



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Protecting consumers by advancing high quality, safe medical care.

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Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California | Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency | Department of Consumer Affairs

Embassy Suites by Hilton San Diego Bay Downtown
601 Pacific Hwy
San Diego, CA 92101
Thursday, August 21, 2025- Friday, August 22, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Due to timing for invited guests to provide their presentations, the agenda items below are listed in the order they were presented.

Members Present:

Kristina D. Lawson, J.D., President
Jacob Arkatov, J.D.
Irving Ayala-Rodriguez, M.D.
Anni Chung
Asif Mahmood, M.D.
Jodi Remke, J.D.
Trinidad Solis, M.D.
Richard E. Thorp, M.D.
Veling W. Tsai, M.D.
Eserick "TJ" Watkins
Felix C. Yip, M.D.

Members Absent:

Gerald Tolbert, M.D.
Marina Torres, J.D.

Staff Present:

Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs
Sean Eichelkraut, Information Technology Manager II
Douglas Hock, Chief of Licensing
Keoni Lucas, Business Services Office Manager
Marina O'Connor, Deputy Director
Dino Pierini, Business Services Officer
Sharlene Smith, Chief of Enforcement
Angelaya Strother, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Reji Varghese, Executive Director
Kerrie Webb, Legal Counsel

Agenda Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Kristina D. Lawson called the meeting of the Medical Board of California (Board) to order on Friday, August 22, 2025 at 12:37 p.m. A quorum was present and due notice was provided to all interested parties.

Agenda Item 2 Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda ([Link to video](#))

[Public comments on this agenda item were made by:](#) Rob Gordon, Marian Hollingsworth, Michele Monserratt-Ramos, Susana Zaraszky, Paloma Serna, Eric Andrist, Em G, Pat Irving, Tracy Dominguez, and Ann O.

Agenda Item 3 Approval of Minutes from the May 15-16, 2025 Quarterly Board Meeting ([Link to video](#))

Dr. Thorp moved to approve the minutes S:/ Dr. Tsai, 9-0-2 (Ms. Remke and Mr. Watkins Abstained; 2 absent)

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 4 President's Report, including notable accomplishments and priorities, introduction of new Board members, announcement of 2026 Board Meeting dates, and communications with interested parties ([Link to video](#))

Ms. Lawson stated that Dr. Bholat and Dr. Healzer's appointments to the Board have expired and expressed gratitude for their service. She stated the Governor has appointed new Board members, Jacob Arkatov, J.D., Trinidad Solis, M.D., and Gerald Tolbert, M.D.

Mr. Arkatov and Dr. Solis introduced themselves.

Ms. Lawson announced the 2026 meeting dates.

- February 25 – 27
- May 20 – 22
- August 19 – 21
- November 18 – 20

Regarding communications with interested parties, Dr. Mahmood stated he had been in contact with physicians regarding ICE raids.

Dr. Thorp stated that he had met with the executive committee of the California Society of Addiction Medicine and talked about the physician health program (AB 408).

[Public comments on this agenda item were made by:](#) Eric Andrist.

Agenda Item 5 Updates from External Stakeholders ([Link to video](#))

Judie Bucciarelli, from Board and Bureau Relations for DCA, welcomed the new Board members. Among other updates she reported on the Governor's reorganization plan, hybrid telework transition for the Executive Order (EO) N-22-25, travel, and DCA's annual report.

Kathleen Nicholls and Stephanie Whitley provided the Health Quality Investigation Unit (HQIU) update. Among other information, Ms. Nicholls discussed that HQIU has 11 investigator vacancies, which is a 13% vacancy rate. She stated that all supervisor and manager positions are filled statewide. She also stated that the southern area has no vacancies. She stated that she will be retiring within the next few months and expresses her gratitude for the Medical Board and the Division of Investigation (DOI).

Ms. Whitley congratulated and expressed gratitude for Ms. Nicholls.

Board members thanked the investigative staff and Ms. Nicholls for her service.

[Public comments on this agenda item were made by:](#) Rob Gordon, Marian Hollingsworth, Michele Monserratt-Ramos, and Eric Andrist.

