

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

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

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

TIME: 10:34 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

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

State Board of Osteopathic Medicine
December 4, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS:

Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs - Absent
Robert Bonacci, M.D., on behalf of Debra L. Bogen,
M.D., FAAP, FABM, Secretary of Health
John B. Bulger, D.O., MBA, Chairman
Hillary D. Snyder, MSPAS, PA-C, Vice Chairperson -
Absent
Randy Litman, D.O., Secretary
Thomas S. Dardarian, D.O.
Joseph M. Zawisza, D.O.
Jonathan P. Oline, D.O.
Ayanna S. Kersey-McMullen, D.O.
James R. Latronica, D.O. - Absent

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Ashley B. Goshert, Esquire, Board Counsel
Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Priscilla Turek, Board Administrator
Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director,
Department of State
Taylor Koch, Fiscal Management Specialist 3,
Bureau of Finance and Procurement, Department of
State
Jennifer Jumper, Fiscal Management Specialist 2,
Bureau of Finance and Procurement, Department of
State
Tamie Laudenslager, Fiscal Management Specialist,
Bureau of Finance and Procurement, Department of
State

ALSO PRESENT:

Jennifer Smeltz, Republican Executive Director,
Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure
Committee
Mary Marshall, Director, Workforce & Professional
Development, The Hospital and Healthsystem
Association of Pennsylvania

State Board of Osteopathic Medicine
December 4, 2024

ALSO PRESENT: (cont.)

Tyler Burke, Senior Director of Government Affairs,
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association
Al Patel

Daniel Powers, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

Marcedes Newby
Kari L. Orchard
Misha Patel

1 ***

2 State Board of Osteopathic Medicine

3 December 4, 2024

4 ***

5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
6 at 9:30 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session
7 with Ashley B. Goshert, Esquire, Board Counsel, for
8 the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
9 deliberations on a number of matters that are
10 currently pending before the Board and to receive the
11 advice of counsel. The Board returned to open
12 session at 10:30 a.m.]

13 ***

14 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
15 Board of Osteopathic Medicine was held on Wednesday,
16 December 4, 2024. John B. Bulger, D.O., MBA,
17 Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.]

18 ***

19 Introduction of Board Members/Attendees

20 [Priscilla Turek, Board Administrator, provided an
21 introduction of Board members, staff, and attendees.
22 A quorum of Board members was present.]

23 ***

24 [Ashley B. Goshert, Esquire, Board Counsel, reminded
25 everyone that the meeting was being recorded and

1 voluntary participation constituted consent to be
2 recorded.

3 Ms. Goshert also noted the Board entered into
4 Executive Session with counsel for the purpose of
5 conducting quasi-judicial deliberations and to
6 receive advice of counsel.]

7 ***

8 Approval of minutes of the October 9, 2024 meeting
9 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

10 The first order of business is approval
11 of the minutes. The minutes from the
12 October 9, 2024 meeting were
13 distributed ahead of time.

14 I'll get a motion to approve and
15 then will ask for any additions,
16 deletions, or corrections.

17 DR. KERSEY-MCMULLEN:

18 I make a motion to approve.

19 DR. LITMAN:

20 Second.

21 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

22 Any additions, deletions, corrections,
23 or discussion on the minutes? Hearing
24 none. Priscilla, please call the roll.

25

1 John Bulger, aye; Randy Litman, yes;
2 Thomas Dardarian, aye; Joseph Zawisza,
3 abstain; Jonathan Oline, yes; Ayanna
4 Kersey-McMullen, aye; Robert Bonacci,
5 abstain.

6 [The motion carried. Joseph Zawisza and Robert
7 Bonacci abstained from voting on the motion.]

8 ***

9 Report of Prosecuting Attorneys

10 [Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
11 presented the Consent Agreements for VRP Case No. 24-
12 53-008022, VRP Case No. 24-53-016646, and Case No.
13 22-53-001404.]

14 ***

15 [Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
16 presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 22-53-
17 002219.]

18 ***

19 [Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
20 presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 24-53-
21 015330.]

22 ***

23 Report of Board Chair

24 [John B. Bulger, D.O., MBA, Chairman, thanked
25 everyone for their service the past year. He

1 reported receiving a thank you from the the National
2 Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME),
3 noting contact information was on that email for
4 anyone who would like to follow up.

5 Chair Bulger also reported receiving an
6 invitation to the Federation of State Medical Boards
7 (FSMB) Meeting on opioids in February 2025 and
8 offered to forward it to anyone interested in
9 attending.

10 Chair Bulger wished everybody a happy holiday and
11 very festive season.]

12 ***

13 Report of the Vice Chair - No Report

14 ***

15 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

16 ***

17 Report of Board Counsel - Regulatory Status Report
18 [Ashley B. Goshert, Esquire, Board Counsel, referred
19 to the Regulatory Status Report prepared by Ms.
20 Wolfgang. She highlighted the status report, noting
21 the licensure requirements and Act 41 regulation is
22 moving along. She reported that it was submitted to
23 the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC),
24 and the Board received no comments.

