

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 PHARMACY

TIME: 1:02 P.M.

Held at
801 Arch Street
5th Floor, Suite 505
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

September 3, 2025

State Board of Pharmacy
September 3, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Christine Roussel, Pharm.D., BCOP, BCSCP, Chairperson
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
Eric Esterbrook, R.Ph., Vice Chairperson
Janet Getzey Hart, R.Ph., Secretary
James Reed Jr., R.Ph.
John R. Slagle, R.Ph.
Ester Blair, Office of Attorney General

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel
Shana Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel
Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel
Sara Trimmer, Pharm.D., R.Ph., Executive Secretary
Ashley P. Murphy, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Caroline Bailey, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Ray J. Michalowski, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
and Prosecution Liaison
Tyesha Miley, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Nathan C. Giunta, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director,
Department of State
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Todd Kriner, Esquire, Senior Prosecutor-In-Charge
Kathy Mullen, Esquire, Executive Deputy Chief
Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel
Carolyn A. DeLaurentis, Esquire, Chief Counsel,
Office of Chief Counsel
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Office of Legislative
Affairs
Jessica Zukoski, Senior Legal Analyst, Department of
State
Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, Office of
Chief Counsel, Department of State
Jacob Finkel, Deputy Secretary, Governor's Policy
Office
Thomas Leech II, Administrative Officer 2
Nicole Maloney, Division Chief, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs, Health
Licensing Division
Jason C. Giurintano, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Counsel Division

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BUREAU PERSONNEL (CONT.)

Robert Beecher, Deputy Policy Director, Office of
Policy, Department of State
Piri Pantoja Jr., Deputy Policy Director, Office of
Legislative Affairs
Michael Chmielewski, Director, Office of Legislative
Affairs
Matthew Heckel, Press Secretary, Office of
Communications and Press
Neil Mahalingam, Assistant Chief Counsel,
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Douglas Snyder, Chief Counsel, Office of General
Counsel
Thomas McCleaf, Director, Division of Immunizations,
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Jonathan D. Koltash, Deputy General Counsel, Office
of General Counsel
Michael Fischer, Executive Deputy General Counsel,
Office of General Counsel
Diane Luciano, Legislative Specialist II
Sirisha Reddy, Special Assistant to the Secretary,
Pennsylvania Department of Health

ALSO PRESENT:

Mitchel Craig Rothholz, R.Ph., MBA, APhA Foundation
Robert Bonacci, MPH, MD, Special Advisor to the
Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Health
Grace Sesi, Executive Director, Regulatory Affairs,
CVS Health, Chairperson, Michigan Bureau of
Pharmacy
Heather Sakely, Director of Ambulatory Pharmacy
Services, UPMC
Mayank Amin, Pharm.D, R.Ph, Skipjack Pharmacy
Kelsey Hake, Pharm.D., Senior Program Manager,
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy
Heather Beauparlant, DO, MBA, FAAFP, President,
Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP)
Cory Ulisse, Pharm.D, Pharmacy Clinician Services
Nicholas Koch, Director of Pharmacy, The Giant
Company
Nicole Leonard, Health and Science Reporter, WHYY
Peter Fares, Clinical Pharmacist, Wakefern Food Corp.
Jennifer M. Reis, Chief Government Affairs Officer,
Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians

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ALSO PRESENT (CONT.)

