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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 MEDICINE  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

TIME: 10:42 A.M.

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

1                                    State Board of Medicine  
2                                    March 15, 2022  
3  
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5 BOARD MEMBERS:  
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7 Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair  
8 Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of  
9 Professional and Occupational Affairs  
10 Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair  
11 Gerard F. Dillon, Ph.D., Public Member  
12 Walter A. Eisenhauer, PA-C  
13 Carolyn Byrnes, M.P.H., C.P.H., Senior Advisor to the  
14 Physician General, on behalf of Denise A. Johnson,  
15 M.D., Physician General, Department of Health  
16 Nazanin E. Silver, M.D., MPH, FACOG  
17 Paul J. Valigorsky II, M.D. - Absent  
18 Ronald E. Domen, M.D.  
19 Michael Ripchinski, M.D., MBA, CPE, FAAFP  
20  
21

22 BUREAU PERSONNEL:  
23

24 Dean F. Picarella, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel  
25 Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel  
26 Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel  
27 Carolyn A. DeLaurentis, Deputy Chief Counsel,  
28 Prosecution Division  
29 Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison  
30 Matthew Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
31 Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
32 Kelsey Ashworth, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
33 Mark R. Zogby, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
34 Adam Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
35 Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State  
36 Jasmira L. Hunter, Board Administrator  
37 Marc Farrell, Deputy Policy Director, Department of  
38 State  
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State Board of Medicine  
March 15, 2022

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ALSO PRESENT:

- Angie Armbrust, Senior Associate, McNeese-Winter Group LLC
- Jen Smeltz, Republican Executive Director, Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee
- Joanne Magro, M.D.
- Doug Howard
- Kim B.
- Lisa Claypool Stevenson, Senior Associate Counsel, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
- Nisha Patel, M.D.
- Nicole Sidle, Majority Committee Executive Director, House Professional Licensure Committee
- Oleg Nekritin, Esquire, Law Offices of Robert J. De Groot
- Paul DiLorenzo, M.D.
- Susan DeSantis, PA-C, Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants
- Ted Mowatt, CAE, Vice President, Wanner Associates
- Randy Stevens, Pennsylvania Orthotic & Prosthetic Society
- Wesley J. Rish, Esquire, Rish Law Office, LLC
- Kathryn Witherow

1 State Board of Medicine

2 March 15, 2022

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4 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at  
5 8:45 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session  
6 with Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel, and  
7 Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the  
8 purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on  
9 a number of matters currently pending before the Board  
10 and to receive the advice of counsel. The Board  
11 returned to open session at 10:30 a.m.]

12 \*\*\*

13 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State  
14 Board of Medicine was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.  
15 Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, called the  
16 meeting to order at 10:42 a.m.

17 \*\*\*

18 [Chair Woodland welcomed everyone to the Pennsylvania  
19 State Board of Medicine Meeting. He noted Dr. Johnson  
20 and Dr. Valigorsky were not present, but the Board was  
21 otherwise in full attendance.]

22 \*\*\*

23 Introduction of Attendees

24 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel, reminded  
25 everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and

1 voluntary participation constituted consent to be  
2 recorded.

3 Ms. Walter provided an introduction of  
4 attendees.]

5 \*\*\*

6 Approval of minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting

7 CHAIR WOODLAND:

8 Our first agenda item is approval of the  
9 minutes from February 1, 2022. I need a  
10 motion.

11 DR. YEALY:

12 So moved.

13 CHAIR WOODLAND:

14 Second?

15 MR. DILLON:

16 Second.

17 CHAIR WOODLAND:

18 Any discussion or corrections for the  
19 minutes from February 1, 2022? All  
20 those in favor, say yea. Any against,  
21 say nay. Any abstentions?

22 [The motion carried. Michael Ripchinski abstained  
23 from voting on the motion.]

24 \*\*\*

25 Report of Prosecution Division

1 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Board Counsel, informed  
2 everyone the Board met in Executive Session prior to  
3 the Board meeting and conducted quasi-judicial  
4 deliberations on a number of matters currently pending  
5 before the Board, including consent agreements and  
6 items 14 through 29, and to receive advice of counsel.

