



ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

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FINAL MINUTES FOR SUMMARY ACTION TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Held on January 9, 2026

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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Figge called the meeting to order at: 5:07 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

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. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No individuals addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

LEGAL MATTERS

D. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SUMMARY ACTION

1. MD-26-0023A, PAUL A. AUPPERLE, M.D., LIC. #30485
Dr. Aupperle participated virtually.

Board staff summarized that Dr. Aupperle's violated his Board Order, a Decree of Censure with Probation including PHP Monitoring. Based on the terms of his Decree of Censure, if he uses drugs in violation of his probation, his license shall be summarily suspended pending a hearing for revocation or in the alternative he may surrender his license if he agrees in writing to being impaired by drug abuse. Of note, Dr. Aupperle's Decree of Censure was effective on June 20, 2023. On July 13, 2023, Dr. Aupperle tested positive for methamphetamine on a hair test, but this information was not reported to the Board by the Monitor. Additionally, on August 7, 2024, Dr. Aupperle tested positive for methamphetamine on another hair test and again this was not reported to the Board. These two tests were discovered once Dr. Aupperle requested early termination of his probation and PHP Monitoring on August 15, 2025 and records were reviewed from his PHP Monitor to facilitate a PHP Assessment prior to consideration of his request. The independent PHP Assessor did not support early termination for Dr. Aupperle and Dr. Aupperle withdrew his request. On

December 11, 2025, Dr. Aupperle tested positive for methamphetamine again and this time, the Board was advised and the test was confirmed positive. Dr. Aupperle's PHP Monitor confirmed with a toxicologist that environmental exposure is unlikely and not expected with Dr. Aupperle's prescribed medications. The toxicologist suggested that given the frequency of the urine tests, the urines may be negative because they missed the methamphetamine noting that both Dr. Aupperle's prescribed medications and methamphetamine metabolize to amphetamine. Dr. Aupperle has a significant Board history. In 2009, he completed one PHP Agreement, a Letter of Reprimand with Probation which was related to a DUI charge involving methamphetamine. In 2019, Dr. Aupperle's employer found him impaired at work, with methamphetamine and other drugs. Police were called and this resulted in Dr. Aupperle being charged with felony counts for possession of dangerous drugs and drug paraphernalia. He later pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of drug paraphernalia, a class 6 undesignated felony. Dr. Aupperle entered into an Inactive with Cause Order for this case. Subsequently, Dr. Aupperle completed treatment and then requested reactivation of his license. The Decree of Censure we are discussing today was the agreement entered into by the Board to reactivate his license. Given Dr. Aupperle's extensive history, Board staff finds sufficient evidence of Dr. Aupperle's positive hair test supporting a violation of his Board Order and requests that you summarily suspend Dr. Aupperle's license.

Dr. Aupperle stated that he was not notified about the positive hair test until earlier this month and that he was never informed about the July 13th and the August test. Dr. Aupperle denied using methamphetamine any of those times. Dr. Aupperle noted that he took two polygraph tests and they were both negative. Dr. Aupperle further noted that a positive methamphetamine result could be secondary to environmental exposure or ingestion. Dr. Aupperle explained that it has to be above a certain threshold to get a positive test, and his ADHD prescriptions do not apply. In conclusion, Dr. Aupperle stated that he did not understand why the tests are positive unless there had been environmental exposure and that he would be willing to take another polygraph test and increase his urine drug screens.

Dr. Gillard inquired about a past allegation of purchasing Adderall on the street that turned out to methamphetamine and if this was alleged or ever proven.

Board staff informed the Board that in the most recent PHP assessment report, the PHP assessor documented a conversation with the psychiatrist who made that comment that there had been some purchasing of street Adderall.

Dr. Aupperle clarified that in 2004, he went to buy cocaine and bought methamphetamine. He has never bought Adderall on the street.

Dr. Beyer inquired whether there have there been any negative hair tests since the reactivation and whether any of the medications the physician is taking are known to provide a false positive.

Board staff explained that the toxicologist was aware of the medications prescribed to Dr. Aupperle and he said definitively that they do not metabolize to methamphetamine, but that methamphetamine will metabolize to amphetamine.

Dr. Gillard noted that if the Board votes for summary suspension at this meeting, the case will move forward to a formal hearing and the physician will have a chance to bring in experts for toxicology to go over the things that he's speaking about.

Ms. Rivera commented that the Board should consider that based on the records from the PHP monitor, the physician's explanation regarding environmental exposure and the treating provider's report of purchasing street Adderall.

Dr. Figge noted the discrepancy in time between the incident described by Dr. Aupperle and his treating provider, noting that the treating provider's report was much more recent. Dr. Figge stated that the Board had to make a decision based on the information that is available.

Board staff confirmed that there has been at least one negative hair test dated 2-25-25. It was negative for methamphetamine, but positive for amphetamine

During deliberation, Dr. Gillard noted the report that amphetamine does not metabolize as methamphetamine.

MOTION: Dr. Gillard moved to summarily suspend Dr. Aupperle's license pending the outcome of a formal hearing in this matter based on a finding that Dr. Aupperle violated A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(s) and that the public health safety and welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

SECOND: Dr. Farmer.

Dr. Gillard noted that the monitor opined that you can only have a positive test by ingestion, and not exposure. Dr. Beyer commented that the negative hair test persuaded him that this isn't a problem with the testing, but with the results. Dr. Figge commented that the Board order itself states that if there is a violation, then it warrants summary suspension.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dr. Beyer moved for adjournment.

SECOND: Dr. Artz.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Raquel Rivera

Raquel Rivera, Executive Director