Michael Siget, Esquire, Executive Director, House
Health Committee (R), Pennsylvania House of
Representatives
Lauren Finoli, Manager of Pharmacy Clinical Services,
Allegheny General Hospital
Terry Talbott, R.Ph.
Rosa Kelly, Regional Supervisor, Costco
Tristan Sadowski, Pharmacist, Geisinger
Meghan Dixon, Pharm.D., R.Ph., Clinical Pharmacy
Specialist, The Giant Company
Nishaminy Kasbekar, Pharm.D., FASHP, Penn Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania Health System
Eric Abramowitz, R.Ph., Owner Eric's Rx Shoppe
Joseph Stavish, Pharmacy Support Specialist,
Jefferson Health
Ashley Addison, Pharm.D., Executive Fellow,
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association
Marc Ost, Chief Executive Officer, Community Pharmacy
Services
Nicole Fidler, Associate, Malady & Wooten
Dennis A. Giorno, Partner, Malady & Wooten
Christopher Miller, Pharm.D., Giant Eagle
Jennifer Raibley, Divisional Pharmacy Manager,
Albertsons Company
Geoffrey Christ, Senior Compliance Manager, Chewy
Pharmacy
Jill Rebuck, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Society
of Health-System Pharmacists
Daniel Longyhore, Pharm.D., System Director,
Knowledge Management, Enterprise Pharmacy,
Geisinger
Keith Barron, Pharm.D, President of Operations, Avrio
Compounding Pharmacy
Michelle Aytay, Manager, Pharmacy Affairs, Walgreens
Jennifer Smeltz, Republican Executive Director,
Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure
Committee
Rick Seipp, Pharm.D, Value Drug Company
Veronica Ng, Director of Government Relations,
Walgreens
Nichole Cover, R.Ph., Director, Pharmacy Affairs,
Walgreens
Dennis Czerw, Pharm.D., Owner, Parkway Pharmacy
Ethan Siegel

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ALSO PRESENT (CONT.)

Kari Orchard, Executive Director (D), House
Professional Licensure Committee, Pennsylvania
House of Representatives
Alison Apple, R.Ph., Chief Pharmacy Officer, Hospital
of the University of Pennsylvania
John DeJames, Manager of Clinical Services and
Development, Value Drug Company, President,
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association
Ivey DeJesus, Staff Writer, PA Media Group
Timothy Smith, Legal Counsel, Senate Democratic
Caucus
Janis Levit, Director of Pharmacy Operations,
Albertsons Companies
Aubrey Whelan, Reporter, Philadelphia Inquirer
Rachel Caldwell, vice President, Senior Legal
Counsel, Pharmacy and Consumer Wellness, CVS Health
Margie Lydon, Manager, LTC Strategy, Value Drug
Company
Jennifer Welch, Pharm.D., Divisional Pharmacy
Manager, Acme/Sav-on
Karey Molnar, Senior Policy Analyst, The Hospital and
Healthcare Association of Pennsylvania
Erika Fricke, Health Committee Executive Director, PA
House of Representatives Democratic Caucus
Anthony Provenzano, Vice President, Pharmacy
Compliance and Government Affairs, Albertson's-
Safeway
Andrew Sharp, Senior Director of Government and
Regulatory Affairs, Penn Medicine, University of
Pennsylvania Health System
Beth Arnold, Pharm.D., Pharmacy Services Manager,
Costco
Diane Powell, Communications Manager, Pennsylvania
Pharmacists Association, PPA Educational Foundation
Jack Troy, Reporter, Trib Total Media
Gabrielle Nam, Pharm.D., Staff Pharmacist, University
of Pittsburgh Student Health Pharmacy
Nikol Muslimovic, Lead Intern, Magee-Womens Hospital
of UPMC
Caroline D. Juran, Executive Director, Virginia Board
of Pharmacy
Nicole Sidle, Executive Director (R), Professional
Licensure Committee, Pennsylvania House of
Representatives

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ALSO PRESENT (CONT.)