7 Ms. Walter noted the Board waived a presentation  
8 of all of the consent agreements except for item 3.]

9

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10 [Keith E. Bashore, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,  
11 presented the Consent Agreement for item 3 at Case No.  
12 21-49-002554.]

13

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14 MS. WALTER:

15 I believe the Board would entertain a  
16 motion to approve the Consent Agreements  
17 at agenda item 2, Case No. 21-49-008627;  
18 item 3, Case No. 21-49-002554; item 4,  
19 Case No. 17-49-10510; item 5, Case No.  
20 21-49-018248, item 6, Case No. 21-49-  
21 007686; item 7, Case No. 21-49-002188;  
22 and item 8, Case No. 20-49-014124.

23 Is there a motion to approve those  
24 Consent Agreements?

25 MR. EISENHAUER:

1 Moves.

2 DR. YEALY:

3 Second.

4 CHAIR WOODLAND:

5 Any further discussion on any of these?  
6 All in favor, say yea. Any against, say  
7 nay. Any abstentions, please state the  
8 case you are abstaining from? Hearing  
9 nothing. These all move forward.

10 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's  
11 name at item 2 is Timothy Luke Kropa; item 3, Aunali  
12 Salim Khaku, M.D.; item 4, Christopher Hanna; item 5,  
13 Safdar I. Chaudhary, M.D.; item 6, Ted D. Friehling,  
14 M.D.; item 7, Yutong Zhang, M.D.; and item 8, Yee  
15 Chung Ho, M.D.]

16 \*\*\*

17 MS. WALTER:

18 I believe the Board would entertain a  
19 motion to approve the VRP Agreements at  
20 items 9 and 10 on the agenda. Item 9 is  
21 Case No. 21-49-018992, and item 10 is  
22 Case No. 22-49-000299.

23 DR. YEALY:

24 So moved.

25 MR. EISENHAUER:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR WOODLAND:

3 Any further discussion? All those in  
4 favor, say yea. All those against, say  
5 nay. Any abstentions?

6 [The motion carried unanimously.]

7 \*\*\*

8 Motions - Final Adjudications and Orders for  
9 Reconsideration

10 MS. WUCINSKI:

11 Agenda item 14. I believe the Board  
12 would entertain a motion to adopt as  
13 Final the Draft Adjudication and Order  
14 for Paul DiLorenzo, M.D., at Case No.  
15 21-49-009564.

16 DR. YEALY:

17 So moved.

18 MR. DILLON:

19 Second.

20 CHAIR WOODLAND:

21 Any further discussion on this one? All  
22 those in favor, say yea. Any against,  
23 say nay. Any abstentions?

24 [The motion carried. Michael Ripchinski abstained  
25 from voting on the motion.]



1 \*\*\*

2 Motions - Applications

3 MS. WUCINSKI:

4 For agenda items 15 and 16, I believe  
5 the Board would entertain a motion to  
6 provisionally deny the following:  
7 Initial Application to Practice as a  
8 Physician and Surgeon by Endorsement for  
9 Joanne Magro, M.D., and the Reactivation  
10 Application to Practice as a Physician  
11 and Surgeon for Martin D. Weaver, M.D.

12 CHAIR WOODLAND:

13 Could I have a motion?

14 MR. EISENHAUER:

15 So moved.

16 DR. YEALY:

17 Second.

18 CHAIR WOODLAND:

19 Any further discussion? All those in  
20 favor, say yea. Any against, say nay.  
21 Any abstentions?

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23 \*\*\*

24 Motions - Report of Board Administrator

25 MS. WUCINSKI:

1 At agenda item 15, noting that Dr.  
2 Richinski is recused, I believe the  
3 Board would entertain a motion to invite  
4 Aaron Krom, M.D., to apply for either an  
5 Institutional or Graduate Medical  
6 Training License and at agenda item 22,  
7 to invite Miguel Saez Alegre, M.D., to  
8 apply for an Institutional License.

9 DR. YEALY:

10 So moved.

11 CHAIR WOODLAND:

12 Second?

13 MR. DILLON:

14 Second.

15 CHAIR WOODLAND:

16 Any further discussion on those two?

17 All those in favor, say yea. Any

18 against, say nay. Any abstentions?

