

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

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

SPECIAL MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF NURSING

TIME: 9:02 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

September 25, 2025

State Board of Nursing
September 25, 2025 Special Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS:

Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice
Chair
Kathryn L. Capiotis, MSN, BSN, RN - Absent
Susan Hellier, PhD, DNP, FNP-BC
Brandy Hershberger, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN
Sue E. Hertzler, LPN
Linda A. Kerns, Esquire, Public Member
David Scher, MPH, MSN, RN, CEN
Tina D. Siegel, LPN

COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL OFFICE STAFF:

Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel
Megan E. Castor, Esquire, Board Counsel
Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel
Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel
Tiffanie Camarota, Esquire, Board Counsel
Dana Archer, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel and Board
Counsel, State Board of Medicine
Ashley Goshert, Esquire, Board Counsel, State Board
of Osteopathic Medicine
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, State
Board of Medicine
Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel
Carolyn A. DeLaurentis, Esquire, Chief Counsel,
Office of Chief Counsel
Jason C. Giurintano, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Counsel Division
T'rese Evancho, Esquire, Board Prosecutor and Board
Prosecution Co-Liaison
Alex Capitello, Legal Analyst, Office of Prosecution
CJ Restemayer, Esquire, Office of General Counsel
Garrett Rine, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Codi Tucker, Esquire, Board Prosecutor and Board
Prosecution Co-Liaison
Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Prosecution Division
Michael Fischer, Executive Deputy General Counsel,
Office of General Counsel

1 State Board of Nursing
2 September 25, 2025 Special Meeting

3
4
5 COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL OFFICE STAFF: (Cont.)

6
7 Neil Mahalingam, Esquire, Assistant Chief Counsel,
8 Department of Health
9

10
11 DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BOARD STAFF:

12
13 Wendy Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary
14 Cynthia K. Miller, Board Administrator
15 Kelly Hoffman, MSN, RN, Nursing Education Advisor
16 Tracy Scheirer, PhD, MSN, RN, CMSRN, CNE, Nursing
17 Education Advisor
18 Dulcey Frantz, DNP, RN, RAC-C, Nursing Practice
19 Advisor
20 Susan Bolig, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor
21 Leslie House, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor
22 Koren Linn, Chief of Nursing Operations
23 Robert Beecher, Policy Director, Office of Policy,
24 Department of State
25 Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State
26 Michael Chmielewski, Director, Office of Legislative
27 Affairs
28 Danie Bendesky, Special Assistant for Strategic
29 Initiatives, Pennsylvania Department of State
30

31
32 ALSO PRESENT:

33
34 Jordan Fuhrman, Government Relations Specialist,
35 Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
36 P. Daniel Altland, Esquire, Pennsylvania Association
37 of Nurse Anesthetists
38 Janet Yontas, BSN, MSN, Director of Practical
39 Nursing, Career Technology Center of Lackawanna
40 County
41 Mary Marshall, Director, Workforce & Professional
42 Development, The Hospital and Healthsystem
43 Association of Pennsylvania
44 Adele Caruso, DNP, CRNP, FAANP, Adjunct Assistant
45 Professor, University of Pennsylvania School of
46 Nursing; Adult Nurse Practitioner, Penn Medicine,
47 University of Pennsylvania Health System
48 Joseph Brett, Research Analyst, Professional
49 Licensure Committee, Pennsylvania House Democratic
50 Caucus, Pennsylvania House of Representatives

1 State Board of Nursing
2 September 25, 2025 Special Meeting
3
4

5 ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)
6

7 Allison Walker, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
8 Inc.
9

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

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

State Board of Nursing

September 25, 2025 Special Meeting

The Special Meeting of the State Board of Nursing was held on Thursday, September 25, 2025. Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Introduction of Board Members

[Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, requested an introduction of Board members. A quorum was present.]

Introduction of Board Staff

[Wendy Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary, provided an introduction of Board staff.]

Introduction of Board Counsel

[Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, requested an introduction of Board Counsel.]

Introduction of Board Prosecution

[Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, requested an introduction of Board Prosecutors.]

Introduction of Virtual Attendees

[Cynthia K. Miller, Board Administrator, provided an introduction of virtual attendees.]

[Linda A. Kerns, Esquire, Public Member, entered the meeting at 9:08 a.m. David Scher, MPH, MSN, RN, entered the meeting at 9:09 a.m.]

Adoption of Agenda

CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

Can I have a motion to adopt the Agenda that is before you?

DR. BUCHER:

So moved, Bucher.

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

Claggett, second.

CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

All those in favor? Opposed?

Abstentions?

[The motion carried unanimously.]