Janel Gleeson, Esquire, Senior Policy Analyst,
DeBrunner & Associates
Alicia Bubka, Research Analyst, Pennsylvania House of
Representatives Democratic Caucus
Laura Finn, R.Ph., Department of Pharmacy Practice,
St. Joseph's University
Nicole Hasson, Pharm.D., Director, Pharmacy Strategy,
Value Drug Company
Megan Ammon, Pharm.D., BCMTMS, Pharmacy Clinical
Program Coordinator, Weis Markets
Kimberly Burns, R.Ph., JD, Associate Professor,
School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh
Patricia Klatt, Pharm.D., Clinical Director,
University of Pittsburgh
Danalynn Volpe, Pharm.D., Clinical Specialist, The
Giant Company
Natalie Klek, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy
Practice, Nesbitt School of Pharmacy, Wilkes
University
Emily Hackman, Policy Analyst, General Assembly,
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Brandon Antinopoulos, Pharm.D., Owner, Forward Rx,
Vice President, Pennsylvania Pharmacists
Association
Leeann Webster, R.Ph., MBA, Director of Medication
Therapy Disease Management Pharmacy Services,
Geisinger
Lisa Carlson, Pharmacy and Health Regulatory Counsel,
Albertsons Companies
Ian Karbal, Reporter, Pennsylvania Capital Star
Lauren Fasth, Pharm.D., Geriatric Pharmacy Resident,
UPMC St. Margaret Family Medicine Residency
Program, University of Pittsburgh
Sydney Lee, Pharm.D., Geriatric Pharmacy Resident,
UPMC St. Margaret Family Medicine Residency
Program, University of Pittsburgh
Emily Kryger, Pharm.D., Clinical Pharmacy Specialist,
UPMC St. Margaret Geriatric Care Center, UPMC
Jennifer Plummer, Director, Retail and Mail Order
Pharmacy, Geisinger
Zachary Peters, Director, State Government Affairs,
CVS Health
Sophia Herbert, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor, School
of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh

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ALSO PRESENT (CONT.)

Thai Nguyen, Pharm.D., Pharmacy Program Manager,
Allegheny County Health Department
Danielle Burkhardt, Pharm.D., MBA, BCACP, Residency
Program Director, Penn Medicine
Jennifer Devinney-Lavsa, Pharm.D., R.Ph., Chief
Clinical Officer, Grane Rx
Amy Grimes, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP, Director, Inpatient
Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Education, UPMC St.
Margaret Family Medicine Residency Program,
University of Pittsburgh
Melissa Somma McGivney, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA,
Associate Dean for Student Success and Professional
Initiatives, Professor, School of Pharmacy,
University of Pittsburgh
Nicole Wilbourn, ERG Partners
Taylor Legette, Pharm.D., Consultant, Pennsylvania
Pharmacists Association
Michelle Jeon, Pharm.D., Clinical Associate
Professor, School of Health Professions,
Philadelphia College of Pharmacy Saint Joseph's
University
Matthew Meehan, Director, State Government Relations,
Pfizer
Trisha Miller, Pharm.D., MPH, BCACP, Supervisor for
Pharmacy Ambulatory Services, UPMC
Charles Guthrie, Executive Director of Student Health
Services, Division of Student Affairs, University
of Pittsburgh
Rachael Moustaaeder, Pharm.D., BCPS, Allegheny Health
Network
Katie Zboyovski, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of
Pharmacy Practice, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic
Medicine
Larry Jones, R.Ph.
Danielle Kieck, Pharm.D., Associate Professor of
Pharmacy Practice, Nesbitt School of Pharmacy,
Wilkes University
Nicholas Wachinski, JD, ERG Partners
Dean Perry, R.Ph., Associate Vice President of
Clinical Informatics, Geisinger College of Health
Sciences
Ron Raymond, Chief Legislative Officer, Versant
Strategies
Clarissa Freeman, Legislative Support, Pennsylvania
Senate Democratic Caucus

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ALSO PRESENT (CONT.)

Jill McCormack, State Government Affairs Director,
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
Toni Rowley, MD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Stephanie McGrath, Pharm.D., Executive Director,
Pennsylvania Pharmacist Care Network
Renee Terhune, R.Ph.
Nicole Daniels
Lisa
Chichi
Rph
SL
EA
Call-In # 1-215-662-8000
Call-In # 1-304-580-6730
Call-In # 1-540-287-4376
Call-In # 1-570-574-7186
Call-In # 1-401-651-6232
Call-In # 1-717-298-6228
Call-In # 1-410-703-0192
Call-In # 1-215-740-3722
Call-In # 1-813-373-2763
Call-In # 1-412-508-0152
Emma Edwards, Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.

1 ***

2 State Board of Pharmacy

3 September 3, 2025

4 ***

5 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
6 Board of Pharmacy was held on Wednesday, September 3,
7 2025. Christine Roussel, Pharm.D., BCOP, BCSCP,
8 Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

9 ***

10 Introduction of Board Members/Attendees
11 [Christine Roussel, Pharm.D., BCOP, BCSCP,
12 Chairperson, requested an introduction of Board
13 members and attendees.]

