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

UC San Diego
Viterbi Family Vision Research Center (Conference Room)
9449 Campus Point Dr, La Jolla, CA 92037
Thursday, August 20, 2026-Friday, August 21, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

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

Members Present:
Felix C. Yip, M.D., Vice President
Veling W. Tsai, M.D., Secretary
Jacob Arkatov, J.D.
Irving Ayala-Rodriguez, M.D.
Anni Chung
Claire Holmes
Asif Mahmood, M.D.
Luis R. Portillo
Trinidad Solis, M.D.
Richard E. Thorp, M.D.
Gerald Tolbert, M.D.
Marina Torres, J.D.
Eserick “TJ” Watkins

Members Absent:
None

Staff Present:
Rhonda Baldo, Analyst II
Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs
Roderick Custodio, Analyst II
Sean Eichelkraut, Information Technology Manager II
Douglas Hock, Chief of Licensing
Keoni Lucas, Business Services Office Manager
Mahi Nadar, Executive Assistant
Marina O’Connor, Deputy Director
Reji Varghese, Executive Director
Kerrie Webb, Legal Counsel

Agenda Item 1 **Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum** **(Link to Video)**

Dr. Felix C. Yip, M.D., called the meeting of the Medical Board of California (Board) to order on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 09:08 A.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**: Karina Jones and Secretary Rohit Chopra.**

Agenda Item 3 Approval of Minutes from the May 21-22, 2026, Quarterly Board Meeting **(Link to Video)**

Dr. Ayala-Rodriguez requested an edit to correct his vote from “abstain” to “no” on Agenda Item 16.

Dr. Thorp moved to accept the minutes with the correction to Agenda Item 16 S:/ Dr. Mahmood; 12-0 (Mr. Portillo absent)

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Rosie Arthursdottor.

Agenda Item 4 President’s Report, including notable accomplishments and priorities, announcement of 2027 Board Meeting dates, and communications with interested parties **(Link to Video)**

Dr. Yip presented his first President’s report and announced that he appointed Dr. Tolbert and Ms. Torres to the Application and Special Programs Review Committee, and Mr. Portillo to Panel B. Dr. Yip expressed appreciation for their willingness to serve.
Dr. Yip noted he held regular meetings with executive staff in preparation for the Board meeting. He continues to meet with executive staff and conduct outreach with interested parties to gather input on consumer protection and enforcement processes. Recent meetings included discussions with representatives from the Consumer Protection Policy Center, Consumer Watchdog, and the Senior Assistant Attorney General, focusing on improvements to enforcement timelines and expert training. Dr. Yip further reported that he conducted outreach with the University of Southern California’s (USC) physician wellness program to explore initiatives supporting physician well-being.

The President also announced the scheduled dates for the 2027 Quarterly Board meetings: February 17–19, May 19–21, August 18–20, and November 17–19.

The President reminded Board Members to report any communications with interested parties related to matters on the current agenda.

• Mr. Watkins reported recent discussions with multiple patient advocates.

• Dr. Thorp reported communication with Dr. Sean Mackey at Stanford regarding the opioid crisis and efforts to strengthen the Board's effectiveness in this area.

• Dr. Ayala-Rodriguez reported that Dr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola of UC Davis reached out seeking guidance related to special faculty permits and was referred to the Board for assistance.

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Rosie Arthursdottor.

Agenda Item 5 Executive Management Reports

Technology update: **(Link to Video)**
Mr. Eichelkraut reported key updates in recruitment, hiring, system testing, and infrastructure maintenance. Among other updates, Mr. Eichelkraut reported that testing continues on the complaint tracking system, the iOS app's user analytics have improved, and the updated Consultant Expert Management Application is ready for staff training and launch. Enhancements to Continuing Medical Education (CME) audit processing in Breeze are nearing implementation. The Outpatient Surgery Settings Database has been rebuilt and is undergoing final testing, with plans to allow accreditation agencies to update their own data. Several system upgrades and redesigns remain in progress pending vendor action.

Licensing Program update: **(Link to Video)**
Mr. Hock reported increased application volume in Fiscal Year 2025–26, with a 14% rise in both physician and surgeon and postgraduate training license applications. Several process improvements were implemented, including online name-change submissions, revised program status forms, and new senior review procedures for complex applications. The Licensing Program responded to over 4,000 emails and conducted 16 outreach events statewide. The Consumer Information Unit handled nearly 16,000 calls with significantly reduced abandoned call rates compared to the prior fiscal year.

