



Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING Held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 1740 W. Adams St., 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.
Jessyca Leach

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Reina called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present: PA Reina, Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett, PA Clark, Dr. Dang, PA DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham and Ms. Leach.

The following Board members were absent: PA Shaff.

ALSO PRESENT

The following Board staff were present: Raquel Rivera, Executive Director; Joseph McClain, M.D., Chief Medical Consultant; Nicole Samaradellis, Investigations Manager; and Michelle Robles, Board Operations Manager. Carrie Smith Assistant Attorney General ("AAG") was 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 and Discussion of Google Meets Helpful Tips Pamphlets
Ms. Rivera reported that as of January 2026, the Board has transitioned to Google Meets in lieu of Zoom for teleconference meetings. Board staff have prepared and revised the Tips sheet for Board members and the public outlining how to join the meeting; how to register for call to public; instructions on how to join the meeting as a guest or using their own Google account; and steps to rename yourself on various devices. Ms. Rivera stated that she will continue to work with ADOA and Google to see if there is any ability to provide Board staff with more control parameters during teleconference meetings to reduce the possibility of open meeting law violations, patient confidentiality concerns, and technological malfeasance.
- Update Regarding the ARBoPA Sunset Audit Presentation
Ms. Rivera reported that she went before the Committee of Reference (COR) for the PA Sunset Audit on January 30th. The PA Board was continued for two years and despite the

reported progress with implementation of the auditor's recommendations, the COR remained concerned about the Board's Performance Incentive Pay and PIP payments made to the Executive Director. Ms. Rivera reported that she is currently responding to the Auditors' 6-month follow-up requests and they will be on-site the week on March 9th. Ms. Rivera reported that she continues to work on revising the PIP metrics to represent all staff, which will return to the Board at a later time for review and approval. As part of the PIP recommendations, on February 23rd, an ED Selection and Retention Committee meeting was held to consider the ED's compensation and PIP under the current structure.

- **Reminder Regarding Annual Conflict of Interest (COI) Form**
Ms. Rivera reminded Board's members to sign and return their annual COI forms to Board staff by March 1st. Additionally, this information has been requested as part of the 6-month PA follow-up audit scheduled in March; therefore, timely compliance is requested.
- **Update on 1740 Remediation**
Ms. Rivera reported that Board staff has returned to the office and continues to reorganize the suite and assess damaged property. This week, she is focused on submitting our claims for business personal property, business interruption, and document destruction. Staff have compiled a comprehensive inventory of damaged items to provide to the claims adjuster and have begun researching costs associated with purchasing 10 laptops for Board members to facilitate a return to in-person meetings. Depending on pricing, delivery timelines, and the necessary IT programming and setup, we are optimistic that in-person meetings can resume by May, with August as the latest anticipated timeframe.
- **Welcome Ms. Leach to the Board**
Ms. Rivera welcomed Ms. Leach as a new member of the Board.
- **Update, Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Legislation, including but not limited to:**

Abigail Mortell addressed the Board during the Public Statements.

- **HB 2731 Physician assistants; board; continuation**
Ms. Rivera reported that the PA continuation bill was initially drafted to provide only two years of continuation before the next Sunset Audit. However, on February 16th, Representative Bliss filed an amendment providing four years for continuation instead of two, which has been provided to the Board for review.
- **HB 2248 Medical interventions; prohibition**
Ms. Rivera reported that this bill would prohibit certain public health mandates; however, its broad language may unintentionally impair the Board's ability to protect the public. Specifically, it could restrict the Board's ability to require participation in Physician Health Programs or other medically necessary interventions as a condition of licensure. Ms. Rivera expressed concern regarding the broad language prohibiting state entities from requiring a "medical intervention" as a condition of receiving a government-issued license. The bill defines "medical intervention" expansively to include any medical procedure, treatment, drug, injection, medication, or action taken to diagnose, prevent, cure, or alter a person's health or biological function. This definition could encompass treatment plans, prescribed medications, diagnostic testing, or therapeutic participation required through a PHP. If interpreted broadly, the bill could significantly limit or eliminate the Board's ability to require licensees to engage in medically indicated treatment or monitoring necessary to ensure safe practice. Participation in a PHP is often an alternative to more severe disciplinary action and is intended to support both public safety and practitioner recovery. Prohibiting the Board from requiring such participation as a condition of licensure could remove an essential regulatory tool

and force the Board into more punitive actions, rather than rehabilitative approaches. Additionally, restricting the Board's ability to require medical monitoring or treatment may place Arizona out of alignment with national regulatory standards and could create complications in interstate licensure or reporting structures. This bill as written may unintentionally eliminate or severely restrict the Board's ability to impose individualized, medically necessary conditions thereby reducing regulatory flexibility and potentially increasing the need for outright license denial or revocation.

MOTION: PA DiBaise moved to oppose HB 2248.

SECOND: PA Reina.