14 ***

15 [Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the
16 meeting was being recorded, and those who continued
17 to participate were giving their consent to be
18 recorded.]

19 ***

20 Presentations and Discussions - Consideration whether
21 to approve the following as competent authorities for
22 purposes of establishing treatment guidelines to
23 administer injectable immunizations pursuant to 49.
24 Pa. Code 27.403(e): American College of
25 Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); American

1 Academy of Pediatrics (AAP); American Academy of
2 Family Physicians (AAFP).

3 [Christine Roussel, Pharm.D., BCOP, BCSCP,
4 Chairperson, introduced the Agenda topic and asked
5 Board Counsel to provide a summary of procedures for
6 the meeting.

7 Mr. Barrett stated there would be comments from
8 the public and organizations, followed by Board
9 discussion and a vote.

10 Mr. Esterbrook asked if other boards of pharmacy
11 were using the recommendations of the three proposed
12 organizations.

13 Mr. Barrett had not completed a full 50-state
14 review, but there were varying degrees of adoption of
15 the guidelines. He pointed out Colorado's Department
16 of Health allows them to consider guidelines from
17 ACOG, AAP, and AAFP along with the American College
18 of Physicians. He noted ACOG, AAP, and AAFP were
19 selected for the Board's consideration as they
20 consistently come up in the vaccination sphere. He
21 added the Board could consider other competent
22 authorities in the future.

23 Dr. Robert Bonacci introduced himself. He
24 provided a summary of AAP, AAFP and ACOG for the
25 Board's and public's benefit. The AAP was founded in

1 1930 and is comprised of more than 67,000 members in
2 a range of fields related to pediatric medicine. The
3 AAFP was founded in 1947 with more than 128,000
4 members. They advocate for and provide education to
5 patients and the public as well as promote and
6 maintain high standards for family doctors. The ACOG
7 was founded in 1951 and has more than 60,000 members.
8 It produces clinical practice guidelines for
9 healthcare professionals, educate patients, and has a
10 goal to improve the lives of those who seek obstetric
11 and gynecologic care.

12 Dr. Bonacci previously worked at the Center for
13 Disease Control (CDC) and frequently referenced the
14 CDC's immunization schedule. He noted the CDC's
15 schedule is based on recommendations from the
16 Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP).
17 He added recent changes at ACIP have left many people
18 concerned about the integrity of the review process
19 and the trustworthiness of the recommendations. He
20 explained, as a public health official, previously
21 AAP, AAFP, and ACOG would not have been his first
22 resources for vaccine guidance as ACIP served in that
23 function. He stated AAP, AAFP, and ACOG were used
24 when specific guidance was needed.

25 Dr. Bonacci provided a brief explanation on how

1 the organizations make their immunizations schedules.
2 He discussed gathering advice and recommendations
3 from a variety of experts within their specialties.
4 He noted also reviewing scientific and clinical
5 evidence, which is published for the safety net and
6 effectiveness of vaccines.

7 Mr. Barrett asked, with regard to ACIP guidance
8 and the current variation, if the three organizations
9 had generally been a part of workshops to come up
10 with ACIP recommendations.

11 Dr. Bonacci confirmed the way ACIP is structured
12 is a number of work groups focus on different
13 vaccines to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of
14 each vaccine as well as populations they are
15 indicated for and a dosage schedule. The work groups
16 prepare recommendations for the advisory committee.
17 Liaison organizations such as AAP, AAFP, and ACOG,
18 among other, have been participants in the work
19 groups. The Secretary of Health and Human Services
20 has removed at least some, if not all, of the liaison
21 organizations from participating.

22 Mr. Barrett noted the AAP has issued vaccine
23 recommendations dating back to before the ACIP was
24 instituted. He also noted physicians look to
25 specific organizations when recommending vaccines for

1 relevant populations.

2 Chair Roussel confirmed AAP has been recommending
3 vaccinations since the 1930's while ACIP did not
4 start until the 1960's.