19 [The motion carried. Michael Ripchinski recused  
20 himself from deliberations and voting on the motion  
21 for agenda item 15.]

22 \*\*\*

23 MS. WUCINSKI:

24 I believe the Board would entertain a  
25 motion to grant the Application for

1 Initial License to Practice as a  
2 Physician and Surgeon by Endorsement for  
3 the following: Agenda item 18, Gloria  
4 Fong, M.D.; agenda item 19, Johannes  
5 Bonatti, M.D., noting Dr. Yealy is  
6 recused on that one; agenda item 21,  
7 Tareq Mustafa Yaseen, M.D.

8 DR. YEALY:

9 So moved with the exception of 19.

10 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

11 Second.

12 CHAIR WOODLAND:

13 Do we need a motion to move number 19  
14 through as well from somebody else?

15 MS. WUCINSKI:

16 We'll just get a different person to  
17 motion all of them at the same time.

18 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

19 I'll motion for all of them.

20 MR. EISENHAUER:

21 Second.

22 CHAIR WOODLAND:

23 We have a motion and a second. Any  
24 further discussion? All those in favor,  
25 say yea. Any against, say nay. Any

1 abstentions?

2 [The motion carried. Donald Yealy recused himself  
3 from deliberations and voting on the motion for item  
4 19. Gerard Dillon opposed the motion for item 21.]

5 \*\*\*

6 Motions - Applications from Committee on  
7 Legislation/Policy Development and Review

8 MS. WUCINSKI:

9 Moving down to agenda item 23, I believe  
10 the Board would entertain a motion to  
11 deny the Reconsideration Request and to  
12 provisionally deny the Reactivation  
13 Application for Gina Gilbert.

14 MR. EISENHAUER:

15 So moved.

16 MR. DILLON:

17 Second.

18 CHAIR WOODLAND:

19 Any further discussion on this one?

20 All those in favor, say yea. Any

21 against, say nay. Any abstentions?

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23 \*\*\*

24 MS. WUCINSKI:

25 I believe the Board would entertain a

1 motion to send standard Reentry Letters  
2 to the following: Roy Monsour, M.D.;  
3 Brent O'Connell, M.D.; and Alan Smith,  
4 M.D. at agenda items 24, 25, and 27.

5 DR. YEALY:

6 So moved.

7 DR. SILVER:

8 Second.

9 CHAIR WOODLAND:

10 Any further discussion on these items?  
11 Hearing none. All those in favor, say  
12 yea. Any against, say nay. Any  
13 abstentions on these? Hearing none.  
14 These move forward.

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16 \*\*\*

17 MS. WUCINSKI:

18 I believe the Board would entertain a  
19 motion to approve the Reactivation  
20 Application for Krista Richardson at  
21 agenda item 26.

22 DR. YEALY:

23 So moved.

24 MR. EISENHAUER:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR WOODLAND:

2 Any further discussion on this one?

3 Hearing none. All those in favor, say

4 yea. Any against, say nay. Any

5 abstentions? Hearing none. I believe

6 this moves forward as well.

7 [The motion carried unanimously.]

8 \*\*\*

9 Miscellaneous

10 MS. WUCINSKI:

11 Moving down to agenda item 28, I believe

12 the Board would entertain a motion to

13 approve Dr. Cary Cummings III as a

14 preceptor for Timothy Clark and to grant

15 Dr. Clark's request to waive an MRI.

16 CHAIR WOODLAND:

17 Is there a motion?

18 DR. YEALY:

19 So moved.

20 CHAIR WOODLAND:

21 Second?

22 DR. RIPCHINSKI:

23 Second.

24 CHAIR WOODLAND:

25 Any further discussion on this one?

1           Hearing none. All those in favor, say  
2           yea. Any against, say nay. Any  
3           abstentions? Hearing none. That moves  
4           forward.

5 [The motion carried unanimously.]

