



Arizona Medical Board

1740 W. Adams St, Suite 4000 • Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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Telephone (480) 551-2700 • Fax (480) 551-2705 • In-State Toll Free (877) 255-2212

FINAL MINUTES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE JOINT LEGISLATION AND RULES COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING Held on February 12, 2025 1740 W. Adams St., Phoenix, Arizona

Committee Members

Jodi A. Bain, M.A., J.D., LL.M., Chair
Laura Dorrell, M.S.N., R.N.
R. Screven Farmer, M.D.
Gary R. Figge, M.D.
Lois E. Krahn, M.D.
Bruce Bethancourt, M.D.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Bain called the Committee's meeting to order at: 4:01 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Committee members were present: Ms. Bain, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Farmer, Dr. Figge, Dr. Bethancourt.

The following Committee members were absent: Dr. Krahn.

The following Board staff and Assistant Attorney(s) General participated in the virtual meeting: Patricia McSorley, Executive Director; Raquel Rivera, Deputy Director; Michelle Butler, Chief Operations Officer; Michelle Robles, Board Operations Manager and Heather Foster, Public Records Coordinator. Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG") was also present.

C. PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING MATTERS LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Individuals who addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting appear beneath the topic.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- AMB December 4, 2025 Administrative JLRC Meeting Draft Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Dorell moved to approve the December 4, 2025 Administrative JLRC Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Ms. Bain, Ms. Dorrell and Dr. Farmer. The following Board member was absent: Dr. Krahn. The following Board members abstained: Dr. Bethancourt and Dr. Figge

VOTE: 3-yay, 0-nay, 2-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

E. WELCOME TO BRUCE BETHANCOURT, M.D. AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE JOINT LEGISLATION AND RULES COMMITTEE

Ms. Bain welcomed Dr. Bethancourt to the committee. Dr. Bethancourt was happy to join the committee.

F. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR R4-16-707, EMERGENCY AND TRANSFER PROVISIONS

Dr. Merrell was present virtually and spoke during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

Ms. McSorley stated that Dr. Merrell has requested for the Board to amend Rule R4-16-707.

Dr. Farmer disclosed that he does know Dr. Merrell and has discussed this issue with him in the past. The practice of anesthesia has changed over the years. Anesthesia does not just occur within the hospital settings anymore but also in the office settings. Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is a very unusual disorder. Very rare and deadly but treatable. The triggering medications can be used in anesthesia as long as safety measures are taken. An organization that is the Gold Standard called MHAUS (Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States). Most locations who use triggering agents in anesthesia have their plaques in the office. The hotline will walk you through the up-to-date process to treat MH.

Dr. Merrell stated we do not need specify anesthesia or sedation by regulating behavior.

The committee as a group worked on the wording to amend the Rule R4-16-707 as follows:

When performing office-based surgery with agents known to trigger malignant hyperthermia (MH), prior to any procedure the physician must:

1) Develop and have available written protocols to address the safe use of MH triggering agents. At a minimum, the protocols must require the presence and immediate availability of ASA standard monitors (including but not limited to ETCO2 and temperature monitoring), appropriate medications, including unexpired dantrolene, and necessary equipment for treating MH at the location where the triggering agents are used.

2) Prior to the initiation of anesthesia, verify the presence and immediate availability of ASA standard monitors (including but not limited to ETCO2 and temperature monitoring) and have available for immediate use equipment and medications including unexpired dantrolene at the location when MH triggering agents are used.

The physician shall ensure the continuous use of appropriate ASA standard monitors during the procedure.

G. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DRAFT FIVE YEAR REVIEW REPORT FOR ARTICLE 6, DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Ms. McSorley noted that there had been a suggestion to combine Rules R4-16-604 and R4-16-605, which identify aggravating and mitigating factors that the Board can consider in disciplinary matters. Ms. McSorley recommended that this change was not necessary.

Dr. Figge agreed with Ms. McSorley's recommendation.

H. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RULEMAKING CALENDAR

Ms. McSorley requested approval of future meeting dates via the calendar.

Ms. Bain stated to have an Administrative JLRC Meeting quarterly one week prior to the regular Board Meetings for the Board's approval and to meet the 24 hour posting requirement.

I. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE TOPICS AND REMINDER OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Ms. McSorley provided updates and deadlines on when drafts and final copies of rules need to be completed. She stated that her goal prior to retirement is to have everything completed.

Dr. Figge recommended obtaining department summaries including IT to inform the committee what they need for budgeting purposes.

Ms. Bain asked whether it would be possible to have a couple of people from the IT department come and speak to the Committee at the next meeting about budgeting concerns or budgeting issues.

Ms. McSorley informed the committee members that Board staff is on top of it and have discussed what budget requirements are needed for the next fiscal year.

J. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Figge moved for adjournment.

SECOND: Ms. Dorrell.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Ms. Bain, Dr. Bethancourt, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Farmer and Dr. Figge.

The following Board member was absent: Dr. Krahn.

VOTE: 5-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at: 4:54 p.m.



Raquel Rivera

Raquel Rivera, Interim Executive
Director