5 Mitchel Craig Rothholz, R.Ph., MBA, provided a
6 summary of his professional background. He noted his
7 career has been focused on advancing pharmacy
8 practice, particularly in the role of pharmacists in
9 the immunization arena. Mr. Rothholz stated
10 pharmacist have protected millions of individuals by
11 administering vaccines supported by credible evidence
12 based on scientific data. He added, without
13 pharmacists having the ability to administer
14 vaccines, there will be a public health crisis. He
15 further stated there is a public health threat, as
16 noted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health,
17 created by a late summer surge of COVID-19 cases and
18 hospitalization rates, especially among young
19 children and older adults.

20 Mr. Rothholz stated, while COVID-19 vaccines are
21 the current priority, timely vaccine access across
22 all lifespans to evidence-based vaccines needs to be
23 secured and unnecessary barriers removed. He noted
24 pharmacists have demonstrated their ability to
25 provide care under shared clinical decision-making,

1 which includes discussing benefits versus risks with
2 patients.

3 Mr. Rothholz noted recent COVID-19 vaccine
4 approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
5 varies from previous vaccine approvals. The FDA's
6 role is to ensure vaccine safety, effectiveness, and
7 quality before the vaccine is licensed for public use
8 in the United States. Clinical guidance and
9 recommendations have traditionally been handled by
10 the CDC. The FDA approved label for the latest COVID
11 vaccine also included clinical guidance. He stated,
12 if the Board recognizes the language within the
13 approved vaccine label as allowed by Pennsylvania law
14 or the evidence-based recommendations from reputable
15 medical societies, it would allow pharmacists to
16 offer and administer the new COVID vaccine and other
17 vaccines to patients in accordance with clinical
18 evidence.

19 Mr. Rothholz added ACIP is meeting September 18-
20 19, 2025, to discuss COVID and other vaccine issues.
21 He stated, given recent experiences, there is no
22 guarantee that the necessary guidance will be
23 provided by ACIP, and ultimately the CDC, or that the
24 guidance will align with credible evidence-based
25 data. He noted AAP, ACOG, and AAFP have formal

1 review process based on clinical data which parallel
2 ACIP's traditional review process. He also noted the
3 Vaccine Integrity Project (VIP) also provides
4 additional resources to the organizations for
5 evaluating evidence-base data.

6 Mr. Rothholz stated delays in medical vaccination
7 due to logistic or regulatory barriers place
8 vulnerable populations at risk for complications and
9 death. He added allowing pharmacists to follow
10 standards of care and utilize their professional
11 judgement benefits the public health of patients and
12 community and removes unnecessary barriers. He
13 further added pharmacists want to serve the patient's
14 public health needs without fear of regulatory
15 sanctions. He noted 16 states are also impacted like
16 Pennsylvania and are taking steps to address the
17 issue of vaccine recommendations. Mr. Rothholz
18 provided an example of how states like Colorado,
19 Maryland, New Mexico, New Jersey and Massachusetts
20 are addressing the problem.

21 Mr. Rothholz encouraged the Board to recognize
22 additional sources to base authority for pharmacist
23 to vaccinate eligible Pennsylvanians according to the
24 latest evidence-based guidance including reputable
25 medical societies as well as the FDA.

1 Mr. Barrett asked if his understanding was
2 correct in that there is a standstill since the FDA
3 made specific recommendations for the COVID vaccine
4 while he has not seen specific recommendation from
5 AAFP or ACOG regarding the 25/26 COVID vaccine who
6 are waiting until the ACIP meeting.

7 Mr. Rothholz reiterated the FDA issued its
8 approval differently than in the past by issuing
9 clinical guidance. The FDA had manufacturers change
10 their labeling to align with what HHS wanted as to
11 clinical guidance from the CDC. In that regard, he
12 stated the clinical guidance on the label can be
13 followed by practitioners. He noted medical
14 societies do not have vaccine specific guidance but
15 give guidance for COVID vaccination in general. The
16 medical society recommendation is that the COVID
17 vaccine should be administered to individuals six
18 months and older based on current literature.