6   \*\*\*

7 MS. WUCINSKI:

8           The final vote is agenda item 29. I  
9           believe the Board would entertain a  
10          motion to deny the CE Waiver Request for  
11          Gregory N. Bender, M.D., noting Dr.  
12          Yealy has recused.

13 MR. EISENHAUER:

14           So moved.

15 DR. SILVER:

16           Second.

17 CHAIR WOODLAND:

18           Any further discussion on this one?

19           All those in favor, say yea. Any  
20           against, say nay. Any abstentions?

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

23   \*\*\*

24 Report of Department of Health

25 [Carolyn Byrnes, M.P.H., C.P.H., Senior Advisor to the

1 Physician General, on behalf of Denise A. Johnson,  
2 M.D., Physician General, Department of Health,  
3 provided a COVID-19 update, noting 2,769,835 total  
4 cases in the state of Pennsylvania, which has  
5 increased 1,595 as of yesterday. She reported 795  
6 hospitalizations, which is down 107 compared to  
7 Friday. She reported 43,845 deaths in Pennsylvania.

8 Ms. Byrnes stated the Centers for Disease Control  
9 and Prevention (CDC) recently released their COVID  
10 community levels, which are determined by looking at  
11 COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past  
12 seven days, percent of patient beds occupied by COVID-  
13 19 patients, and total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000  
14 population in the past seven days.

15 Ms. Byrnes reported 18,741,514 COVID-19  
16 vaccinations as of yesterday with the current seven-  
17 day moving average of vaccines administered at 5,290.  
18 She noted as of March 14<sup>th</sup> 71.2 percent of the 5 and  
19 up population in Pennsylvania fully vaccinated with a  
20 United States average of 69.4 percent and booster rate  
21 for those 12 plus at 43 percent as of yesterday. She  
22 reported 566,224 children ages 5 to 11 have been  
23 vaccinated since November with an additional 1,453  
24 over the weekend.

25 Ms. Byrnes reported 3.2 million booster doses,



1 which is up 6,395. She noted the Medicaid population,  
2 younger population of ages 10 to 14 and 25 to 29,  
3 African Americans, and pregnant people to be under  
4 vaccinated.

5 Ms. Byrnes addressed hesitancy work through the  
6 United Way grant and the Department of Community and  
7 Economic Development (DCED) grant. She offered to  
8 share materials to any organizations that would want  
9 to apply.

10 Ms. Byrnes also addressed a motivational  
11 interviewing pocket guide for providers utilizing  
12 research from the University of Pittsburgh from Dr.  
13 Antoine Douaihy and his colleagues. She noted Dr.  
14 Johnson would like to hear whether the Board of  
15 Medicine would be interested in sharing the guide with  
16 licensees and offered to send it to Chair Woodland.

17 Ms. Byrnes stated there are multiple COVID-19  
18 prevention and treatment options authorized by the  
19 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on their website,  
20 along with a link to a map of locations that are able  
21 to provide treatment.

22 Ms. Byrnes reported a slight increase in  
23 influenza A and B cases for the week ending March 5,  
24 2022, with a total of 40,484 laboratory confirmed  
25 cases to date. She noted a total of 45 confirmed

1 influenza-associated deaths have been reported this  
2 season, but there have been no influenza-associated  
3 confirmed pediatric deaths this season.

4 Ms. Byrnes highlighted that the Pennsylvania  
5 Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PA MMRC)  
6 published their report in January and the findings of  
7 their review of maternal deaths, noting Dr. Johnson  
8 wanted to encourage health providers to review the  
9 findings and recommendations.

10 Ms. Byrnes stated PA MMRC found accidental  
11 poisoning, including drug-related overdoses, was the  
12 top cause of maternal deaths and made several  
13 recommendations to prevent accidental poisonings based  
14 on the deaths reviewed. She offered to provide the  
15 report to the Board.

16 Ms. Byrnes reported a rise in syphilis cases,  
17 including congenital syphilis, noting the PA Health  
18 Alert Network continues to send out information and  
19 encourage providers to screen all pregnant people for  
20 syphilis at the first prenatal visit, third trimester,  
21 and delivery.

