



Arizona Medical Board

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FINAL MINUTES FOR SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING Held on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 1740 W. Adams St., Phoenix, Arizona

Board Members

Gary R. Figge, M.D., Chair
Bruce A. Bethancourt, M.D., F.A.C.P., Vice-Chair
Laura Dorrell, M.S.N., R.N., Secretary
Katie S. Artz, M.D., M.S.
Jodi A. Bain, M.A., J.D., LL.M.
David C. Beyer, M.D., F.A.C.R., F.A.S.T.R.O.
R. Screven Farmer, M.D.
James M. Gillard, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.E.P., F.A.A.E.M.
Lois E. Krahn, M.D.
Jessyca Leach

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Figge called the meeting to order at: 5:03 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present: Dr. Figge, Dr. Beyer, Dr. Bethancourt, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Artz, Ms. Bain, Dr. Farmer, Dr. Gillard, Dr. Krahn, and Ms. Leach.

ALSO PRESENT

The following Board staff participated in the meeting: Raquel Rivera, Executive Director; Claude Deschamps, M.D., Chief Medical Consultant; Nicole Samaradellis, Investigations Manager; and Michelle Robles, Board Operations Manager. Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG") also participated in the meeting.

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 case.

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Review, Discussion and Consideration of FSMB Training - Trauma Informed Investigation

Ms. Rivera informed the Board that the FSMB is hosting a Trauma Informed Regulation training in February 2026 in New Orleans focusing on integrating trauma-informed practices into medical regulation. Two representatives from the Board, one Board member and one Senior Staff may attend on scholarship to cover travel, lodging, and meals. The deadline to register is in January; however, the scholarships may not be available by that time. Ms. Rivera noted that if Board members are interested, please reach out to Dr. Figge or Alicia.

- Review, Discussion, and Consideration of Annual Report

Ms. Rivera reported that the Annual Report for the MD Board has been provided for your review. We have revitalized the report, with a refreshed visual design aimed at improving readability, accessibility, and overall engagement. Along with our updated logos and content, the new format reflects our ongoing efforts to communicate more effectively with stakeholders and the public.

- Review, Discussion and Consideration of FY27 Executive Budget Package
Ms. Rivera reported that the strategic plan has been provided for the Board's review. There are 4 issues identified in the Board's 5 year plan. One is to investigate and resolve complaints within 180 days. For FY27, we are requesting additional funding to obtain three investigative aides to offset the administrative burden for Investigators to allow them to move cases more efficiently. The Nursing Board who has more licensees and complaints opened utilized legal secretaries to perform the duties we are proposing these aides would perform. The second issue is to improve data retrieval tools and access to Board data. The third issue is to continue to cooperate with agency partners to disseminate healthcare related data. The fourth issue is to modernization of Agency public facing websites. For FY27, we are requesting additional funding to modernize the MD/PA websites. Ms. Rivera noted that the Budget Book contains the detailed requests for funding for the 2 items stated.

Dr. Figge commented that he liked the readability of the report.

E. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given.

F. LEGAL ADVISOR'S REPORT

- Update on *Mady v. Arizona Medical Board*, LC2025-000219-001

Ms. Smith provided the Board with the Motion to Stay that's been filed and the Board's response. The reply was just filed yesterday evening, so the judge has not ruled on that yet. The next steps in the case would be the judge's ruling on the Motion to Stay, and then the briefing on the JRA.

G. PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM (PHP) REPORT

Ms. Downey provided a report for the Board's review.

H. DISCUSSION REGARDING DEBRIEFING ON BOARD PROCESSES

Dr. Figge inquired about a script regarding item P for future use.

Ms. Smith confirmed that there is a script.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 9, 2025 Special Teleconference meeting; including Executive Session
- August 6, 2025 Regular Session meeting; including Executive Session

MOTION: Dr. Artz moved to approve the July 9, 2025 Special Teleconference Meeting, including Executive Session and the August 6, 2025 Regular Session Meeting; including Executive Session.

SECOND: Dr. Bethancourt.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0(Dr. Krahn and Ms. Bain recused from the August minutes)-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED

LEGAL MATTERS

J. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SETTLEMENT OFFER IN LIEU OF FORMAL HEARING

1. MD-25-0657A, SCOTT M. BRANNAN, M.D., LIC. #45866

Dr. Brannan and counsel Adam Anderson participated virtually. Seth Hargraves, AAG participated on behalf of the State. Deanie Reh, AAG participated virtually as the Board's Independent Legal Advisor.