19 Mr. Barrett asked if the Board wanted to amend
20 the Agenda to include the FDA specifically as a
21 competent authority for the COVID-19 vaccination
22 based on Mr. Rothholz's information.]

23 ***

24 Motion to Amend Agenda

25 MR. BARRETT:

1 I believe the Board Chair would
2 entertain a motion to amend the Agenda
3 to include, with regard to other
4 organizations, to add the Federal Food
5 and Drug Administration specifically
6 related to the COVID-19 vaccination
7 recommendations.

8 CHAIR ROUSSEL:

9 That is correct. Do I have a motion?

10 MR. ESTERBROOK:

11 So moved.

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

13 Claggett, second.

14 CHAIR ROUSSEL:

15 All right. Any further discussion to
16 amend the Agenda? Otherwise, we'll
17 call the vote to amend the Agenda.

18

19 Reed, aye; Blair, aye; Claggett, aye;
20 Esterbrook, aye; Slagle, aye; Hart,
21 aye; Roussel, aye.

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23

24 Presentation and Discussion (cont.)

25 [Mr. Barrett asked for clarification if the Vaccine

1 Integrity Project issues specific guidelines. Mr.
2 Rothholz stated VIP evaluates peer-reviewed evidence-
3 based literature and develops tools for practitioners
4 and organizations to utilize in evaluating best
5 practices. He noted VIP members are experts in
6 vaccinology and immunology and are respected in their
7 fields.

8 Mr. Barrett received a letter from ACOG just
9 prior to the meeting and read it to the Board. He
10 noted the letter provided links to guidance on their
11 website.

12 Grace Sesi, Executive Director, Regulatory
13 Affairs, CVS Health, Chairperson, Michigan Bureau of
14 Pharmacy, stated CVS would administer the FDA
15 authorized vaccine in states where legally permitted.
16 She added CVS supports the Board in acting so that
17 CVS can offer the vaccine to patients in the
18 Commonwealth based on the FDA approval. She noted
19 CVS has received the updated COVID-19 vaccine in
20 their Pennsylvania Pharmacies and is ready to act
21 with urgency once approval is received from the
22 Board.

23 Chair Roussel noted comments in the chat shared a
24 number of articles related to action that has been
25 taken in other states. She shared a comment from

1 Kelsey Hake stating Ms. Hake had reached out to her
2 primary care physician for a prescription for the
3 COVID vaccine. Her PCP did not understand why she
4 was asking for a prescription. Ms. Hake noted there
5 may be a gap in understanding and knowledge among
6 providers regarding current vaccine access barriers.

7 Mr. Barrett noted he could not give legal advice;
8 however, he stated there were two components tied to
9 pharmacists' authority to administer vaccines. The
10 first component is the vaccine has to be under the
11 treatment guidelines of a physician. Many
12 pharmacists do so via a standing order to a pharmacy.
13 The second component is the competent authority,
14 which is where ACIP normally comes in. Because ACIP
15 has not issued updated guidance on COVID vaccines, it
16 has created confusion with both physicians and
17 pharmacists on how to proceed. He noted there has
18 been a shift in the last few years to where
19 pharmacists administer about 80 percent of vaccines
20 instead of physicians. He added the Board has no
21 control over the first component but is addressing
22 the second component with the meeting.

23 Chair Roussel stated she would share additional
24 comments from the chat before Board discussion.
25 Mayank Amin, Pharm.D, R.Ph, Skipjack Pharmacy, stated

1 there is demand from people who want to remain
2 protected. Within three day of launching a COVID-19
3 interest form, over 2,000 eligible patients had
4 signed up. He noted senior clinics start on
5 September 4, 2025, as well as clinics for long-term
6 care facilities, homebound patients, and veterans.
7 He noted the need for support to help Pennsylvanians
8 who wished to be vaccinated. A comment from
9 Springfield Pharmacy noted significant healthcare
10 gaps in their region with the closure of Crozier
11 Healthcare System and RiteAid pharmacies. They added
12 there has been a surge in calls from concerned
13 residents given recent confusion. A comment from
14 Sophia Herbert noted recognizing other competent
15 authorities would allow pharmacies to rely on
16 standing order protocols rather than individual
17 patient prescriptions, which is a massive burden and
18 barrier to patients and providers.