22 Chair Woodland commented that looking at maternal  
23 deaths, not only for the peripartum and immediate  
24 postpartum phase but for the first year after giving  
25 birth, is an amazing process. He requested Ms. Hunter

1 remind him to have a formal presentation and to  
2 include the findings from the maternal mortality  
3 review.

4 Dr. Ripchinski requested more information  
5 regarding the rise in BA.2 in Pennsylvania.

6 Ms. Byrnes stated she would have to ask  
7 colleagues for a specific number.

8 Chair Woodland mentioned Pfizer announced a  
9 fourth or annual does would be necessary moving toward  
10 endemic status and asked whether the Department of  
11 Health is going to move toward an endorsement.

12 Ms. Byrnes stated she would need to speak with  
13 Dr. Johnson.

14 Chair Woodland asked whether there was any  
15 reaction by the Department of Health concerning the  
16 increased number of cases seen in China.

17 Ms. Byrnes noted being on a call yesterday with  
18 the CDC and discussion concerning the increase in  
19 China, where China did not see the same level of  
20 Omicron and BA.2 is kind of now taking over.

21 Chair Woodland commented that the fourth shot  
22 issue is going to come up now even more prevalent and  
23 thinks that is why Pfizer is moving in that direction  
24 and other companies will also.

25 Dr. Yealy mentioned not being sure of having

1 enough clarity in the vast majority of  
2 immunocompromised and nonelderly population that  
3 additional doses add significant benefit, particularly  
4 to the serious illness. He commented that the China  
5 observation shows how difficult an intense mitigation  
6 strategy is to sustain as a virus changes.

7 Chair Woodland thanked the Department of Health  
8 for all of the public service announcements (PSAs),  
9 especially with the reproductive age people because  
10 those seem to be the most reticent and is where we are  
11 seeing pregnancy outcomes and pregnancies being  
12 affected in a major way. He commented that the data  
13 is going to be astounding when published regarding  
14 what the virus does to placentas and what that looks  
15 like for women who have not been vaccinated.

16 Chair Woodland addressed the 2022 CDC report  
17 regarding life expectancy by state, noting  
18 Pennsylvania ranked 28 at 78.3 years. He mentioned  
19 that has been dramatically affected in every state by  
20 COVID and opioid use disorder because both of those  
21 issues have increased mortalities over the last year.

22 Ms. Byrnes reported overdose deaths had been  
23 going down pre-COVID but have shot back up and is  
24 something the Department of Health is working on and  
25 reviewing.]

1 \*\*\*

2 Report of Board Chair

3 [Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, announced  
4 that this was Dr. Domen's last meeting. He thanked  
5 Dr. Domen for his contributions to the State Board of  
6 Medicine and participation in the Federation of State  
7 Medical Boards and wished him well.

8 Chair Woodland recognized Match Week 2022, where  
9 new providers will be coming to Pennsylvania and will  
10 be the largest match ever recorded in history of  
11 people coming to the area. He reported the northeast  
12 region preliminarily did fairly well in most  
13 specialties in the match, noting he would have a lot  
14 of data to present at the next Board meeting.

15 Chair Woodland addressed an American Medical  
16 Association (AMA) study regarding physician turnover.  
17 He noted the AMA had seen a turnover of primary care  
18 physicians with an estimated cost of almost \$1  
19 billion. He mentioned it results in additional health  
20 care spending each year, not only to maintain and  
21 recruit new providers but also to think about what  
22 that looks like for Pennsylvania. He noted the great  
23 resignation included all providers at all levels in  
24 health care.

25 Chair Woodland addressed the 2022 Medscape

1 Physician Suicide Report, noting many of the specialty  
2 societies are calling this out because the rate of  
3 physician suicide in the United States is remarkable  
4 as it applies to other high intensity industries  
5 because physicians are two or three times the amount.  
6 He noted suicidal ideation among physician providers  
7 being as high as almost 10 percent.

8 Chair Woodland mentioned that state and national  
9 resources are available for physicians having suicidal  
10 ideations and is something the Board should start  
11 promoting heavier within the state and amongst the  
12 State Board of Medicine on their website.