Mr. Anderson stated that Dr. Brannan's license has been summarily suspended and was not able to respond due to medical concerns. He then obtained counsel and has signed an Inactive with Cause agreement.

Dr. Brannan apologized for not responding to the Board due to health issues and has since contacted his attorney. Dr. Brannan requested that the Board accept his Inactive with Cause.

Mr. Hargraves stated that on July 9th the Board considered this matter. A complaint had been received in June regarding Dr. Brannan's ability to safely practice medicine. Dr. Brannan previously participated in a PHP agreement with this Board and statute required him to enter into an Inactive with Cause if there was another event. Dr. Brannan was summarily suspended since he did not enter into the Inactive with Cause. Mr. Hargraves requested that the Board accept the Inactive with Cause and rescind the referral to formal hearing.

Dr. Gillard opined that this protects the public and noted that the physician cannot practice until the Board allows it.

MOTION: Dr. Gillard moved to accept the Inactive with Cause and rescind the referral to formal hearing.

SECOND: Dr. Bethancourt.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

CONSENT AGENDA

K. CASES RECOMMENDED FOR DISMISSAL

MOTION: Dr. Bethancourt moved to dismiss item numbers 1-3.

SECOND: Dr. Gillard.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

1. MD-23-0861A, MOHAMED I. RAMADAN, M.D., LIC. #33565

RESOLUTION: Dismiss.

2. MD-24-1234A, SCOTT D. BORUCHOV, M.D., LIC. #61528

RESOLUTION: Dismiss.

3. MD-24-0828A, VISHAL S. SHAH, M.D., LIC. #55180

RESOLUTION: Dismiss.

L. CASES RECOMMENDED FOR ADVISORY LETTERS

MOTION: Dr. Beyer moved to issue an Advisory Letter in item numbers 1, 2 and 4-7.

SECOND: Ms. Leach.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0 (Dr. Krahn recused from Case #6)-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

1. MD-23-0713A, DAX K. TRUJILLO, M.D., LIC. #31549

RESOLUTION: Advisory Letter for failing to investigate a possible false positive on a urinary drug screen. While there is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action, the board believes that continuation of the activities that led to the investigation may result in further board action against the licensee.

2. MD-24-1000A, MICHAEL A. MUSCI, M.D., LIC. #36785

Dr. Musci and counsel Matthew Cates addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

RESOLUTION: Advisory Letter for misdiagnosing a patient with recurrent breast cancer without pathologic confirmation. While the licensee has demonstrated substantial compliance through rehabilitation or remediation that has mitigated the need for disciplinary action, the board believes that repetition of the activities that led to the investigation may result in further board action against the licensee.

3. MD-23-1149A, MAZIYAR A. KALANI, M.D., LIC. #55731

Dr. Kalani and counsel Tracy Olsen addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

Dr. Bethancourt commented he does not disagree with the advisory letter but noted that it appears that the patient went to the ED because he perceived that he had a neurologic problem that needed to be attended to, and he went to see a physician and repeatedly saw a PA. Dr. Bethancourt questioned whether the whole pathology was explained appropriately to the patient. Dr. Beyer opined that having four repetitive visits for the same problem clearly said that this patient did not get the message. Dr. Beyer stated that it's our job to make sure the patient understands what we can and cannot do. Dr. Beyer spoke in favor of the recommended advisory letter.

MOTION: Dr. Bethencourt moved to issue an Advisory Letter for failing to evaluate and communicate a treatment plan for a patient with non-emergent back pain and neurologic symptoms. While there is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action, the board believes that continuation of the activities that led to the investigation may result in further board action against the licensee.

SECOND: Dr. Beyer.

Dr. Krahn commented that our PA colleagues were involved in this patient's care and PAs involved in neurosurgery tend to be highly skilled and the Board needs to recognize their role in a situation like this. Dr. Krahn further commented that some patients, regardless of who relays the information, will not understand or accept the message. Dr. Figge noted, as an emergency physician, we do have certain patients that return multiple times with the same complaint, and one of the most common, if not the most common, of returning patients with same complaints is actually back pain. Dr. Figge explained that you had to check the CSPMP for back pain complaint in the emergency department and urgent situations 100 percent of the time, because it was that common of a complaint. Dr. Figge noted that the neurosurgical PA did see the patient and opined that the information was