Enforcement Program update: **(Link to Video)**
Ms. O'Connor reported a 24% increase in complaints in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025–26, resulting in higher pending caseloads. The Central Complaint Unit continues to initiate complaints within 10 days, and temporary staffing is being considered to manage workload. The Complainant Liaison Unit has handled 2,435 cases and completed 1,331 interviews. Outreach to medical departments is ongoing to recruit medical consultants and expert reviewers. The Discipline Coordination Unit has reduced out-of-state pending cases to 149, and work continues on updating the Disciplinary Guidelines. Ms. O'Connor also announced that Jason Pritchard was hired as Chief of Enforcement, bringing extensive local and federal law enforcement experience to the role.

Executive Report: **(Link to Video)**

Mr. Varghese reported ongoing coordination with Board leadership, and regular meetings with the Senior Assistant Attorney General and Health Quality Investigation Unit (HQIU) to support investigation progress. He noted continued engagement with a broad range of interested parties on topics such as physician wellness, CME tracking, enforcement coordination, licensing pathways for internationally trained physicians, counterfeit drug concerns, new licensing models, legislative proposals, and the emerging impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on medical practice.

He further reported that the Board maintains 184.1 authorized positions with 14 vacancies, and recruitment efforts remain active. Financial projections for FY 2025–26 estimate approximately $95.2 million in revenue and $84 million in expenditures, resulting in an anticipated surplus of $654,000 and a reserve of 3.3 months. Improvements in fine and cost-recovery procedures are underway.

Mr. Varghese also indicated that communications efforts included publication of the Board's newsletter, outreach to medical and wellness organizations, collaboration with advocacy partners, and issuing alerts to licensees regarding impersonation scams. Public Affairs continues to post administrative actions across social media platforms.

Board members and staff discussed the executive management reports.

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Marcus Friedman, Michele Monserratt-Ramos, Marian Hollingsworth, Eric Andrist, and Maria Ibarra-Navarrette.

Agenda Item 6 Update from Department of Consumer Affairs **(Link to Video)**

Deputy Director Lucia Saldivar delivered the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) update, noting, among other things, the appointment of Rohit Chopra as Secretary of the newly established Business and Consumer Services Agency, the transition to a four-day in-office schedule, and the upcoming required Board Member trainings, including New Board Member Orientation and defensive driver training, available through the DCA Learning Management System.

Deputy Chief Stephanie Whitley provided the HQIU update. Among other updates, she reported ongoing investigator vacancies with active recruitment efforts underway, recent statewide medical-consultant meetings, and completion of a four-week training academy for new investigators. She also highlighted continued benefits from the enforcement collaboration model with the Attorney General's Office, including reductions in cases older than one year. Regular coordination with Board staff continues, and Board members expressed appreciation for HQIU's progress.

Board members and DCA representatives discussed the updates.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7 Discussion and Possible Action on Legislation **(Link to Video)**

Mr. Bone provided an overview of the legislative calendar. He reported that only Assembly Bill 1811 remains open for discussion at this meeting. He provided a brief update on the status of other bills listed on the agenda before proceeding to the main legislative item.

AB 408 (Berman) Physician Health and Wellness Program **(Link to Video)**

This proposal to establish a physician health and wellness program will not advance this year. The author has opted to allow additional discussion, and this issue may be revisited during next year's sunset review.

AB 1199 (Patterson) Medical Staff: Health Care Provider: **(Link to Video)**

This bill relates to hospital governance and medical staff membership; no Board position is recommended.

AB 1637 (Caloza) Physicians and Surgeons: Medical Records **(Link to Video)**

This bill concerns physician medical records and was recently approved by the Legislature and forwarded to the Governor.

AB 2386 (Alvarez) License to Practice Medicine: Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program and California Physician Expansion Act **(Link to Video)**

This bill was intended to establish new licensing pathways for internationally trained physicians. It was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee and is not moving forward. Staff plan to include the Board's requested study authorization on licensing pathways in the upcoming sunset review.

SB 1146 (Gonzalez) Advertisement Claims: Health-Related Consumer Products and Services: Digital Replicas and Synthetic Performers **(Link to Video)**

This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee and is not advancing.

SB 164 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) Health **(Link to Video)**

This bill includes Board-supported provisions incentivizing continuing medical education in menopause. It was signed into law and became effective July 1, 2027.

