



Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants

1740 W. Adams St. Suite 4000, Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: 480-551-2700 • Fax: 480-551-2702 • www.azpa.gov

FINAL MINUTES FOR REGULAR SESSION MEETING Held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 1740 W. Adams St., Board Room A, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Board Members

Susan Reina, P.A.-C, Chair
John J. Shaff, PA-C, D.F.A.A.P.A., Vice-Chair
Levente G. Batizy, D.O.
David J. Bennett, D.O.
Kendra Clark, P.A.-C
Kevin K. Dang, Pharm D.
Michelle DiBaise, D.H.S.c., P.A.-C., D.F.A.A.P.A.
Shiva K. Y. Gosi, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.F.P., C.P.E.
Amanda Graham, P.A.-C.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Reina called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Dr. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi and PA Graham.

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

ALSO PRESENT

The following Board staff were present: 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”) were also present.

C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Individuals that addressed the Board during the Call to the Public appear beneath the matter(s) referenced.

D. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Review, Discussion and Update Related to Board Outreach Activities

Ms. Rivera provided a PowerPoint for the Board’s review and consideration. This covers a general overview of Licensing, Investigations, PHP, and other important laws that impact the performance of healthcare tasks. Since 2021, the Board has provided an annual presentation to newly graduating PAs at NAU’s downtown campus at the program’s request. Ms. Rivera noted that she attended ASAPA’s conference and offered this opportunity to multiple PA programs in Arizona. To date, the PA Board has not received additional requests for education but Ms. Rivera stated she was happy to provide this presentation to new or experienced PAs and can provide customized presentations upon request of a specific topic.

Chair Reina noted that another recommendation to add to the presentation regarding what PAs can and cannot do when prescribing prescriptions for patients who have out of state travel. Chair Reina also recommended reaching out to the Directors directly.

- Review, Discussion and Update Regarding Board Appointments

Ms. Rivera provided an update on Board appointments. Currently, PA Shaff, Dr. Gosi, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Batizy are serving under expired terms. PA Shaff, Dr. Gosi, and Dr. Bennett have served their full terms. There is a vacant MD position and now a vacant public member position. Ms. Rivera stated that she has informed the Governor's office of the need for appointments and the recent resignation and will follow-up once she has more information. Ms. Rivera noted that any interested individuals should be directed to the PA Board website or the Boards and Commissions website to submit an application.

- Review and Discussion of Annual Report

Ms. Rivera provided the Annual Report for review with some stylistic changes to the format of the report and have incorporated the new logos. There is a page dedicated to the Board members, which includes appointment terms, vacancies, and a call to action for appointments and those interested in serving on the Board. Ms. Rivera also added a message from the ED and another page with highlights from the year including outreach activities, newsletters, and trainings attended. This report is currently in draft form and Ms. Rivera noted that she is open to any suggestions or feedback on improvements that can be made prior to finalization.

E. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CHAIR'S REPORT

- Acknowledgment of New Executive Director Raquel Rivera

Chair Reina announced that Ms. Rivera has now been confirmed as the Executive Director.

Chair Reina acknowledged that Ms. Zoneraich has resigned from the Board and thanked her for her service.

F. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LEGAL ADVISOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

G. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PA SUNSET AUDIT REPORT

Ms. Rivera provided the report for the Board's review.

H. BOARD MEMBER TRAINING ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Ms. Rivera reported that this will be included in all new board member training and done on an annual basis. Ms. Rivera noted that this will count towards staff training as well.

Chair Reina requested it be scheduled for every August.

Ms. Rivera stated that it will be consistent but may choose a different meeting going forward.

Ms. Smith provided training to the Board regarding Conflicts of Interest.

Ms. Rivera informed the Board of the process when a regarding a conflict-of-interest complaint comes before the Board.

I. REPORT ON PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM (PHP)

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

Ms. Rivera noted that there is a PHP section on the Board's website and inquired if any Board members are interested in joining the AMB PHP Committee.

J. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 28, 2025 Regular Session Meeting

MOTION: PA Graham moved to approve the May 28, 2025 Regular Session Meeting.

SECOND: Dr. DiBaise.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

- July 21, 2025 Summary Action Meeting

MOTION: PA Clark moved to approve the July 21, 2025 Summary Action Meeting.

SECOND: Dr. Gosi.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

LEGAL MATTERS

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

1. THIS CASE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.

L. FORMAL INTERVIEWS

1. THIS CASE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.

CONSENT AGENDA

M. CASES RECOMMENDED FOR ADVISORY LETTERS

MOTION: PA Shaff moved to issue an Advisory Letter in item numbers 1, 7, 8 and 9.

SECOND: PA Graham.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

1. PA-24-0006A, JEAN B, DAMAS, P.A., LIC. #8775

RESOLUTION: Issue an Advisory Letter for failing to provide the required CME during the relevant time period of December 10, 2021, through December 31, 2022. 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. PA-24-0049A, EMILY I. CORREA, P.A., LIC. #5843

Counsel Kate Hutchison addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting on behalf of the physician.