PA Reina would hate to see safeguards removed from the Board.

Ms. Smith stated a motion is required to support or oppose the bill.

PA Graham requested clarification from HB 2248

Ms. Smith mentioned a lot of HB 2248 do not apply to the board. A provision within the bill has concerned Ms. Rivera. If the bill is passed, it can stop the Board from utilizing tools at their disposal to protect the public.

PA Graham requested a clarification of SB 1124 as it is similar to HB 2248 but are two different bills.

Ms. Smith stated SB 1124 would require all health regulatory boards to give a 14-day notice to submit to a health evaluation. Bodily fluids testing requires an immediate response as a substance only stays within the body for a short period of time. The other issue is if the Board does not take disciplinary action on the PA then the Board would need to reimburse the PA for the testing. Which would have a financial impact on the Board.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

- HB 2190 Physician assistants; licensure compact
Ms. Rivera reported that this bill passed both the House and Senate on February 16 and was signed by the Governor on February 20. Upon review and after discussion with the AAG regarding the AMB experience with compact legislation, it was noted that as currently structured, the PA Board's practice act does not provide explicit authority to conduct state and federal fingerprint background checks. Additionally, the public profile statute requires disclosure of felony and certain misdemeanor convictions, language similar to provisions that previously raised confidentiality concerns with the FBI. Ms. Rivera explained that she emailed these concerns to the bill sponsors and stakeholders for their consideration for providing explicit authorization within the PA Board's practice act to conduct state and federal fingerprint-based background checks for Compact applicants; and clear statutory language prohibiting the inclusion or disclosure of FBI-derived criminal history information in publicly available licensee profiles.

Ms. Smith commented that the Board has a couple of years to work with the division of the FBI to find a process for fingerprint base background check on PAs who are processing these applications.

PA DiBaise spoke in favor of this bill.

- SB 1238 Physician assistants; licensure compact
Ms. Rivera reported that this bill continues to progress through the Senate and passed the Committee of the Whole with amendments on February 16th.
- HB 2660 Health boards; licensure decisions; investigation
Ms. Rivera reported that unless a health professional has been criminally charged, this bill lets them keep working while they appeal a licensing decision and places strict deadlines and oversight on boards that attempt to restrict licenses. Ms. Rivera expressed concern with this bill as it would impact the Board's investigation process. If the criminal charges relate to the practice of medicine, the Board has typically offered an Interim Consent Agreement for Practice Restriction while the criminal matter is pending, and we await the outcome of the charges. The standard of evidence to support criminal charges is significantly higher than clear and convincing or preponderance, which we use in Board matters. Tying immediate action to whether someone has been criminally charged disregards how healthcare works as some reasons for practice restrictions may not involve crimes such as incompetence, dangerous prescribing, boundary issues, substance use etc. Ms. Rivera opined that this would weaken the Board's authority to act quickly which then places an unrealistic administrative burden on staff to allow the licensee to appeal within 30 days.

PA DiBaise agreed that allowing someone to practice while they are appealing that the Board deemed them unsafe to practice is not safe.

MOTION: PA DiBaise moved to oppose HB 2660.

SECOND: PA Graham.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

- SB 1124 Health boards; evaluations; notice
Ms. Rivera reported that before a board can require a psychological, psychiatric, or physical evaluation, it must give 14 days' notice, allow the professional to respond and be heard, share the results, and reimburse the cost if no action is taken. Ms. Rivera reported that she spoke at the health and human services committee on January 21st with concerns and have provided that statement for your review.

PA DiBaise agreed that the timeframe may be difficult but stated that if it was negative after the fact, she could understand reimbursing the cost. PA DiBaise opined that she is neutral. PA Reina agreed that she sees the value of timely testing, but these evaluations can be very expensive and it could impact these providers. However, the Board does operate on a tight budget. PA Reina stated that she too feels neutral. Ms. Leach commented that would this limit us to asking for these tests? Hesitate under the concerns being out of thousands of dollars due to appeals. Will that hamper our ability to be the regulatory agency we should be.

Ms. Rivera noted that these evaluations are our tools when the case is not a quality-of-care issue. Somebody must evaluate the PA. These evaluations are used as a baseline tool. Some of the cases are not straight forward and more complex. Other Executive Directors from other Board's have commented that if they are worried about their budgetary restrictions, they could be second guessing themselves by not utilizing the evaluations. Which in the end will do a disservice to the public.

MOTION: PA Reina moved to oppose SB 1124.

SECOND: Dr. Batizy.

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

VOTE: 7-yay, 1-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

- HB 2971 Occupational licensing; fee deferment
Ms. Rivera reported that this bill defers the initial license fee of a licensee until the second year the individual is licensed in the state. This bill reduces upfront costs for new licensees and may help grow the workforce, but it shifts the financial risk and administrative burden onto the board. This will result in reduced or delayed revenue for the Board, which is self-funded through our licensing fees. This will also require increased administrative workload to track deferred payments, a process to collect fees after year one, and how to address non-payment after the second year. There is also a risk of non-payment should the individual leave the profession, move, fail to renew, or surrender their license.