Agenda Item 6 Presentation on the University of California, San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) Program ([Link to video](#))

Peter Boal, Director of Administration for the UC San Diego PACE program, presented an overview of the program's role in assessing physician competence and fitness for duty. He stated that PACE evaluations are based on the six ACGME/ABMS core competencies and utilize remote and in-person methods such as chart reviews, simulated cases, oral exams, and direct observation. The program distinguishes between clinical competence and fitness for duty, the latter involving additional medical and psychological testing. He discussed how assessments are tailored to each physician's referral context and include a multidisciplinary case conference to develop an evaluation plan. Final reports rate performance on a scale from 1 (safe) to 4 (unsafe), with recommendations ranging from documentation courses to practice restrictions.

The Board members and Mr. Boal discussed the presentation.

[Public comments on this agenda item were made by:](#) Rob Gordon and Marian Hollingsworth.

Agenda Item 7 Executive Management Reports ([Link to video](#))

Mr. Eichelkraut provided the technology update including on, among other things, staffing, infrastructure/ software, IOS application, the Direct Online Certification Submission (DOCS), Volunteer Physician Registry, the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) Survey, wallet card license generator, Breeze online complaint form, electronic renewal process, and the Complaint Tracking System.

Mr. Hock provided a Licensing Program update, including on, among other things, the launch of a new webpage for postgraduate to support training programs, Effective July 1, 2025, Canadian medical graduates must obtain Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification to enter U.S. residency programs, efficiency, working with training programs and medical schools to receive documents through DOCS, webmaster inquiries, licensing outreach events, and the Consumer Information Unit.

Ms. Smith provided the Enforcement Program summary and provided updates on, Central Complaint Unit, Complaint investigation Office, Complainant Liaison Unit, Probation Unit, and the collaboration efforts with HQUI and the Health Quality Enforcement Section at the Attorney General's Office (AGO).

Mr. Varghese provided updates on the Enforcement Monitor Report. He discussed the implementation of the recommendations that include data retention, conducting interviews with patient representatives, complaint tracking functionality, collaboration between HQUI and AGO, recruitment and training for medical experts, disciplinary

guidelines, self-identified race ethnicity information extraction, and a standard of clear and convincing evidence vs. preponderance of evidence.

Board members and staff discussed the updates.

[Public comments on this agenda item were made by:](#) Rob Gordon, Marian Hollingsworth, Michele Monserratt-Ramos, Tracy Dominguez, and Eric Andrist.

Agenda Item 8 Update on the Physician Assistant Board ([Link to video](#))

Dr. Tsai reported that the Physician Assistant Board meeting took place on August 15, 2025. He outlined proposed revisions to AB 1501, the Physician Assistant Board Sunset Review. These include modifications to licensing applications—such as the addition of a criminal history section and updated language—as well as changes to licensing procedures and amplifications. He also discussed the proposed adjustments to the MD/DO to PA supervision ratio and revisions to the PA practice agreement.

Board members discussed the updates.

[Public comments on this agenda item were made by:](#) Rob Gordon and Ricardo Ariolo.

Agenda Item 9 Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Rulemaking and Proposed Responses to Public Comments Received During the 15-Day Comment Period on the Modified Regulatory Text to Add Title 16 California Code of Regulations section 1352.3 (Fees for Petitions for Penalty Relief) and to Amend 16 CCR section 1359 (Petitions for Reinstatement or Modification of Probation) to Establish Fees for Petitions for Penalty Relief ([Link to video](#))

Kerrie Webb presented the proposed rulemaking to add Title 16 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1352.3 (Fees for Petitions for Penalty Relief) and to amend 16 CCR section 1359 (Petitions for Reinstatement or Modification of Probation).

Ms. Webb discussed the petitions for penalty relief and the costs associated with processing and adjudicating the petitions. Ms. Webb also reviewed the history of this rulemaking package and stated that the Board approved modified text at the February 2025 Board meeting to be noticed for a 15-day public comment period.

Ms. Webb indicated that the Board received two comments during the 15-day public comment period, one from the Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County and one from the California Medical Association. Ms. Webb summarized the comments and proposed responses, and advised the members that the comments and proposed responses were included in the materials.

Ms. Webb advised that Board staff recommended several modifications to the text, as detailed in the materials, and also recommended incorporating a form by reference for individuals to use when petitioning for penalty relief, to address concerns raised by

stakeholders. Ms. Webb further indicated that staff made additional minor clarifying changes to the text.

Ms. Webb recommended the Board approve the proposed responses to public comments on the modified text and approve the second modified text to be noticed for a 15-day comment period.