Board staff summarized that Case PA-24-0049 was brought to the board on April 27, 2024. The mother of the patient complained that PA Correa was improperly managing her son (DJs) psychiatric medications, prematurely changing medications, failing to follow up adequately, failing to provide intake paperwork and failing to refer patient to another psychiatrist. Briefly, the patient was initially admitted voluntarily for psychiatric care which

was subsequently converted to involuntary status when no improvement was noted. Two days after discharge, PA Correa evaluated the patient via telehealth with report of compliance with medications but complaints of side effects. The medications were continued with referrals to neurology and primary care. He was seen five days later with paranoia and nightmares along with other complaints and therefore medications were changed. Three weeks later, the patient was seen and reported that he had discontinued all of his medications due to his side effects. A mental status exam noted tangential thought process, poor insight and limited judgment. The patient's mother asked to speak to the PA alone but the patient refused. The following day, a Wellness check by the care manager was carried out after the mother called about delusions and paranoia. At the next visit 3 weeks later, the patient reported auditory hallucinations and paranoia. Latuda was started and a month later, the last visit to the clinic the patient was feeling better after discontinuing all medications, at that time the patient also revoked his mother's involvement in his care. The Board's medical consultant ("MC") states that they reviewed the medical records in detail and based on their professional opinion PA Correa actions did not meet the standard of care in this case. Specifically, the MC substantiates the allegation of improper medication management in a patient with a history of psychosis and inadequate evaluation of the patient resulting in premature medication change. Medication reductions were made less than one week after his hospital discharge despite a pattern of poor insight by the patient regarding the need for medications to manage his symptoms. There is no indication PA Correa attempted to corroborate the reported medication side effects other than by patient report. The MC also writes that they are unable to substantiate the other allegations of the complainant which are the failure to timely produce intake paperwork and the failure to refer the patient to another psychiatrist.

MOTION: PA Shaff moved to dismiss.

SECOND: PA Clark.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

3. PA-24-0092A, DAVID L. STEVENS, P.A., LIC. #2048

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

MOTION: PA Clark moved to issue an Advisory Letter for inadequate evaluation and monitoring of patients prescribed controlled substances, and for inadequate documentation. 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. DiBaise.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

4. PA-23-0066A, CRAIG M. TAMBATAMBA, P.A., LIC. #7071

PA Tambatamba addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

MOTION: PA Clark moved to dismiss.

SECOND: PA Shaff.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

5. PA-24-0098A, ERRICKA D. FORREST, P.A., LIC. #9902

Board staff summarized that Case PA-24-0098A was initiated on September 7, 2024, after receiving a self-report from PA Forrest informing the board that on August 19, 2024, she was arrested for domestic abuse. On August 19, 2024, police were dispatched to PA Forest 's residence for a loud disturbance over the phone. When police arrived, they observed physical marks on the victim and arrested PA Forrest. She was charged with domestic violence. Board staff sustained the allegation that PA Forrest failed to report the domestic violence charge within 10 days pursuant to statute.

MOTION: PA Shaff moved to issue an Advisory Letter for failing to timely report a misdemeanor charge. 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: PA Graham.

PA Shaff commented that he agrees with the advisory letter. PA Clark agreed. PA Graham agreed since it was not timely reported.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

6. PA-21-0073A, CONNIE K. BELSKUS, P.A., LIC. #1926

MOTION: PA Shaff moved to dismiss.

SECOND: PA Clark.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

7. PA-25-0044A, RICHARD W. ALLEN, P.A., LIC. #2336

RESOLUTION: Issue an Advisory Letter for failing to timely renew license and performing health care tasks with an expired license. 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.

8. PA-25-0070A, RACHAEL R. VEATCH, P.A., LIC. #7403

RESOLUTION: Issue an Advisory Letter for failing to timely renew license and performing health care tasks with an expired license. 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.

9. PA-25-0075A, JARED P. SHAW, P.A., LIC. #7334

RESOLUTION: Issue an Advisory Letter for failing to timely renew license and performing health care tasks with an expired license. 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.

N. CASES RECOMMENDED FOR ADVISORY LETTERS WITH NON-DISCIPLINARY CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION ORDER

1. PA-24-0064A, ALYSSA N. JENSEN, P.A., LIC. #5939

MOTION: PA Shaff moved to issue an Advisory Letter and Order for Non-Disciplinary CME for failing to comply with CSPMP mandatory use requirement; failing to register with the CSPMP until August, 2024; failing to obtain urinary drug screens prior to prescribing controlled substances; failing to specify controlled substance prescribing authority in the supervision agreement; and inadequate documentation. 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 10 hours of Board staff pre-approved Category I CME in an intensive, inperson course regarding medical recordkeeping; and complete no less than 15 hours of Board staff pre-approved Category I CME in an intensive, inperson course in prescribing controlled substances. The CME hours shall be in addition to the hours required for license renewal.