Appointment - Pennsylvania Department of Health

[Robert Bonacci, M.D., Department of Health, reported that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has provided the Center for Disease Control

1 (CDC) and the nation with expert recommendations
2 about the use of vaccines since it was founded in the
3 1960s. He noted that for many years ACIP has used
4 the Evidence to Recommendations framework, an
5 evidence-based and standardized approach, to evaluate
6 the many dimensions related to immunization
7 recommendations. The process was intended to foster
8 transparency, consistency, and clear communication
9 about public health recommendations to clinicians and
10 the public. He noted recent changes to the membership
11 and function of ACIP have left many health and
12 medical professionals and the public concerned about
13 the integrity of the review process and the
14 trustworthiness of new recommendations.

15 Dr. Bonacci stated that in the Commonwealth of
16 Pennsylvania, the Department of Health (DOH) is
17 charged with promoting healthy behaviors, preventing
18 injury, and assuring the safe delivery of quality
19 healthcare for all people in Pennsylvania. The DOH
20 released new recommendations on September 22, 2025,
21 to provide clear, evidence-based guidance and ensure
22 vaccines remain accessible for Pennsylvanians. Dr.
23 Bonacci shared a link to the guidance that is
24 available on the DOH website.

25 Dr. Bonacci explained that the DOH guidance

1 recommends Pennsylvanians follow the most recent
2 immunization recommendations issued by the American
3 Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of
4 Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American College of
5 Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG). AAP, AAFP, and
6 ACOG are all trusted medical organizations that have
7 provided evidence-based immunization schedules and
8 recommendation for many years. He noted the newly
9 released guidance does not change the vaccine
10 requirements issued by the DOH through regulation for
11 childcare groups and school age students.

12 Dr. Hellier asked if the CDC documents received
13 by the Board reflected the old or new
14 recommendations. Ms. Pachter Schulder stated the CDC
15 documents reflect the old guidelines. Dr. Bonacci
16 noted ACIP had met September 18-19, 2025, to make
17 their recommendations. He was not sure when the CDC
18 would update their guidance. He added there are
19 several steps in between ACIP making their
20 recommendations and the CDC publishing updated
21 guidelines. He noted historically ACIP's
22 recommendations are usually accepted by the CDC
23 anywhere from a couple of days after the meeting to a
24 couple of weeks. The time period has varied with the
25 new administration, and the acting director of the

1 CDC had not accepted the recommendations as of the
2 time of the Board meeting.

3 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked Dr. Bonacci to
4 summarize ACIP's recommendations. He stated ACIP
5 voted to not recommend the use of the combined MMRV
6 vaccine for children under four years of age. He
7 added ACIP did not address recommendations around MMR
8 and Varicella as separate vaccines. He noted ACIP
9 tabled consideration for a recommendation for
10 Hepatitis B vaccines for children under one month.
11 ACIP also considered a series of votes related to the
12 2025-2026 COVID vaccine. Among the considerations
13 were directions to the CDC about addressing risk
14 information in the vaccine information pamphlet as
15 well as recommendations to physicians. He noted the
16 considerations were unusual recommendations, and ACIP
17 normally does not make recommendations of that
18 nature.

19 Dr. Bonacci stated ACIP recommended adults 65 and
20 older consider COVID vaccination an individual
21 decision or shared decision with their healthcare
22 provider. Similar recommendations regarding COVID
23 vaccinations were made for children six months to
24 adults 64 years of age. He noted the additional
25 emphasis on risk benefit profiles.

1 Dr. Bonacci reported ACIP voted no on requiring a
2 prescription for the COVID vaccine. He added ACIP
3 does not have the authority to require or not require
4 a prescription. He also noted it was the first time
5 other public health officials and he had seen a vote
6 on prescriptive authority from ACIP.

7 Dr. Hellier asked for clarification as to whether
8 the letter of support was recommending following the
9 old MMR vaccine recommendations for children. Dr.
10 Bonacci reiterated DOH is recommending people to
11 follow the immunization recommendations from AAP,
12 AAFP, and ACOG, all of which largely mirror previous
13 CDC guidelines but do deviate from some of the
14 current vaccine recommendations.]

15 ***

16 New Business - Letter of Support
17 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
18 presented the Board with a Letter of Support for the
19 immunization guidance issued by DOH earlier in the
20 week. She noted the letter was prepared by Board
21 Counsel for the Board of Nursing along with the State
22 Board of Medicine and the State Board of Osteopathic
23 Medicine. The letter is in response to uncertainty
24 within the licensed community about immunization
25 standards—to confirm the role of DOH in recommending

1 and setting various guidelines for the Commonwealth
2 and to confirm the role of reliable state and
3 national associations in providing guidance to
4 practitioners.