Ms. Webb requested a member to make the following motion to:

- 1) Approve the proposed responses to the written comments received on the modified text; and
- 2) Approve the second modified text and direct staff to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking process. This includes preparing second modified text for a 15-day comment period, which incorporates amendments discussed at this meeting. If after the 15-day public comment period, the Board does not receive any comments providing objections or adverse recommendations specifically directed at the proposed action or to the procedures followed by the Board in

- 3) proposing or adopting the action, then the Board authorizes the executive director to make any non-substantive changes to the proposed second modified text and the rulemaking file and adopt the proposed regulations as described in the second modified text notice.

Mr. Watkins moved to approve the requested action S:/Ms. Remke 11-0-0 (2 absent)

[Public comments on this agenda item were made by:](#) Lucas Evensen with the California Medical Association (CMA), who thanked staff for the proposed modifications, While CMA is still concerned that the modified text would continue to pose financial barriers to individuals seeking penalty relief, if the Board still supported establishing fees, then CMA requested the Board adopt the staff's recommended motion.

Agenda Item 10 Discussion and Possible Action on Legislation ([Link to video](#))

AB 408

This is the Board's sponsored bill. This bill creates a physician health and wellness program, or PHWP, consistent with national best practices. This program would prioritize early intervention in health conditions that impair, or could possibly impair, a current or future Board licensee from practicing in a reasonably safe, competent, and professional manner.

No action is required.

[Public comment on this agenda item were made by:](#) Katie Gonzales, Erin Myer, Lucas Evensen, Michele Monserratt-Ramos, Edwin Kim, Maria Ibarra-Navarrette, Eric Andrist, Tracy Dominguez, Linda Bresnahan, and Tara M.

AB 432

This bill encourages physicians to take continuing medical education courses in perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopausal care by offering double credit on those courses. The incentive offered under the bill is limited and physicians who take courses on these topics could receive a maximum of eight hours in relation to their 50-hour renewal requirement.

Board members and staff discussed this bill.

Dr. Tsai moved to support S:/Dr. Mahmood 8-3-0 (Dr. Ayala-Rodriguez, Mr. Arkatov, and Ms. Remke opposed; 2 absent)

[Public comment on this agenda item were made by:](#) Lucas Evensen.

AB 876

This bill establishes in statute a scope of practice for certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA). CRNAs are registered nurses who have received additional education and training that qualifies them to provide anesthesia services.

Board members discussed this bill.

The Board decided to remain neutral on this bill.

No public comment was made on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 11 Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendations from the Special Faculty Permit Review Committee ([Link to video](#))

Ms. Chung discussed that on March 5, 2025, the Special Faculty Permit Review Committee (SFPRC) held a meeting to consider candidates for special faculty appointments. Ms. Chung presented on Dr. Pakravan for a Special Faculty Permit appointment at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Dr. Jayasundera for a Special Faculty Permit appointment at UC Davis to the position of chair and professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and director of the Ernest E. Tshannen Eye Institute; and Dr. Karli Oğuz as division chief of Neuroradiology in the Department of Radiology at UC Davis.

Dr. Yip moved to approve the Special Faculty Permit appointments for Dr. Hatice Kader Karli Oğuz, Dr. Kanishka Thiran Jayasundera, and Dr. Mohammad Pakravan S:/ Dr. Tsai 11-0-0 (2 absent)

No public comment was made on this agenda item.

Kristina D. Lawson, J.D. adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

RECESS

Friday, August 22, 2025

Due to timing for invited guests to provide their presentations, the agenda items below are listed in the order they were presented.

Members Present:

Kristina D. Lawson, J.D., President
Jacob Arkatov, J.D.
Irving Ayala-Rodriguez, M.D.
Anni Chung
Jodi Remke, J.D.
Trinidad Solis, M.D.
Richard E. Thorp, M.D.

Veling W. Tsai, M.D.
Eserick "TJ" Watkins
Felix C. Yip, M.D.

Members Absent:

Asif Mahmood, M.D.
Gerald Tolbert, M.D.
Marina Torres, J.D.