19 Heather Sakely, Director of Ambulatory Pharmacy
20 Services, UPMC, stated support for the addition of
21 ACOG, AAFP and AAP as competent authorities. She
22 noted requiring an additional prescription from a PCP
23 for COVID-19 adds additional unnecessary barriers to
24 patients being immunized.

25 Chair Roussel restated the Board is considering

1 approving competent authorities for the purpose of
2 establishing treatment guidelines to administer
3 injectable immunizations. Mr. Barrett agreed each
4 organization, ACOG, FDA, AAP and AAFP, should be
5 discussed individually on their own merits. It was
6 decided to entertain motions at the end of the
7 discussion.

8 Regarding ACOG, Chair Roussel stated ACOG has
9 recommendations for vaccination schedules online.
10 There were no additional comments or questions from
11 Board members.

12 Chair Roussel thanked Dr. Bonacci for providing
13 information about AAP. She asked for additional
14 comments or questions to which there were none.

15 With regards to AAFP, there were no additional
16 questions or comments from the Board.

17 Chair Roussel asked for discussion regarding the
18 clinical merits of the FDA with regards to
19 immunization schedules or approval of vaccines. Mr.
20 Barrett noted Mr. Rothholz was correct in that the
21 FDA's recommendations for the COVID vaccine are
22 different than in previous years. He noted the new
23 COVID vaccines only have FDA approval because ACIP
24 has not made recommendations at the current moment in
25 time. He stated the FDA should be recognized as a

1 competent authority because they are a federal
2 government authority which licenses vaccines for
3 safety and efficacy.

4 In response to a chat question, Mr. Barrett
5 stated the Board and Counsel were aware of the PA
6 Supreme Court Prost decision and the Board was within
7 their authority to move forward.

8 Mr. Barrett explained the Board would be
9 expanding and not limiting the scope of competent
10 authorities. ACIP will still be a competent
11 authority per statute. By approving additional
12 competent authorities, providers can refer to more
13 than ACIP with regard to vaccine availability.

14 Mr. Barrett offered to frame the motions as a
15 vote to approve as a competent authority with
16 approval being subject to annual review by the board
17 or review at any time at the Board's discretion. He
18 noted this would allow the Board to pull back
19 approval as a competent authority if needed in the
20 future.

21 It was noted Dr. Heather Beauparlant, President,
22 Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP), had
23 a comment in the chat. Chair Roussel read the
24 comment for the Board. Dr. Beauparlant shared PAFP
25 works in close conjunction with AAFP. She stated

1 what the PAFP works towards on a daily basis. She
2 noted AAFP uses peer-reviewed double-blind studies,
3 systematic reviews, and meta-analysis in developing
4 and revising their recommendations. Dr. Beauparlant
5 added AAFP Clinical Preventative Service
6 recommendations are developed through AAFP's
7 Commission on Health of the Public and Science and
8 are approved by the AAFP Board of Directors. She
9 stated, given their training, credentialing,
10 experience and research, the PAFP and AAFP are
11 strongly positioned to create revise and comment on
12 clinical guidelines.]

13 ***

14 MR. BARRETT:

15 Based on the public discussions here
16 today and discussions among the Board
17 Members, I believe the Board Chair
18 would entertain a motion to approve the
19 American College of Obstetricians and
20 Gynecologists as a competent authority
21 pursuant to 49 PA Code 27.403(e) with
22 such approval subject to annual review
23 by the Board or review by the Board at
24 any time in its discretion.

25 MS. BLAIR:

1 So moved.

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

3 Claggett, second.

4 CHAIR ROUSSEL:

5 Any further discussion? Hearing none,
6 I'll call the vote.

7

8 Reed, aye; Blair, aye; Claggett, aye;
9 Esterbrook, aye; Slagle, aye; Hart,
10 aye; Roussel, aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12 ***

13 MR. BARRETT:

14 Based on the discussions of the Board
15 and public discussion, I believe the
16 Board Chair would entertain a motion to
17 approve the Federal Food and Drug
18 Administration as a competent authority
19 specifically for the COVID-19
20 vaccination, pursuant to 49 PA Code
21 27.403(e) with such approval subject to
22 annual review by the Board or review by
23 the Board at any time in its
24 discretion.