13 Chair Woodland noted the 2022 Federation of State  
14 Medical Boards Annual Meeting is in April, and Dr.  
15 Rachel Levine, who is Pennsylvania's past physician  
16 general member of the Board, is going to be a keynote  
17 speaker.

18 Chair Woodland mentioned Dr. Levine is now  
19 Admiral Levine as the Assistant Secretary for Health  
20 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
21 has been recognized by USA Today as one of the women  
22 of the year for her courage and contributions to  
23 medicine and issues of COVID and opioid use disorders.  
24 He gave a shout-out to Dr. Levine for her  
25 achievements.

1           Chair Woodland mentioned Cory Feist from the  
2 Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation is also going to be a  
3 keynote speaker. He noted the foundation was named  
4 for Dr. Lorna Breen, a caring and compassionate  
5 emergency room physician who committed suicide in 2022  
6 during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. He  
7 stated her death helped raise awareness of the heavy  
8 burden being placed on first responders in the  
9 workforce and the ongoing issues of physician burnout  
10 and wellness.

11           Chair Woodland noted his candidacy for the board  
12 of directors will be voted on by other members at the  
13 April meeting. He commented that being a candidate  
14 does not mean anyone is going to be elected to the  
15 board of directors, and it is a vote of the delegates  
16 who elect the board of directors. He requested Ms.  
17 Byrnes take the information in his report back to the  
18 Department of Health.

19           Dr. Silver offered to provide a summary on the  
20 Maternal Mortality Review Committee findings and the  
21 physician suicide issue.

22           Chair Woodland informed Dr. Silver that he would  
23 request a formal presentation on maternal mortality at  
24 the next meeting.

25           Dr. Silver addressed physician suicide, noting

1 prior to COVID it was around 400 to 450 physicians who  
2 committed suicide yearly, and that rate has increased  
3 by 10 percent from just the overload, lack of being  
4 able to be with family members, and seeing multiple  
5 deaths during the day. She reported the stigma as  
6 being another issue in mental health with physicians,  
7 where most physicians are apprehensive about coming  
8 forward with mental health problems for fear of their  
9 license being taken away.

10 Dr. Silver again informed everyone of a physician  
11 hotline available at any hour of the day.

12 Chair Woodland noted appreciation for Dr.  
13 Silver's knowledge as a psychiatrist in this area and  
14 for the resources.]

15 \*\*\*

16 Report of Acting Commissioner

17 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of  
18 Professional and Occupational Affairs, informed  
19 everyone that all Board meetings moving forward will  
20 be held in a hybrid format providing the option of  
21 attending virtually or in person.

22 Acting Commissioner Claggett and Ms. Hunter would  
23 be attending all Board meetings in person, and the  
24 meetings would be hosted on Microsoft Teams instead of  
25 Cisco Webex.



1           Chair Woodland asked whether there was a  
2 particular Board meeting that should be done in  
3 person. He noted having discussions with Dr. Johnson,  
4 where one or two Board meetings a year should be in  
5 person to get the Board together. He mentioned being  
6 able to see and hear better during the virtual  
7 platform and noted safety issues for those driving and  
8 attending in person.]

9

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10 Report of Committee on Health-Related Professionals -  
11 No Report

12

\*\*\*

13 Report of Committee on Legislation/Policy Development  
14 and Review

15 [Nazanin E. Silver, M.D., MPH, FACOG, stated the  
16 Journal of Medical Regulations was calling for  
17 submissions in 2022. She noted the journal is the  
18 primary vehicle in which the United States medical  
19 regulatory community has shared knowledge about  
20 licensure, discipline, and regulation. She encouraged  
21 anyone who wished to submit to go to their website.

22 Dr. Silver addressed the Interstate Medical  
23 Licensure Compact (IMLC), which is an agreement among  
24 participating states to work together to streamline  
25 the licensing process for physicians who want to

1 practice in multiple states and increase access to  
2 health care. She noted 37 states have joined, but  
3 there are some delays with Pennsylvania.

4 Ms. Walter commented that the compact has passed  
5 in Pennsylvania but had not been implemented at this  
6 point in time. She offered to provide a more thorough  
7 report at the next meeting regarding the status of the  
8 IMLC in Pennsylvania.]