PA Reina inquired about the purpose.

Ms. Rivera opined that it is to help grow the workforce but has not seen the Board application fee as a barrier to being licensed in Arizona.

PA DiBaise opposed this bill as most get their license paid by their employer. It may be a burden to a small percentage of individuals.

MOTION: PA DiBaise moved to oppose HB 2971

SECOND: PA Graham.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

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

PA Reina noted that ASAPA has asked the Board to give a presentation about what the Board does. PA Reina also noted that she will be attending the FSMB annual meeting, which is available for Board members to attend.

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

No report was given.

G. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Ms. Smith confirmed that this needs to be done annually.

PA Reina requested that this be tabled until the May meeting.

MOTION: PA DiBaise moved table this until the May meeting.

SECOND: Dr. Batizy.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

H. DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION FROM THE ARIZONA REGULATORY SANDBOX ON SANDBOX APPLICATION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 41-5604

MOTION: Dr. Bennett moved for the Board to enter into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-431.03(A)(2)(3) to discuss confidential matters and obtain legal advice.

SECOND: PA Graham.

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

The following Board members were absent: PA Shaff.

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

MOTION PASSED.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:31 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:05 a.m.

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 12, 2025 Regular Session Meeting

MOTION: PA DiBaise moved to approve the November 12, 2025 Regular Session Meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dr. Bennett.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

CONSENT AGENDA

J. CASES RECOMMENDED FOR DISMISSAL

1. PA-24-0055A, ANGELA M. MITCHELL, P.A., LIC. #8816

Counsel Robert Stultz addressed the Board during the Public Statements on behalf of the PA.

MOTION: Dr. Batizy moved to dismiss.

SECOND: PA DiBaise.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

K. CASES RECOMMENDED FOR ADVISORY LETTERS

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

SECOND: PA DiBaise.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

1. PA-25-0043A, JUNOT BADETTE, P.A., LIC. #9678
PA Badette addressed the Board during the Public Statements.

RESOLUTION: Advisory Letter for failing to comply with the CME requirements for renewal within the designated time frame. 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-25-0064A, THIERRY CASIMIR, P.A., LIC. #10087

RESOLUTION: Advisory Letter for failing to comply with the CME requirements for renewal within the designated time frame. 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.

3. PA-25-0080A, JOHN P. SMOCK, P.A., LIC. #4570
PA Smock addressed the Board during the Public Statements.

Dr. DiBaise stated that based on the Call to Public testimony and review of the case, PA Smock did address the patient's work-related anxiety. Dr. DiBaise asserted that the patient specifically experienced work-related anxiety given the 24-hour timeline, as generalized anxiety does not occur within that short of a timeframe.

MOTION: PA DiBaise moved to dismiss.

SECOND: Dr. Batizy.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

4. PA-24-0139A, ROY E. MONTGOMERY, P.A., LIC. #6012

RESOLUTION: Advisory Letter for failing to timely renew license and performing health care tasks with an expired license. There is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action.

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

1. PA-23-0067A, KODIE A. THOMAS, P.A., LIC. #9134
Counsel Margaret McCarthy addressed the Board during the Public Statements on behalf of the PA.

PA DiBaise opined that the CME order is no longer needed as there has been a practice changed implemented by the PA.

MOTION: PA DiBaise moved to issue an Advisory Letter for failing to adequately evaluate and treat severe anemia in a high-risk patient, failing to consult a gastroenterologist in a high-risk patient with microcytic anemia, 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.

SECOND: Dr. Batizy.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

M. REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DISMISSALS

1. PA-25-0094A, LANCE A. MCCARY, M.D., LIC. #7801

MOTION: Dr. Batizy moved to uphold the Executive Director dismissal.

SECOND: Dr. Gosi.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

2. PA-25-0002A, KELSEY B. COLLINS, M.D., LIC. #6872

MOTION: PA Graham moved to uphold the Executive Director dismissal.

SECOND: Dr. Batizy.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

N. LICENSE APPLICATIONS

i. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT FOR COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE APPLICATION

1. TYMOTHI M. CLAUDE, P.A., LIC. #6915

MOTION: PA DiBaise moved to grant the waiver request.

SECOND: Dr. Batizy.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

1. PA-21-0043A

MOTION: PA Reina moved to accept the Executive Director's recommendation.

SECOND: PA Graham.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: PA Reina, Dr. Batizy, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Dang, PA DiBaise, Dr. Gosi, PA Graham and Ms. Leach. The following Board members were absent: PA Shaff and PA Clark.
VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.
MOTION PASSED.

P. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PA DiBaise moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Dr. Bennett.

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

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.



Raquel Rivera, Executive Director