review by the physician. The patient had a follow up appointment scheduled at the end of the month to see the neurosurgeon but the situation escalated. On the fourth visit the patient left the emergency department and didn't get any discharge instructions, medications and with because of the alleged aggressive behavior with staff the appointment was canceled. Dr. Figge stated that he can understand how this could happen and understand the patient's frustration since they want their pain to go away. Having surgery is not always the answer and conservative therapy is the best approach in a majority of cases. Dr. Figge spoke against the motion.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge, Dr. Beyer, Dr. Bethancourt, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Artz, Ms. Bain, Dr. Farmer, Dr. Gillard, Dr. Krahn, and Ms. Leach. The following Board members voted against the motion: Dr. Figge, Ms. Leach and Dr. Krahn.

VOTE: 7-yay, 3-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

4. MD-25-0167A, BRUCE J. THALER, M.D., LIC. #53266

RESOLUTION: Advisory Letter for failing to identify and report positive findings for lung neoplasm on a CT scan. While there is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action, the board believes that continuation of the activities that led to the investigation may result in further board action against the licensee.

5. MD-24-0802A, FREDERICK LIN, M.D., LIC. #65561

RESOLUTION: Advisory Letter for prescribing an atypical antipsychotic for presumptive delusional parasitosis without a definitive diagnosis. While there is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action, the board believes that continuation of the activities that led to the investigation may result in further board action against the licensee.

6. MD-24-0852A, KENNETH J. MISHARK, M.D., LIC. #25611

Counsel Robin Burgess addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting on behalf of the physician. A.J. and R.J. addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

RESOLUTION: Advisory Letter for inadequate supervision resulting in the inappropriate administration of IV epinephrine. While the licensee has demonstrated substantial compliance through rehabilitation or remediation that has mitigated the need for disciplinary action, the board believes that repetition of the activities that led to the investigation may result in further board action against the licensee.

7. MD-24-1074A, SREEJA J. PILLAI, M.D., LIC. #22171

RESOLUTION: Advisory Letter for inadequate care and treatment of urological symptoms and for failing to timely refer to a urologist resulting in a delayed diagnosis of bladder cancer. While there is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action, the board believes that continuation of the activities that led to the investigation may result in further board action against the licensee.

M. CASES RECOMMENDED FOR ADVISORY LETTERS WITH NON-DISCIPLINARY CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION ORDERS

1. MD-24-0908A, STEVEN G. NELSON, M.D., LIC. #13731

Dr. Nelson addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting. H.B. addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Gillard moved to issue an Advisory Letter for failing to timely diagnose and treat endometrial cancer. While there is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action, the board believes that continuation of the activities that led to the investigation may result in further board action against the licensee. Within six

months, complete no less than 4 hours of Board staff pre-approved Category I CME in post-menopausal bleeding. The CME hours shall be in addition to the hours required for license renewal.

SECOND: Dr. Artz.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

N. REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DISMISSALS

MOTION: Dr. Beyer moved to uphold the Executive Director Dismissal in line items 1 and 2.

SECOND: Dr. Artz.

Dr. Gillard noted that this was during COVID with comorbidities and although this was a sad outcome, this was reviewed by the Board.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

1. MD-23-0978A, AUSTIN M. MCPHILAMY, M.D., LIC. #60520

Counsel Cody Hall addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting on behalf of the physician.

RESOLUTION: Dismissal upheld.

2. MD-23-0984A, KEVIN J. RANUM, M.D., LIC. #53925

W.K. addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

RESOLUTION: Dismissal upheld.

O. LICENSE APPLICATIONS

i. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY LICENSE APPLICATION, OR TAKE OTHER ACTION

MOTION: Dr. Gillard moved to grant the license in item numbers 1-4.

SECOND: Dr. Bethancourt.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

1. MD-24-1199A, KASEY L. GILDERSLEEVE, M.D., LIC. #N/A

RESOLUTION: License granted.

2. MD-24-1089A, MARC D. CHRISTENSEN, M.D., LIC. #N/A

RESOLUTION: License granted.

3. MD-25-0110A, MANAS JAIN, M.D., LIC. #N/A

RESOLUTION: License granted.

4. MD-25-0796A, RICHARD G. LEVINE, M.D., LIC. #N/A

RESOLUTION: License granted.

ii. **REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 32-1426(B) AND R4-16-201(F), OR TAKE OTHER ACTION**

1. COLIN E. OBERG, LIC. # N/A

MOTION: Dr. Krahn moved to grant licensure by endorsement.