5 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted the letter emphasizes
6 that immunizations are essential to protecting
7 individual and public health. The letter also
8 commends DOH for providing clear evidence-based
9 guidance to practitioners and the public. She added
10 the letter affirms that medical doctors and other
11 board-regulated practitioners should be knowledgeable
12 in evidence-based immunization schedules and
13 practices.

14 Ms. Pachter Schulder explained that by adopting
15 the letter, the Board would express strong support
16 for DOH's leadership, reinforce the importance of
17 clear, consistent immunization guidance, and confirm
18 that such guidance is a valuable resource in the
19 Board's oversight of professional practice.]

20 ***

21 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

22 At this time, why don't we go ahead and
23 have a motion to adopt and a second, if
24 appropriate. And then let's have a
25 discussion about that Letter of

1 Support.

2 DR. BUCHER:

3 So moved, Bucher.

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

5 Claggett, second.

6 MS. KERNS:

7 Hold on a second. Are we adopting this
8 letter? I'm sorry?

9 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

10 That is a motion to get the discussion
11 started.

12 MS. KERNS:

13 Motion just to get the discussion
14 started.

15 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

16 So we have a motion. We have a second.
17 Now let's go ahead and have discussion
18 about the motion. Well, is there any
19 discussion? Ms. Kerns, did you want to
20 begin?

21 ***

22 [Linda A. Kerns, Esquire, Public Member, noted the
23 document was being characterized as a letter, but it
24 was not addressed to anyone in particular.

25 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated the document was

1 meant to be an open letter and would be posted under
2 Announcements on the Board's website. She added the
3 letter is signed to avoid confusion due to the kind
4 of questions that have been asked. She noted the
5 letter provides information to licensees, especially
6 CRNPs, that they might need. She suggested the
7 letter could be sent to licensees in an email blast,
8 which was supported by Dr. Hellier.

9 Ms. Kerns expressed confusion about the format of
10 the document. She noted the document seemed to be a
11 statement on behalf of the Board rather than a
12 letter. She asked who the letter is addressed to.
13 Ms. Pachter Schuler reiterated the letter is intended
14 to be sent out to CRNPs but will be published as an
15 open letter for anyone to review. She added the
16 State Board of Nursing only speaks to its licensees,
17 but other people may find it appropriative to know
18 what licensees are being told. Ms. Kerns noted she
19 thought the letter needed to have an addressee in
20 order to be clear for the public.

21 Chair Hunsberger noted he did not think the
22 letter needed an addressee but supported it being
23 sent to all of the Board's licensees.

24 Ms. Kerns expressed her continued concern about
25 having the letter be addressed to a specific person

1 or group. Acting Commissioner Claggett stated there
2 was no need to edit the letter.

3 Mr. Scher stated the letter was pretty
4 straightforward. He added he believed it was
5 incumbent on the Board to make sure all clinicians
6 are informed as patients often have questions
7 regarding immunizations.

8 Dr. Hellier asked if the Boards of Medicine and
9 Osteopathic medicine were using a similar letter.
10 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted similar letters would be
11 posted to all three Board websites; however, the
12 Board of Nursing was the only one considering an
13 email blast.

14 Chair Hunsberger noted nurses at the bedside
15 needed to be able to say that the CDC has made
16 recommendations, but professional organizations are
17 showing recommendations based on research.

18 Mr. Scher stated the big picture is to make sure
19 people recognize that organizations are utilizing
20 data backed by peer reviewed research.]

21 ***

22 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

23 Is there a motion to adopt and issue
24 the letter of support as drafted?

25 DR. BUCHER:

1 So moved, Bucher.

2 MR. SCHER:

3 Second, Scher.

4 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

5 All those in favor? Opposed?

6 Abstentions?

7 MS. KERNS:

8 Kerns opposed.

9 [The motion carried. Ms. Kerns opposed the matter.]

10 ***

1 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

2 And then the Board has separately
3 requested - why don't we go ahead and
4 make that as a second motion.

5 The Board has requested that this
6 letter statement be emailed as an email
7 blast to all licensees.

8 DR. BUCHER:

9 So moved, Bucher.

10 MR. SCHER:

11 Second, Scher.

12 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

13 All those in favor? Opposed?
14 Abstentions?

15 MS. KERNS:

16 Kerns opposed.

17 [The motion carried. Ms. Kerns opposed the matter.]

18 ***

19 [There being no further business, the State Board of
20 Nursing Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.]

21 ***

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Allison Walker', is written over a horizontal line.

Allison Walker,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF NURSING
REFERENCE INDEX

September 25, 2025 Special Meeting

TIME	AGENDA
9:02	Official Call to Order
9:02	Introduction of Board Members
9:03	Introduction of Attendees
9:07	Adoption of Agenda
9:09	Appointment - Robert Bonacci, M.D., Pennsylvania Department of Health
9:20	New Business
9:35	Adjournment