25 Ms. Goshert noted regulatory counsel indicated

1 that it should be published by the end of the year
2 and will keep the Board updated.

3 Ms. Goshert informed Board members that she would
4 be working on the physician assistant (PA)
5 regulation, and regulatory counsel would be focusing
6 on the opioid regulation in 2025.]

7 ***

8 Appointment - Bureau of Finance and Procurement
9 Annual Budget Presentation

10 [Tamie Laudenslager, Fiscal Management Specialist,
11 Bureau of Finance and Procurement, Department of
12 State, presented the Annual Financial Report. She
13 referred to the license population over the last
14 seven years and fluctuation in the different classes.

15 Ms. Laudenslager reported that this biennial
16 license period showed 14,082 licensees, noting a very
17 healthy growth with an increase of 627 licensees
18 since the last biennial period.

19 Ms. Laudenslager addressed renewal fees, noting
20 the Board is in the last incremental increase for
21 their last Board fee increase, which was in 2020.
22 She mentioned it to be a 7% increase, noting renewals
23 are in October and December of even years. Current
24 renewals were in the middle of their final period for
25 December 2024. She noted the next renewal period is

1 in 2030, and there would be no further increases in
2 their license renewal fees.

3 Chair Bulger requested information concerning the
4 reduction of 100 physicians in FY23-24, noting 10,159
5 in FY24-25 and 9,365 in FY22-23.

6 Ms. Laudenslager explained that she did not have
7 an answer. Actual licensee counts were being
8 reported, so anybody who renewed their license would
9 have been counted. She offered to investigate the
10 decrease in number of licensees for that particular
11 year.

12 Ms. Laudenslager further explained that renewals
13 are in even years for October and December, and there
14 would not have had any renewals in FY23-24.

15 Dr. Kersey-McMullen requested clarification of
16 who renews in December. Chair Bulger explained that
17 osteopathic physicians renew in October and physician
18 assistants renew in December.

19 Ms. Laudenslager provided a breakdown of biennial
20 sources of revenue for licensees, noting the biennial
21 revenue for FY22-23 and in the nonrenewal year. She
22 reported 98% of revenue was from renewals and
23 applications.

24 Ms. Laudenslager noted expenses can hit the Board
25 through timesheet-based charges, direct charges, and

1 license population. She reported on expenses in the
2 prior biennial period and the current biennial
3 period.

4 Ms. Laudenslager explained that the increase in
5 expenses for this period is due to a new information
6 technology (IT) system for the legal department, the
7 move from Penn Center to Thea Drive for the legal
8 department, and the Pennsylvania Licensing System
9 (PALS) modernization.

10 Ms. Laudenslager addressed expenses and revenue,
11 noting the Board's beginning balance in FY22, revenue
12 with expenses, showing revenue exceeded expenses and
13 restricted funds continue to grow.

14 Ms. Laudenslager further explained that
15 restricted funds are available in case the Board
16 would need something and should be two times the
17 expenses.

18 Dr. Kersey-McMullen asked whether the restricted
19 fund is funded by a percentage of yearly revenue and
20 how it is allocated every fiscal year. Ms.
21 Laudenslager offered to get back to the Board with
22 the information.]

23 ***

24 Report of Prosecuting Attorneys

25 MS. GOSHERT:

1 Agenda items 4 and 5. Based on
2 Executive Session deliberations, I
3 believe the Board would entertain a
4 motion to approve the VRP Agreements at
5 Case No. 24-53-008022 and Case No. 24-
6 53-016646.

7 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

8 Could we have a motion?

9 DR. LITMAN:

10 Motion to approve.

11 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

12 Second?

13 DR. ZAWISZA:

14 Second.

15 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

16 Any further discussion? Hearing none.

17 Priscilla, please call the roll.

18

19 John Bulger, aye; Randy Litman, aye;
20 Thomas Dardarian, aye; Joseph Zawisza,
21 aye; Jonathan Oline, aye; Ayanna
22 Kersey-McMullen, aye; Robert Bonacci,
23 aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously.]

25

1 MS. GOSHERT:

2 Agenda items 6 and 7. Based on
3 Executive Session deliberations, I
4 believe the Board would entertain a
5 motion to approve the Consent
6 Agreements at Case No. 22-53-001404 and
7 Case No. 22-53-002219.

