFGANG:

If no one has any questions, I would ask for a motion to approve the regulation and to move it on through the final-form rulemaking regulatory process.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Any further discussion other than what we had before? We need to do a roll call vote.
Mr. Claggett, aye; Dr. Woodland, aye; Dr. Yealy, aye; Mr. Dillon, aye; Dr. Ripchinski, aye; Ms. Reddy, aye; Dr. Six, aye; Dr. Abella, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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[Chair Woodland asked Ms. Wolfgang to address the next step of the regulation.]

Ms. Wolfgang explained that the next step would be to deliver the regulation to IRRC and the committees for approval to then be published as final.]

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Report of Board Counsel - Regulatory Report

[Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, addressed House Bill 1295 Title 63 amendments. She informed Board members that it relates to hearings and hearing examiner procedures and provides a statutory framework for hearings in person or virtual. She noted it allows for negative inference to be drawn from the failure to appear of a respondent and the allegations against the individual to be found true.

Ms. Walter also noted it requires continuances...
only for good cause, allows for adverse impact
statements from an individual who has been adversely
impacted by the allegations of the order, and allows
for reasonable accommodations for visual and hearing
impairment or any other disorder.

Chair Woodland commented that it was a
modernization of the hearing examiners to include
virtual and some equity and inclusion-type
situations.

Ms. Walter addressed Schedule II prescribing.
She stated a physician assistant prescribing
controlled substances is limited to prescribing a
prescription that would last for 30 days. She noted
intrathecal pain pumps are Schedule II controlled
substances, and because the refill on the intrathecal
pain pump is usually about six months, the physician
assistant is currently not allowed under the
regulations to issue those prescriptions.

Ms. Walter asked whether the Board would
entertain writing into the regulations an exclusion
from the 30-day rule specifically tailored to writing
prescriptions for intrathecal pain pumps by physician
assistants for either a general or specific duration.

Dr. Yealy noted being in support of the general
concept. He mentioned that the device and the
deployment of the opioid is not done on the same schedule as used other opioids on and actually fits within common clinical practice. He stated having this prohibition in place will not allow them to optimally serve residents of the Commonwealth and believed the specific exclusion carefully written in regulation will allow them to safely serve people.

Ms. Walter asked whether the intrathecal pain pump is the only delivery method where the six-month prescription for an opioid is delivered or should the specific term intrathecal pain pump not be used.

Chair Woodland stated the Board is asking for that specific carve-out for intrathecal pain pumps. He did not know of other six-month entities that are prescription-oriented.

Dr. Yealy commented that all of his clinical experience deals with intrathecal use of these agents, and he is not aware of an alternative long-term repository delivery system. He explained how the medication is administered using sterile technique for up to a six-month period.

Chair Woodland mentioned that the Board may have to come back if there is additional technology or new devices requiring a longer prescription pad.

Ms. Wolfgang asked whether it would have to be
specified in the written agreement and whether the Board wanted that indicated in the regulations.

Chair Woodland believed it should be specified because a carve-out was being created from the usual practice of 30 days to allow a six-month situation for this type of therapy.

Dr. Yealy agreed and did not think the additional language adds an undue burden for either the people providing the care or the person receiving it.

Dr. Ripchinski also supported the concept and adding it to the agreement. He believed it will be a limited group of people who are going to have the ability and oversight from physicians to do this.]

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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, noted the 2024 and 2025 Board meeting dates are available on the Board's agenda for review.]

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Miscellaneous - FYI-FSMB Symposium on Alternate Licensing Models

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, referred to the Federation of State Medical Boards' Symposium]
on Alternative Licensing Models. He stated there had been a lot of discussion nationally, not only about workforce and issues of clinical workforce for the United States but also for other countries throughout the world.