9

\*\*\*

10 Report of Committee on Licensure Qualifications

11 [Donald M. Yealy, M.D., Vice Chair, noted having

12 vigorous evaluation of individual licensure requests

13 and actions and ongoing dialogue amongst the committee

14 and Board concerning learning opportunities.]

15

\*\*\*

16 Report of Vice Chair - No Report

17

\*\*\*

18 Motions (cont.)

19 MS. WUCINSKI:

20 I realized I missed a vote on agenda

21 item 20. I am going to do that now.

22 I believe the Board would entertain

23 a motion to provisionally deny the

24 Application for License by Endorsement

25 to Practice as a Physician and Surgeon

1 for Svetlana Nilovna Hanson, M.D.

2 CHAIR WOODLAND:

3 Do we have a motion?

4 MR. DILLON:

5 Moves.

6 DR. YEALY:

7 Second.

8 CHAIR WOODLAND:

9 Any further discussion? All those in  
10 favor, say yea. All those against, say  
11 nay. Any abstentions?

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 \*\*\*

14 For the Board's Information/Discussion - Old  
15 Business/New Business

16 [Dana M. Wucinski, Esquire, Board Counsel, referred to  
17 the Federation of State Medical Boards opposition to  
18 legislative efforts limiting medical boards' authority  
19 to investigate patient harm. She noted the Federation  
20 of State Medical Boards issued a statement on February  
21 28, 2022, in opposition to all of the legislative  
22 efforts in a specific statement that state medical  
23 boards protect patients by investigating complaints,  
24 evaluating the standards of care, and taking  
25 disciplinary actions when appropriate.

1 Ms. Wucinski noted FSMB opposes legislation  
2 intended to limit the board's ability to conduct its  
3 important work as it sets a dangerous precedent and  
4 puts the public at risk. She further noted state  
5 legislatures are encouraged to work with their state  
6 medical boards to uphold existing statutory authority  
7 to respond to complaints about the quality of care  
8 provided and take disciplinary action against  
9 physicians when necessary to protect the public.

10 Chair Woodland mentioned the importance of having  
11 some of those being brought forth from the federation  
12 to the state level to advise the Board of what is  
13 going on at the federation level.

14 Ms. Wucinski referred to a letter from the Food  
15 and Drug Administration to the Federation of State  
16 Medical Boards from December 13, 2021, to bring  
17 attention to FSMB about ivermectin prescribing. She  
18 noted the letter points out the harm in claiming that  
19 ivermectin can treat or prevent COVID-19 due to the  
20 serious side effects that can be experienced with the  
21 use of ivermectin.

22 Chair Woodland noted the letter educates everyone  
23 as to where the FDA stands on ivermectin.

24 Dr. Yealy commented that the State Board of  
25 Medicine's role is to respond to investigations that

1 are often based on complaints and function on  
2 selective cases rather than through only broad  
3 legislative actions.

4 Ms. Walter addressed the Educational Testing  
5 Service (ETS) Test of English as a Foreign Language  
6 (TOEFL) internet-based test (iBT) Home Edition. She  
7 stated TOEFL now offers an at-home or third-party  
8 English proficiency exam option. She mentioned the  
9 State Board of Medicine does not see applications  
10 where the individual has taken the TOEFL very often.

11 Ms. Walter commented that the Educational  
12 Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) has a  
13 component in their certification requiring an English  
14 proficiency examination that is separate from the  
15 TOEFL. She noted counsel would be asking for a vote  
16 to accept the TOEFL iBT Home Edition Examination in  
17 the instance it arises in an application.

18 Mr. Dillon commented that the Board of Nursing  
19 has some discomfort about accepting the home edition  
20 version. He stated the requirements for the home  
21 version are very strict and seem secure and requested  
22 more time to obtain feedback from nursing colleagues.

23 Ms. Walter explained that a comparison between  
24 the Board of Nursing and Board of Medicine is not fair  
25 based upon the application and requirement process and

1 different license types. She noted it appears to be a  
2 secure pathway for the Board's purposes to obtain the  
3 English as a second language requirement.