SECOND: Dr. DiBaise.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

O. PROPOSED CONSENT AGREEMENTS (Disciplinary)

1. PA-24-0111A, PA-25-0001A, VINCENT J. TAPIA, P.A., LIC. #2400

MOVED: PA Shaff moved to accept the Consent Agreement for a Letter of Reprimand and Probation. Within six months, complete no less than 5 hours of Board staff pre-approved Category I CME in the proper use of antibiotics in the outpatient setting; and complete no less than the 5 hours of Board staff pre-approved Category I CME in the treatment and management of hypertension and chronic diseases. The CME hours shall be in addition to the hours required for license renewal. The probation shall terminate upon proof of successful completion of the CME.

SECOND: PA Clark.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

2. PA-23-0095A, KENAN ARKAWI, P.A., LIC. #4289

MOTION: PA Shaff moved to accept the Consent Agreement for a Letter of Reprimand and Two-Year Probation. PA Arkawi's Supervising Physician shall perform concurrent review of the physician assistant's care and treatment of his patients to evaluate his performance of healthcare tasks, documentation, decision-making, and clinical judgment as well as compliance with his Supervision Agreement. PA Arkawi shall cause his Supervising Physician to provide monthly reports to the Board or at any time the Supervising Physician has concerns regarding PA Arkawi's safety to perform healthcare tasks. Within six months, complete no less than 10 hours of Board staff pre-approved Category I CME in an intensive, virtual course regarding medical recordkeeping; and complete CPEP's ProBE course in ethics. The licensee shall obtain an unconditional or conditionally passing grade. The CME hours shall be in addition to the hours required for license renewal. The Probation shall not terminate except upon affirmative request of the physician assistant and approval by the Board, and PA Arkawi's request for termination shall be accompanied by proof of successful completion of the CME

coursework and a recommendation from his Supervising Physician stating that monitoring is no longer required.

SECOND: Dr. DiBaise.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

P. LICENSE APPLICATIONS

i. APPROVE OR DENY LICENSE APPLICATION

MOTION: PA Clark moved to grant the license in item numbers 3-4.

SECOND: PA Shaff.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

1. PA-25-0035A, JAMES E. SMITH, P.A., LIC. #N/A

MOTION: PA Shaff moved to offer the PA the opportunity to withdraw his license application within 30 days in lieu of a formal license denial. If he wishes to pursue the license, the matter shall be referred to the Board for consideration with the recommendation to deny the license based on A.R.S. § 32-4301(A)(5) and (6).

SECOND: PA Graham.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

2. PA-25-0061A, DANNY C. LIZANO, P.A., LIC. #N/A

RESOLUTION: Grant licensure.

3. PA-25-0049A, RYAN F. SIMONS, P.A., LIC. #N/A

RESOLUTION: Grant licensure.

4. PA-25-0053A, DINUSHA I. BANDRANAYAKE, P.A., LIC. #N/A

RESOLUTION: Grant licensure.

ii. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPLICANT'S REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT

1. MICHAEL A. GYPE, P.A. LIC. # N/A

MOTION: PA Shaff moved to grant the waiver and grant the license.

SECOND: PA Clark.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

2. TRICIA A. LATIOLAIT, P.A., LIC. # N/A

MOTION: PA Clark moved to grant the waiver and grant the license.

SECOND: PA Shaff.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

iii. APPROVE OR DENY LICENSE APPLICATION, OR TAKE OTHER ACTION

1. PA-25-0037A, MELISSA JEAN BERE, P.A., LIC. #N/A

Counsel Sara Stark addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting on behalf of the physician.

MOTION: Dr. DiBaise moved to invite the applicant in for a licensing interview.

SECOND: PA Clark.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

1. PA-23-0023A

Counsel Flynn Carey addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting on behalf of the physician assistant.

MOTION: PA Reina moved for the Board to enter into Executive Session to obtain legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice.

SECOND: PA Shaff.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:49 a.m.

No legal action was taken by the Board during Executive Session.

MOTION: PA Reina moved for the Board to enter into Executive Session to obtain legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) to discuss confidential material.

SECOND: Dr. DiBaise.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The Board entered into Executive Session along with Mr. Carey and the physician assistant at 10:51 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:54 a.m.

No legal action was taken by the Board during Executive Session.

MOTION: PA Graham moved to approve the executive director's recommendation.

SECOND: PA Shaff.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

R. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PA Shaff moved to adjourn.

SECOND: PA Clark.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, PA Shaff, PA Clark, Ms. DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham. The following Board members were absent: Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dang.

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 3-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.



Raquel Rivera

Raquel Rivera, Executive Director