25 MS. BLAIR:

1 Blair, so moved.

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

3 Claggett, second.

4 CHAIR ROUSSEL:

5 Any discussion? We'll call the vote.

6

7 Reed, aye; Blair, aye; Claggett, aye;

8 Esterbrook, aye; Slagle, aye; Hart,

9 aye; Roussel, aye.

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11 ***

12 MR. BARRETT:

13 Based on discussions of the Board and
14 public discussion, I believe the Board
15 Chair would entertain a motion to
16 approve the American Academy of
17 Pediatrics as a competent authority
18 pursuant to 49 PA Code 27.403(e) with
19 such approval subject to annual review
20 by the Board or review by the Board at
21 any time in its discretion.

22 MS. BLAIR:

23 Blair, so moved.

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 Claggett, second.

1 CHAIR ROUSSEL:

2 Any discussion? Call the vote.

3

4 Reed, aye; Blair, aye; Claggett, aye;
5 Esterbrook, aye; Slagle, aye; Hart,
6 aye; Roussel, aye.

7 [The motion carried unanimously.]

8

9 MR. BARRETT:

10 Based on the discussions of the Board
11 and public discussion, I believe the
12 Board Chair would entertain a motion to
13 approve the American Academy of Family
14 Physicians as a competent authority
15 pursuant to 49 PA Code 27.403(e) with
16 such approval subject to annual review
17 by the Board or review by the Board at
18 any time in its discretion.

19 MS. BLAIR:

20 Blair, so moved.

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22 Claggett, second.

23 CHAIR ROUSSEL:

24 Any discussion? Call the vote.

25

1 Reed, aye; Blair, aye; Claggett, aye;
2 Esterbrook, aye; Slagle, aye; Hart,
3 aye; Roussel, aye.

4 [The motion carried unanimously.]

5 ***

6 [Chair Roussel asked how soon the motions would be in
7 effect based on the meeting. Mr. Barrett stated the
8 motions were approved, so it is in effect. He added
9 there will be information added to the website.

10 Mr. Barrett noted, as a general statement for the
11 public attending, that he serves as Board Counsel and
12 the Board still cannot issue guidance or advisory
13 opinions on matters. He acknowledged there will
14 likely be confusion about the standard practice of
15 care with the decisions made in the meeting. He
16 stated questions could still be asked of his office
17 and the Board, but people should not be surprised if
18 he cannot give answers because it would constitute
19 legal advice.

20 Chair Roussel thanked the formal speakers, Dr.
21 Bonacci and Pharmacist Rothholz. She also extended
22 appreciation to Mr. Barrett for his continued
23 guidance.]

24 ***

25 Public Comment

1 [Aubrey Whelan, Reporter, The Inquirer, had a
2 question regarding different boards and their
3 recommendations. Mr. Barrett thanked her for the
4 question; however, press inquiries would need to go
5 through the Press Office.

6 Chair Roussel acknowledged the multiple people
7 stating "thank you" in the chat.]

8 ***

9 Adjournment

10 CHAIR ROUSSEL:

11 Anybody want to make a motion to
12 adjourn?

13 MS. BLAIR:

14 Motion to adjourn.

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

16 Second.

17

18 Reed, aye; Blair, aye; Claggett, aye;
19 Esterbrook, aye; Slagle, aye; Hart,
20 aye; Roussel, aye.

21 [The motion carried unanimously.

22 ***

23 [There being no further business, the State Board of
24 Pharmacy Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.]

25 ***

CERTIFICATE

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



Emma Edwards,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY
REFERENCE INDEX

September 3, 2025

TIME	AGENDA
1:02	Official Call to Order
1:03	Introduction of Board Members/Attendees
1:05	Presentation and Discussion
1:35	Motion to Amend Agenda
1:36	Presentation and Discussion (cont.)
2:02	Motions
2:07	Public Comment
2:09	Adjournment