Staff Present:

Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs
Sean Eichelkraut, Information Technology Manager II
Douglas Hock, Chief of Licensing
Keoni Lucas, Business Services Office Manager
Marina O'Connor, Deputy Director
Dino Pierini, Business Services Officer
Sharlene Smith, Chief of Enforcement
Angelaya Strother, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Reji Varghese, Executive Director
Kerrie Webb, Legal Counsel

Agenda Item 12 Call to Order/ Roll Call/ Establishment of a Quorum

Kristina D. Lawson called the meeting of the Medical Board of California (Board) to order on Friday, August 22, 2025 at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present and due notice was provided to all interested parties.

Agenda Item 13 Presentation on Workforce Shortages, Licensure Portability, and the Additional Licensing Models ([Link to video](#))

Dr. Humayun "Hank" Chaudhry, President and CEO of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) discussed the national physician workforce shortage and alternative licensing pathways. He noted that 18 states have enacted legislation to support licensure for internationally trained physicians, with 13 additional states considering similar measures. Early adopters like Massachusetts and Tennessee have enabled foreign-trained physicians to obtain licensure without repeating U.S. residency. An FSMB advisory commission, comprising organizations such as the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), ECFMG, American Medical Association (AMA), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), and World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), developed recommendations to ensure patient safety. These include allowing state-level rulemaking, requiring supervision by experienced employers, verifying medical education and ECFMG certification,

assessing postgraduate training equivalency, confirming valid foreign licensure, implementing provisional licensure with oversight, and conducting formal evaluations before granting full licensure. Despite these efforts, implementation has been slow, with only two physicians entering the pathway due to challenges in application procedures, employer identification, funding, and visa limitations. Dr. Chaudhry emphasized the importance of collecting and sharing outcome data to guide best practices and improve physician retention in underserved areas.

[Public comment on this agenda item was made by:](#) Rob Gordon.

Agenda Item 14 Presentation on Final Report on the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Pilot Program ([Link to video](#))

Dr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, Founding Director of the Center for Reducing Health Disparities at University of California (UC) Davis, discussed the background of the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Pilot Program (LPMPP), which was established by Assembly Bill 1045 in 2002. It allowed up to 30 qualified physicians from Mexico to practice in California's non-profit community health centers in medically underserved areas. Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola discussed the positive impact of the program for expanding access to quality care, as well as some of the challenges faced by the Mexican physicians.

The Board members and Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola discussed the report.

[Public comment on this agenda item was made by:](#) Rob Gordon.

Agenda Item 15 Presentation on Complaint Tracking System ([Link to video](#))

Mr. Eichelkraut conducted a live demonstration of the complaint tracking system, explaining how information is processed using activity codes throughout the complaint lifecycle. He illustrated this process using examples of both open and closed complaints.

Board members and staff discussed the presentation.

[Public comment on this agenda item was made by:](#) Michele Monserratt-Ramos, Rob Gordon, Marian Hollingsworth, Tracy Dominguez, and Eric Andrist.

Agenda Item 16 Officer Elections ([Link to video](#))

Dr. Thorp nominated Kristina Lawson for President, Dr. Felix Yip for Vice President, and Dr. Veling Tsai for Secretary.

Kristina Lawson, Dr. Felix Yip, and Dr. Veling Tsai accepted the nomination.

The Board Members voted unanimously to elect Ms. Lawson as president, Dr. Yip as vice president, and Dr. Tsai as secretary: 10-0-0 (3 absent)

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Rob Gordon, Eric Andrist, and Marian Hollingsworth.

Agenda Item 17 Future Agenda Items ([Link to video](#))

Dr. Yip requested a discussion on the 96% complaints that did not end up in discipline and an update on the disciplinary guidelines.

Dr. Thorp requested a task force between the Medical Board and the Physician assistant Board for the new proposed supervisory ratio, a presentation on the impact on the electronic health records, and artificial intelligence (AI) in the creation of medical records.

Kristina Lawson requested a discussion on the impact of immigration enforcement on MBC enforcement actions and the maternal mortality report.

Public comments made on this agenda item were made by: Rob Gordon and Michele Monserratt-Ramos.

Agenda Item 18 Adjournment

Kristina D. Lawson, J.D. adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

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| <u>Signature on File</u> | <u>August 21, 2025</u> |
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| Kristina D. Lawson, J.D., President | Date |
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| <u>Signature on File</u> | <u>August 21, 2025</u> |
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| Veling Tsai, M.D., Secretary | Date |
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| <u>Signature on File</u> | <u>August 21, 2025</u> |
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| Reji Varghese, Executive Director | Date |
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