4 Ms. Walter referred to Act 41, noting the English  
5 proficiency portion is in there, along with other  
6 English proficiency exams approved by the Board. She  
7 stated the Board of Nursing does not have as many  
8 pathways to obtain English proficiency certification  
9 as the Board of Medicine. She suggested tabling the  
10 matter and offered to check the minutes and with the  
11 Board of Nursing counsel and then provide the  
12 information at the next meeting.]

13 \*\*\*

14 [Mark B. Woodland, M.S., M.D., FACOG, Chair, referred  
15 to the 2022 Board meeting dates listed on the agenda,  
16 noting the next Board meeting is scheduled for April  
17 19.

18 Chair Woodland also mentioned the 2023 Board  
19 meeting dates are listed as February 7, March 7, April  
20 18, May 23, June 20, July 18, September 12, October  
21 24, and December 12.

22 Ms. Walter informed everyone that she and Ms.  
23 Wucinski would be in person for meetings starting  
24 April 1.]

25 \*\*\*

1 Adjournment

2 CHAIR WOODLAND:

3 Do I have a motion for adjournment?

4 DR. YEALY:

5 So moved.

6 CHAIR WOODLAND:

7 Do I have a second?

8 DR. SILVER:

9 Second.

10 CHAIR WOODLAND:

11 Any further discussion before we close  
12 our meeting today?

13 I really do appreciate all of the  
14 information that we share during the  
15 meeting as well as the recognition that  
16 we are here to serve our public and  
17 communities here in the state of  
18 Pennsylvania.

19 It is important that we all look at  
20 it from that perspective and bring that  
21 information to the Board to bring out to  
22 the community. I admire everybody on  
23 this Board so much and the seriousness  
24 that you take this charge and provide  
25 the information. I just want to put

1                   that out there.

2                   I do want to give one last shout-  
3                   out to Dr. Domen and a big shout-out to  
4                   welcome Dr. Ripchinski to be part of the  
5                   Board. I hope that you have enjoyed  
6                   your first meeting to see why many of us  
7                   really have been devoted to  
8                   participating in this activity. Any  
9                   other discussion?

10 DR. SILVER:

11                   I want to make one point, to hone in the  
12                   importance of mental health. The reason  
13                   I brought up the MMRC Report was because  
14                   within that report, 39 percent of mental  
15                   health conditions, other than substance  
16                   abuse disorders, contributed to the  
17                   deaths of women as well as 17 percent  
18                   related to substance use. That is  
19                   nearly half. Again, pointing out the  
20                   importance of mental health.

21 CHAIR WOODLAND:

22                   I think the number is related to just  
23                   pure obstetric issues; maternal death is  
24                   only 13 percent. It is like one of the  
25                   smallest things and yet we all talk



1 about that as being the major issue, but  
2 there are so many other issues involved  
3 in maternity care. I might invite one  
4 of our nurses who has a very good  
5 presentation on this.

6 Any other further discussion? All  
7 those in favor of adjourning this  
8 meeting, say yea. All those against,  
9 say nay. Any abstentions?

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11 \*\*\*

12 [There being no other business, the State Board of  
13 Medicine Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.]

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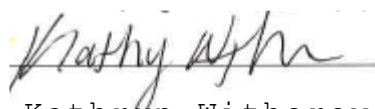
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CERTIFICATE

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.



Kathryn Witherow,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE  
REFERENCE INDEX

March 15, 2022

	TIME	AGENDA
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9	8:45	Executive Session
10	10:30	Return to Open Session
11		
12	10:42	Official Call to Order
13		
14	10:42	Introduction of Attendees
15		
16	10:43	Approval of Minutes
17		
18	10:45	Report of Prosecution Division
19		
20	10:52	Motions
21		
22	10:58	Miscellaneous
23		
24	10:59	Report of Department of Health
25		
26	11:13	Report of Board Chair
27		
28	11:26	Report of Acting Commissioner
29		
30	11:28	Report of Committee on Legislation/ Policy Development Review
31		
32		
33	11:34	Motions (cont.)
34		
35	11:34	For the Board's Information/Discussion
36		
37	11:48	Adjournment
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