Chair Woodland reported a fairly good discussion at the last FSMB Meeting between Finland and New Zealand about their alternative pathways and what their systems are looking at as well. He noted the FSMB also put forth a commission to guide the discussion on alternative pathways for state licensure, which is going to include Intealth and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Mr. Dillon commented that the approaches the Federation might take in terms of recommended pathways to the states may be similar to the practice within the state of Pennsylvania, including licensing via endorsement of credentials for some international graduates and the opportunity for institutional licenses. He noted that, so far, there is a little bit of overlap between the early suggestions and what Pennsylvania already does, but believed there would certainly be benefit from broader thought on this topic.
Dr. Yealy wanted to compare and contrast what is done in the Commonwealth on the State Board of Medicine with the ideas that others are hearing. He encouraged others to share information that exists elsewhere.

Chair Woodland mentioned that much of it addresses the current education models of different countries, and the Board recognizes there is an evolution happening, not only within the current education models but also the access to information. He noted the discussion about how artificial intelligence may affect some of that as well.

Chair Woodland referred to issues when considering out-of-country credentials and really considering those credentials when it comes to their own state licensure models. He mentioned that other countries and states have the same issues and everybody is trying to find a common place to help process some of those alternative pathways, whether it be people coming into this country or people from this country going to other countries.

Chair Woodland commented that every state has to deal with their own regulatory process, so anything said at the level of the commissions still has to be interpreted by their regulatory process and state
licensing boards.]

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Miscellaneous - FYI-Annual Report

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, addressed the Annual Report, noting 4,219 cases were opened and 4,412 closed in 2023 and 3,728 opened and 3,271 closed in 2022. He thanked everybody on the State Board of Medicine for their hard work on the tremendous number of cases processed.

Chair Woodland pointed out that the disciplinary type in 2023 was 103 and has gone down from 2019 through 2023 from 350, 230, 172, 163, and 103, respectively.]

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Report of Board Chair

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, informed everyone that the National Health Observances for May 2024 is raising awareness about physical fitness, mental health, older adults’ health and well-being, and women’s health. He explained that National Physical Fitness and Sports Month is obviously get up and get moving. He noted it talks about older adults and youth being involved in healthy activity.

Chair Woodland addressed Older Americans Month, which is being led by the Administration for
Community Living, and emphasizes the power of connection, not only activity for older individuals.

Chair Woodland referred to Mental Health Awareness Month, noting the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) sponsors mental Health Awareness Month and highlights the importance of mental health. He also mentioned different sports individuals are promoting good mental health and addressing mental health issues. He included the National Institute of Mental Health's (NIMH) website in his report for the latest information on those topics.

Chair Woodland stated National Women's Health Week May 12-18, 2024, looked at empowering women in their health journey; safe sexual health; shining a light on maternal mental health, talking about it, and reducing women's health stigma; understanding care is there; reproductive health from puberty to menopause and beyond; and heart and mental health.

Chair Woodland addressed inequities in healthcare, including gender inequity, as far as research into women's health and and how that has lagged behind men's health. He provided a White House proclamation about women's health in his report. He referred to a comment, where too many
medications, treatments, and textbooks are based on men's needs. He discussed the need for gender equality and funding for health care.

Chair Woodland referred to PA Black Maternal Health Week last month, noting there are several bills being introduced through "Momnibus," which is the legislative package put out from the PA Black Maternal Health Caucus.

Chair Woodland reported that one of those bills moving forward concerns blood pressure cuff monitoring and having insurers pay for blood pressure cuffs to help facilitate discovering hypertensive disease during pregnancy.

Chair Woodland noted the second bill is a cultural sensitivity and bias training bill. He noted reactivation of his New Jersey license requires cultural sensitivity training, which was helped produced by Drexel.

Chair Woodland addressed the FSMB Annual Meeting, noting the delegate reports looked at a physician and training recommendation guidelines, which was accepted and will be brought forth to all of the state medical boards in the country.

Chair Woodland also noted the artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine and professional
regulation recommendations and guidelines were accepted and added to most of the other national organizations.

Chair Woodland announced that he was reelected to a three-year term on the FSMB Board and will have three more years of Pennsylvania being represented on the Federation of State Medical Boards.