SECOND: Dr. Gillard.

Dr. Gillard noted that the physician has Canadian credentials which are similar to the Board's and has been in practice since 2004.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

OTHER BUSINESS

P. APPEAL OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION OR TAKE OTHER ACTION

1. MD-24-0002A, MD-24-0618A, CHARLES B. EVANS, M.D., LIC. #37616

Dr. Evans and counsel Flynn Carey participated virtually.

Mr. Carey stated that they are seeking a targeted practice restriction for testosterone replacement treatment (TRT). Of the 12 charts that are in play right now, 8 of them were deemed satisfactory. In chart review #2 they had concerns about decision-making regarding TRT. In chart review #4 the concerns were largely documentation deficiencies. Mr. Carey noted that he has not been prescribing opioids and is not doing pain management. Mr. Carey further noted that Dr. Evans is purposefully and meaningfully using the CSPMP. Mr. Carey argued that a total controlled substance ban kneecaps an internal medical doctor and that this type of restriction does not match the concerns that were raised in the these specific charts.

Ms. Rivera informed the Board that based on SIRC's recommendation, staff offered Dr. Evans an interim consent agreement for a practice restriction prohibiting him from prescribing all controlled substances. There was a request to amend that restriction to testosterone only. However, upon review and consideration at the board staff level, she wasn't comfortable approving that type of restriction. Ms. Rivera noted the significant history related to inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances, and resulted in board actions every year from 2018-2023, with the exception of 2020. Previously education was ordered in controlled substance prescribing and testosterone and based on these findings, it does not appear to have been incorporated into his practice.

Mr. Carey stated that they are focused on what needs to be done in the interim based on the evidence we have where 75 percent of the charts were successful and 25 percent are a concern.

Dr. Krahn opined that this is a time when the Board should not narrowly focus this case. Over the years there have been multiple opportunities for the physician to modify his prescribing and the Board needs to look broadly to protect the public. Dr. Farmer spoke in favor of Ms. Rivera's concerns in this case and Dr. Krahn's comments. Dr. Beyer recognized that there have been significant issues in the past but given the issues today he can understand the argument that all controlled substances is not the problem.

Ms. Rivera clarified that the SIRC recommendation was for revocation and to offer him an Interim Practice Restriction prohibiting him from practicing any form of medicine while the matter is pending adjudication, and then it was offered to him as such.

Dr. Figge stated that his understanding of this is that staff offered a full interim practice restriction and Mr. Carey is requesting an interim practice restriction for testosterone only, which is a controlled substance. Dr. Farmer commented that the Board is being asked to consider two options, one is very narrow on medication and doesn't take into account some of the patterns and history. Dr. Farmer opined that letting this go forward would be the best approach and suggested an interim practice restriction on all controlled substances.

MOTION: Dr. Krahn moved to deny Dr. Evans' appeal. Board staff is directed to prepare an Interim Consent Agreement for Practice Restriction prohibiting Dr. Evans from prescribing controlled substances.

SECOND: Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge, Dr. Bethancourt, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Artz, Ms. Bain, Dr. Farmer, Dr. Gillard, Dr. Krahn and Ms. Leach. The following Board member voted against the motion: Dr. Beyer.

VOTE: 9-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

Dr. Figge inquired if the physician would be open to this.

Mr. Carey requested that the Board table the matter to allow him the opportunity to speak to his client.

MOTION: Dr. Krahn moved to table discussion until end of the meeting so that the attorney can speak with Dr. Evans.

SECOND: Dr. Gillard.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Carey reported that after speaking with the licensee, if the ICA is offered it will be signed.

Ms. Smith confirmed that the ICA will be offered.

Q. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR CONFIDENTIAL PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM (PHP) MATTERS

1. MD-22-1132A

Ms. Smith informed the Board that there is an Executive Director's recommendation, and the Board can either grant or deny that recommendation. If the Board needs to discuss the contents of this case or need legal advice they can do so in executive session.

MOTION: Dr. Gillard moved to approve the Executive Director's recommendation.

SECOND: Dr. Krahn.

Dr. Krahn opined that this is a very important process change and is an improvement on how to handle matters like this. Dr. Gillard spoke in favor of his motion.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

R. GENERAL CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No individuals addressed the Board during the general call to the public.

S. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dr. Farmer moved for adjournment.

SECOND: Ms. Bain.

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

VOTE: 10-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Raquel Rivera

Raquel Rivera, Executive Director