8 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

9 Could we have a motion to approve?

10 DR. LITMAN:

11 Motion to approve.

12 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

13 Second?

14 DR. ZAWISZA:

15 Second.

16 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

17 Any further discussion? Hearing none.
18 Priscilla, please call the roll.

19

20 John Bulger, aye; Randy Litman, aye;
21 Thomas Dardarian, aye; Joseph Zawisza,
22 aye; Jonathan Oline, aye; Ayanna
23 Kersey-McMullen, aye; Robert Bonacci,
24 aye.

25 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's

1 name at item 6 is Connie Lynn Edwards-Lubold, PA-C.
2 The Respondent's name at item 7 is John Michael
3 Tomaro, D.O.]

4 ***

5 MS. GOSHERT:

6 Agenda item 8. Based on Executive
7 Session deliberations, noting the
8 recusals of Board members, Dr.
9 Dardarian and Dr. Zawisza, I believe
10 the Board would entertain a motion to
11 approve the Consent Agreement at Case
12 No. 24-53-015330.

13 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

14 Do we have a motion?

15 DR. LITMAN:

16 Motion to approve.

17 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

18 Second?

19 DR. OLIVE:

20 Second.

21 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

22 Any further discussion? Hearing none.

23 Call the roll.

24

25 John Bulger, aye; Randy Litman, aye;

1 Thomas Dardarian, recuse; Joseph
2 Zawisza, recuse; Jonathan Oline, aye;
3 Ayanna Kersey-McMullen, aye; Robert
4 Bonacci, aye.

5 [The motion carried. Thomas Dardarian and Joseph
6 Zawisza recused themselves from deliberations and
7 voting on the motion. The Respondent's name is
8 Michael Miller, D.O.]

9 ***

10 Report of Board Administrator - No Report

11 ***

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

14 [John B. Bulger, D.O., MBA, Chairman, noted the 2025
15 Board meeting dates for the Board's review.]

16 ***

17 Miscellaneous

18 MS. GOSHERT:

19 Agenda item 10. Based on Executive
20 Session deliberations, I believe the
21 Board would entertain a motion to grant
22 the Petition submitted by Shane Brown
23 to allow another attempt at the COMLEX
24 Level 1 Exam.

25 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

1 Do we have a motion?

2 DR. LITMAN:

3 Motion to approve.

4 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

5 Second?

6 DR. ZAWISZA:

7 Second.

8 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

9 Any further discussion? Hearing none.

10 Please call the roll.

11

12 John Bulger, aye; Randy Litman, aye;
13 Thomas Dardarian, aye; Joseph Zawisza,
14 aye; Jonathan Oline, aye; Ayanna
15 Kersey-McMullen, aye; Robert Bonacci,
16 aye.

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18 ***

19 MS. GOSHERT:

20 Agenda items 11 and 12. Would the
21 Board entertain a motion to Ratify the
22 CME Extension for Jeffrey Brand and
23 Gregory Habib?

24 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

25 Do we have a motion?

1 DR. LITMAN:

2 Motion to approve.

3 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

4 Do I have a second?

5 DR. ZAWISZA:

6 Second.

7 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

8 Any further discussion? Hearing none.

9 Priscilla, please call the roll.

10

11 John Bulger, aye; Randy Litman, aye;

12 Thomas Dardarian, aye; Joseph Zawisza,

13 aye; Jonathan Oline, aye; Ayanna

14 Kersey-McMullen, aye; Robert Bonacci,

15 aye.

16 [The motion carried unanimously.]

17 ***

18 Miscellaneous - Election of Officers

19 MS. GOSHERT:

20 Do we have any nominations for Board

21 Chair?

22 DR. LITMAN:

23 I nominate Dr. John Bulger for Board

24 Chair.

25 MS. GOSHERT:

1 We have a nomination for Dr. Bulger.
2 Are there any other nominations for
3 Chair? I don't hear any other
4 nominations for Chair.

5 Do we have a motion to elect Dr.
6 Bulger as Chair of the State Board of
7 Osteopathic Medicine?

8 DR. ZAWISZA:

9 So moved.

10 MS. GOSHERT:

11 Do we have a second?

12 DR. OLINE:

13 Second.

14 MS. GOSHERT:

15 Roll call.

16
17 John Bulger, abstain; Randy Litman,
18 aye; Thomas Dardarian, aye; Joseph
19 Zawisza, aye; Jonathan Oline, aye;
20 Ayanna Kersey-McMullen, aye; Robert
21 Bonacci, aye.

22 [The motion carried. John Bulger abstained from
23 voting on the motion.]