Chair Woodland noted conversations about workforce needs, sexual misconduct, opioid misprescribing, and interdisciplinary team-based approach to medical regulation. He also noted discussions about hydration clinics and working in harmony with other groups.

Mr. Dillon added that there was discussion, prompted by the Oregon Board, concerning how medical directors of health insurance companies are regulated and there was a recommendation that the Federation put together a research group to see how insurance medical directors are regulated across all the states and come up with recommendations for that area.

Chair Woodland mentioned that FSMB also has a robust agenda for administrators of state medical boards.

Chair Woodland stated the Federal Trade Commission's proposal for the noncompete rule to do
away with some of the noncompete rules that are written into employees' contracts was approved on April 23, 2024, and will go into full effect in September. He mentioned Pennsylvania House Bill 1633 is moving forward and will be discussed at a future date.

Chair Woodland recognized May and June as the months of medical school graduations as well as acceptances into medical school. He mentioned the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has a great website for anyone just entering medical school and includes the regulatory process.

Chair Woodland also included the World Medical Association's Declaration of Geneva, which is the physician's oath, along with the modern version of the Hippocratic Oath in his report.]

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Report of Vice Chair

[Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair, recognized National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week across the United States. He stated the Pennsylvania Board of Medicine and everybody on the call knows the dedication, impact, and caring that happens from their EMS partners each and every day. He commented that all are able to create that chain of not only
survival but also improvement.

Dr. Yealy noted that many people may fail to recognize that organized EMS actually started in western Pennsylvania by a group of people who came from an underrepresented minority background. He noted they were the first to not only receive training in what could be done but to actually operationalize that and do it in the field.

Dr. Yealy encouraged everyone to recognize EMS professionals for the rest of the week for their amazing work because it is often unrecognized. Recently, nurses not only around the country but specifically within the Commonwealth were recognized.

Chair Woodland commented that emergency medical services is often a point of entry into the healthcare system for many individuals, and EMS providers are incredibly adept at helping individuals make that point of entry in a very positive manner.]

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Report of Acting Commissioner

[Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, informed Board members that the application for naturopathic doctors will be available in the Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS) on May 22, 2024.
Acting Commissioner Claggett announced the Bureau will be enabling e-licensure on May 31, 2024, to allow all licensees to print their own license instead of waiting for the license to arrive in the mail. He also mentioned there will not be a fee for e-licensure, and it will have a response (QR) code to verify the person is an active licensee.]

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Report of Department of Health

[Sirisha Reddy, Special Assistant, on behalf of Debra L. Bogen, M.D., Department of Health, recognized May is National Lyme Disease Awareness Month and announced that the Department of Health launched a tick-borne diseases dashboard that provides a weekly summary of emergency department tick bite and Lyme-related visits as well as monthly Lyme disease case counts by county.

Ms. Reddy noted legislation has been introduced in both the House and the Senate to increase lead testing for children, and Dr. Bogen has issued an editorial emphasizing the importance of lead testing for children.

Ms. Reddy noted the health advisories to health systems and providers is also posted on the Department of Health website. She reported the last
health advisory went out last Friday regarding influenza A(H5N1) for healthcare providers. She noted H5N1 has not been identified in Pennsylvania as of May 1 but has been identified in nine states.

Chair Woodland thanked Ms. Reddy for the alerts from the Department of Health to raise awareness to issues that may or may not impact patients.]

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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

[Michel R. Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP, echoed Dr. Yealy and wished everyone a Happy National EMS Week. He mentioned being the board chair of Lancaster EMS, and the EMS professionals and paramedics are near and dear to his heart as they not only honor the past but forge into the future of EMS across the Commonwealth and the nation.

Dr. Ripchinski discussed working on the growth of the Lancaster community-based paramedic program. He noted their community paramedicine program is a critical piece to taking care of their patients, not only preventing admissions, but also helping patients
transition to prevent a readmission to the hospital, as well as community outreach and connecting with community agencies and partners to take care of patients when they are well beyond the hospital and well out of their physician offices.

