



Arizona Medical Board

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FINAL MINUTES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE JOINT LEGISLATION AND RULES COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING Held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 1740 W. Adams St., Phoenix, Arizona

Committee Members

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Bain called the Committee's meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Committee members participated virtually: Ms. Bain, Dr. Bethancourt, Dr. Artz, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Farmer and Dr. Figge.

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

C. PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING MATTERS LISTED ON THE AGENDA

No individuals addressed the Committee during the Public Statements.

D. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Rivera provided the draft annual report for the Committee's review and noted the changes she has made and what she has now included in the report.

Committee members approved of the new look.

Ms. Rivera noted that this is due September 2nd to the Governor's office.

Ms. Bain stated that she has some feedback to provide prior to the submission.

E. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE FY27 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PACKAGE

Ms. Rivera provided the package for the Committee's review. Ms. Rivera noted that it includes two Decision Packages. Decision Package 1 is for modernization of websites and Decision Package 2 is to request funding for three investigation aids. Ms. Rivera noted that the strategic issues the same with

the exception of adding Issue #4 to support the Board's request for additional funding for modernization of the MD/PA websites.

Dr. Figge noted that the report mentions one open public member spot but should note that there is an open physician spot as well.

Ms. Brain inquired about the acronyms in the letter and if the Governor's office knows what they mean.

Ms. Rivera confirmed that they know what the terms are. Ms. Rivera confirmed that these decision packages reflect where the Board is at now. The websites need to be updated and there will always be a need for additional investigators given the caseload.

F. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING FIVE YEAR REVIEW AND RULEMAKING CALENDAR

Ms. Rivera reported that the calendar has been provided for review.

G. FIVE YEAR REVIEW

1. ARTICLE 2, LICENSURE - REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH DRAFT FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

Ms. Rivera provided the draft 5 YRR for Article 2, which captured the proposed changes discussed and considered in the last meeting based on statutory changes and increased efficiency. In reviewing the rules, Ms. Rivera noted that there are three additional items for the Committee's. A.R.S. § 32-1403(A)(12) requires the Board to issue registrations to licensees who have completed residency training in anesthesiology to administer anesthesia and sedation in a dental office. This bill included a rulemaking exemption for only the Dental Board; however, the Board can pursue regular rulemaking, if we would like to more thoroughly verify completion of residency training. To date, the Board has received and approved 14 applications. The current process requires that the physician provide an attestation of their completion of anesthesia residency training on their application. If a rule is created, the Board could include a process to more thoroughly verify residency training, such as review of PGT verifications.

Committee members agreed that since there have been no issues with the current process to keep it as is.

Ms. Rivera noted that currently, if an MD or PA was issued an initial license over 3 months prior and requests a duplicate license, we would require them to submit a duplicate license form with the associated fees. Requests for duplicate licenses due to a name change, are provided free of charge. Starting in November of 2025, a licensee will be able to print a PDF license certificate and wallet card from their Board portal. Eliminating this fee should have a small economic impact on the Board. In FY25, the Board obtained \$750 through collection of duplicate license fees. Ms. Rivera stated she is open to the Committee's thoughts on whether this fee should be eliminated. Ms. Rivera noted that the fee to request a duplicate license is \$50.

Dr. Figge commented that licensees should not have to request a duplicate license if they can print it off the website.

Ms. Rivera stated that staff can direct the to the website to print it for free or they can request a duplicate for the \$50 fee if they need it from the Board.

Committee members agreed with keeping the duplicate licensee request option available.

Ms. Bain requested that a column be added to the calendar regarding what is coming up or is due next.

Ms. Rivera reported that when the Board determines a change is needed in a license application form, the detailed description of application form information in the rules may become inconsistent with the application form. Therefore, other boards have minimized the

application details from their rules to prevent the rules being inconsistent with the application by simply referencing the submittal of an application on the Board's website. Ms. Rivera noted that she provided the Board of Psychologists Examiners Licensure rules as an example for your reference. Ms. Rivera explained that she brought this forward more for the Committee's information since it appears other boards may be taking this route.

Ms. Bain commented that for historical purposes there was an attempt to put more detail to limit the burden of having additional questions.

Ms. Rivera explained that she thinks the current process is appropriate and the detail but brought it to the Committee for review and to see if there is any interest.

2. ARTICLE 3, DISPENSING - REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON STATUS OF FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

Ms. Rivera reported that the Article 3 Five Year Review Report (YRR) was submitted to GRRC on June 5, 2025 with no changes proposed. GRRC approved the 5YRR on August 5, 2025.

3. ARTICLE 6, DISCIPLINARY ACTION - OFFICE BASED SURGERY - REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING RULEMAKING CONSIDERATIONS

Ms. Rivera reported that the Article 6 Five Year Review Report (YRR) was submitted to GRRC on April 28, 2025 with no changes proposed. GRRC approved the 5YRR on August 5, 2025.

H. RULEMAKING

1. ARTICLE 7, OFFICE BASED SURGERY - REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING RULEMAKING STATUS

Ms. Rivera reported that she continues to follow-up with the Governor's Office for approval to proceed with the Notice of Final Rulemaking.

Ms. Bain requested updating the calendar to include the month and date of approval and if there will be any or no rule making anticipated.

I. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MA SCOPE OF PRACTICE INQUIRIES

Ms. Rivera reported that the Board has received two inquiries from physicians relating to MA scope of practice and a physician's ability to delegate administration of local anesthetics. Due to the subsequent, similar request received, requested the Committee's input and opinion. Ms. Rivera noted that she has also provided the Board's current Medical Assistant FAQs, which clearly outline that an MA may not inject anesthetic agents.

Committee members discussed various concerns regarding MAs administering local anesthetics. Committee members acknowledged Dr. Deschamps and Dr. McClain's and noted that it gave insight on how often this is already being done.

Ms. Smith noted for the record that Direct Supervision is defined by statute in A.R.S. § 32-1401 and that in order to be appropriate direct supervision, they have to be within the same room or office suite.

Committee members requested that Board staff request opinions from the State Anesthesia Society and the Nursing Board to obtain more information. Dr. Farmer clarified that staff should ask whether or not MAs should be allowed to administer local anesthetics, and if so under what circumstances and delineations. For the Nursing Board, staff should ask how the administration of local anesthetics is regulated.

J. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE TOPICS

Ms. Rivera requested that at the next meeting will bring back the MA's scope of practice regarding local anesthetics, ED annual evaluation, annual board member training and the annual COI disclosures.

Ms. Bain suggested an offsite meeting for training prior to the February meeting.

Ms. Rivera acknowledged that suggestion and will bring it to the next meeting. Ms. Rivera commented that the PA Audit may be available by the next meeting for discussion.

Ms. Bain requested including the meeting calendar at every meeting.

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dr. Bethancourt moved for adjournment.

SECOND: Ms. Bain.

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

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

The meeting adjourned at: 5:15 p.m.



Raquel Rivera

Raquel Rivera, Executive Director