24 ***

25 CHAIR BULGER:

1 Do we have any nominations for Vice
2 Chair?

3 DR. LITMAN:

4 I'd like to nominate Thomas Dardarian.

5 CHAIR BULGER:

6 We have a nomination for Dr. Dardarian
7 for Vice Chair. Second?

8 DR. OLIN:

9 Second.

10 CHAIR BULGER:

11 Any other nominations? Hearing none.
12 Could I get a motion to close
13 nominations and proceed with a vote?

14 DR. LITMAN:

15 Motion to close the nominations and
16 proceed with the vote.

17 CHAIR BULGER:

18 Second?

19 DR. ZAWISZA:

20 Second.

21 CHAIR BULGER:

22 Priscilla, call the roll.

23

24 John Bulger, aye; Randy Litman, aye;

25 Thomas Dardarian, abstain; Joseph

1 Zawisza, aye; Jonathan Oline, aye;
2 Ayanna Kersey-McMullen, aye; Robert
3 Bonacci, aye.

4 [The motion carried. Thomas Dardarian abstained from
5 voting on the motion.]

6 ***

7 CHAIR BULGER:

8 I will entertain nominations for
9 Secretary of the Board.

10 DR. ZAWISZA:

11 I'll nominate Randy Litman.

12 CHAIR BULGER:

13 Is there a second to that?

14 DR. OLINE:

15 Second.

16 CHAIR BULGER:

17 Any other nominations for Secretary?
18 Hearing none. I'd entertain a motion
19 to close nominations and proceed with a
20 vote.

21 DR. ZAWISZA:

22 So moved.

23 DR. OLINE:

24 Second.

25 CHAIR BULGER:

1 Priscilla, please call the roll.

2

3 John Bulger, aye; Randy Litman,
4 abstain; Thomas Dardarian, aye; Joseph
5 Zawisza, aye; Jonathan Oline, aye;
6 Ayanna Kersey-McMullen, aye; Robert
7 Bonacci, aye.

8 [The motion carried. Randy Litman abstained from
9 voting on the motion.]

10 ***

11 Miscellaneous - Review of Probable Cause Screening
12 Committee Members

13 [John B. Bulger, D.O., MBA, Chairman, noted Dr.
14 Kersey-McMullen will be a member of the Probable
15 Cause Screening Committee and Dr. Oline is the
16 alternate.]

17 MS. GOSHERT:

18 We could vote to reappoint Dr. Zawisza
19 and appoint Dr. Kersey-McMullen as
20 members of the Probable Cause Screening
21 Committee and Dr. Oline as an alternate
22 to that committee.

23 CHAIR BULGER:

24 Do we have a motion for that?

25 DR. LITMAN:

1 Motion for Dr. Kersey-McMullen to join
2 the Probable Cause Committee and for
3 Dr. Oline to join the committee as an
4 alternate.

5 CHAIR BULGER:

6 Do we have a second?

7 DR. ZAWISZA:

8 Second.

9 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

10 Any further discussion on that?

11 Hearing none. Priscilla, please call
12 the roll.

13

14 John Bulger, aye; Randy Litman, aye;
15 Thomas Dardarian, aye; Joseph Zawisza,
16 aye; Jonathan Oline, abstain; Ayanna
17 Kersey-McMullen, abstain; Robert
18 Bonacci, aye.

19 [The motion carried. Jonathan Oline and Ayanna
20 Kersey-McMullen abstained from voting on the motion.]

21 ***

22 Report of Department of Health - No Report

23 [Robert Bonacci, M.D., on behalf of Debra Bogen,
24 M.D., Secretary of Health, informed Board members
25 that Pennsylvania is now classified as moderate for

1 respiratory virus activity by the Centers for Disease
2 Control and Prevention (CDC). He reported influenza
3 activity is still on the lower end. He reminded all
4 to encourage patients who are eligible across the
5 lifespan to get their influenza, coronavirus
6 disease (COVID) vaccinations, and respiratory
7 syncytial virus (RSV) vaccinations. He also noted an
8 alert is still out on avian flu.

9 Chronic wasting disease has been noted in parts
10 of Pennsylvania, especially in the deer population.]

11 ***

12 Adjournment

13 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

14 I'll make a motion to adjourn.

15 DR. LITMAN:

16 Motion to adjourn.

17 DR. ZAWISZA:

18 Second.

19 CHAIRMAN BULGER:

20 We are adjourned.

21 ***

22 [There being no further business, the State Board of
23 Osteopathic Medicine Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.]

24 ***

25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Osteopathic 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 Osteopathic Medicine meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel Powers", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Powers,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
REFERENCE INDEX

December 4, 2024

TIME	AGENDA
9:30	Executive Session
10:30	Return to Open Session
10:34	Official Call to Order
10:34	Introduction of Board Members/Attendees
10:36	Approval of Minutes
10:37	Report of Prosecuting Attorneys
10:44	Report of Board Chair
10:46	Report of Board Counsel
10:47	Appointment - Annual Budget Presentation
11:01	Report of Prosecuting Attorneys (cont.)
11:05	For the Board's Information/Discussion
11:06	Miscellaneous
11:16	Report of Department of Health
11:18	Adjournment