Dr. Ripchinski reported seeing growth in community paramedicine but also growth in teaching and educational programs for their EMTs and paramedics, which is a stepping stone to future healthcare careers and being able to partner with them.

Dr. Ripchinski noted having a prehospital EMS fellowship-trained physician in Lancaster who is working with their Penn Medicine program across southeastern PA to continue to coordinate with EMS professionals and EMS organizations and to grow, train, and develop those staff members as well.

Dr. Ripchinski commented on the many opportunities into the future, including bringing technology and other services into the field, as well as continuing to engage and train staff.

Dr. Ripchinski stated artificial intelligence has been in the news lately with their Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer (GPT) and open AI announcement. He referred to Dr. Betchel's comment
in the Journal of Medical Regulation in May, where medical boards have to start thinking about regulatory considerations of rapidly expanding AI in the practice of medicine.

Dr. Ripchinski noted his thought-provoking short article triggered thoughts about a regulatory goal in the future to allow the integration of technology with clinical management and to evolve while maintaining standards of care, ethical practice, and avoiding patient harm. He referred to the COVID years and how to use those lessons learned from thinking about telemedicine regulation and expansion and growth and applying some of that learning to AI in the future.

Chair Woodland commented that the new FSMB statement highlights that the provider is responsible whether or not it is used. He noted looking at how to teach critical thinking in the day of AI and what sensational education needs to happen, especially in the surgical world and some of the other worlds.

Chair Woodland commented that Heidi Koenig from the Kentucky State Medical Board was part of the committee who helped write the recommendations after reading a novel by Jane Austen called Sense and Sensibility and is why the title of their
recommendations is Sense and Sensibility because many applications can be put forth about approaching AI with sense and sensibility.

Chair Woodland mentioned raising cybersecurity as it applies to artificial intelligence with FSMB and what gets into the development of intelligence in a computer-generated thought process. He noted artificial intelligence has something called hallucinations or misguided thought processes that can happen and cautioned against entering biased information.

Chair Woodland commented that the electronic medical record (EMR) now represents 25% of the healthcare budget and has been the biggest displeasure for providers. He expressed a concern with artificial intelligence doing the same.]

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Report of Committee on Licensure Qualifications - No Report

[Gerard F. Dillon, Ph.D., Public Member, noted the committee continues to be very busy and thanked Dr. Yealy, Dr. Kutz, and Mr. Eisenhauer for their hard work.]

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Report of Board Administrator - No Report
Saiyad Ali, Board Administrator, thanked Board members for allowing him the opportunity to attend the FSMB Meeting. He noted it to be enlightening to hear other ideas from other boards.

Chair Woodland mentioned new special breakout sessions for the board administrators to discuss their boards.

Chair Woodland noted the President of the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, Denise Pines, presented her work on inequities in maternal health in Pennsylvania and was also just reelected to the Federation.

[Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, noted the next scheduled Board meeting is June 25, 2024, and welcomed everyone to attend in person.]

Adjournment

CHAIR WOODLAND:

Motion to adjourn.

DR. YEALY:

So moved.

DR. RIPCHINSKI:

Second.

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[There being no other business, the State Board of Medicine Meeting adjourned at 11:53 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 Wilbur-Adams,
Minute Clerk
Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>AGENDA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>Executive Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:29</td>
<td>Return to Open Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:31</td>
<td>Official Call to Order</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:31</td>
<td>Acknowledge Public - Turn Off Electronic Devices</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:31</td>
<td>Introduction of Board Members/Attendees</td>
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<td>10:34</td>
<td>Approval of Minutes</td>
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<td>10:35</td>
<td>Report of Prosecuting Attorneys</td>
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<td>10:55</td>
<td>Report of Board Counsel</td>
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<td>Applications for Licensure</td>
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<td>Ratifications</td>
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<td>Report of Board Counsel (cont.)</td>
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<td>Report of Board Chair</td>
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<td>Report of Vice Chair</td>
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<td>Report of Acting Commissioner</td>
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<td>Report of Department of Health</td>
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<td>Report of Committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:53</td>
<td>Adjournment</td>
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