SB 849 (Weber Pierson) Physicians and Surgeons: Sexual Misconduct and Offenses: Reinstatement of Surrendered Certificate **(Link to Video)**

This bill was amended to remove the revocation requirement on a licensee who had been previously reinstated, and to incorporate one Board-requested change pertaining to individuals who surrender their license. The Board's position remains "support if amended," as the Board requested several other amendments to the bill.

Other bills, including those related to artificial intelligence, have been amended but the amendments do not change the Board's positions.

AB 1811 (Rogers) Health Professionals **(Link to Video)**

This bill would update the workforce survey to collect additional voluntary information on licensees' practice specialties, hours worked in inpatient and outpatient settings, and participation in Medicaid or sliding-fee programs. The bill also authorizes the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to designate Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). As existing law already requires the Board to expedite applications for individuals intending to practice in medically underserved areas, including HPSAs, staff do not anticipate operational impacts. The bill is expected to improve workforce planning data, and staff recommended a position of support.

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Marcus Friedman, Michele Monserratt-Ramos, and Denise Johnson.

Dr. Thorp moved to support the bill S:/ Mr. Watkins; 11-0 (Mr. Portillo and Dr. Mahmood absent)

Agenda Item 8 Discussion and Possible Action on Legislative Proposals for the 2026 Sunset Report **(Link to Video)**

Mr. Bone outlined the upcoming 2027 Sunset Review process and presented initial proposals for statutory changes. Recommended items included updates to enforcement authority (such as establishing a physician wellness program, changing the burden of proof from clear and convincing to a preponderance of the evidence in disciplinary cases, strengthening record-producing requirements in Business and Professions Code section 805 cases, and expanding cost-recovery authority), administrative changes (including increasing the Board's reserve limit and adjusting the annual report deadline), and licensing proposals (including studying licensure pathways for internationally trained physicians, exploring a committee structure for licensed midwives, establishing fees for probation-related petitions, and adding reporting requirements for postgraduate training license holders). Staff requested Board Member feedback to refine proposals for final approval at the November meeting.

Dr. Yip reiterated the Board's mission to protect healthcare consumers and invited public comment on this agenda item.

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Marcus Friedman, Lucas Evensen, Sarah Tunney, Alex Rounds, Dylan Izadseta, Rebecca Aldaco, Maria Ibarra-Navarrette,

Michele Monserratt-Ramos, Allison Tartari, A-lan Holt, Agatha Bacelar, Georgia, Sarah Maya Heredia, Nina Robinson, Denise Johnson, Mia Tomijima, Cassandra Frankquest, Kimberly Turbin, and an unnamed individual.

In addition to staff's legislative proposals, Mr. Watkins raised five proposals to include in the sunset report.

Board members and staff discussed different options for moving forward and considered different potential motions.

Mr. Watkins moved to accept staff's legislative recommendations in addition to Mr. Watkins' proposals for consideration for inclusion in the sunset report S:/ Ms. Holmes; 13-0

Agenda Item 9 Discussion and Possible Action on Requiring Continuing Medical Education on topics identified in Business and Professions Code sections 2191, 2191.4, 2191.5, 2191.6, and 2196.9 **(Link to Video)**

Staff reviewed statutory considerations for CME requirements and noted the Board's longstanding position against mandating CME on specific topics, favoring physician discretion to choose the CME most appropriate for their patient population and medical practice. Given this history and recent legislative action providing incentives rather than mandates, staff recommended no further action on additional CME requirements at this time, and the Board members agreed.

No further action was taken on this item.

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Lucas Evensen.

Agenda Item 10 Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendations from the Special Faculty Permit Review Committee **(Link to Video)**

The Special Faculty Permit Review Committee presented its recommendation regarding the application of Dr. Thiago Hunada Avelino de Silva for a special faculty permit at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Thiago Hunada Avelino de Silva is an accomplished acute-care geriatrics specialist with extensive clinical, academic, and research experience, including prior scholarly and research engagement with UCSF. The committee determined that his expertise would significantly strengthen UCSF's geriatric care and education programs, particularly given the growing need for inpatient geriatric services. The committee recommended approval of the special faculty permit, contingent upon UCSF applying its standard proctoring requirements for new staff members.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Dr. Tsai moved to approve the SFPRC's recommendation to grant a special faculty permit to Dr. Thiago Hunada Avelino de Silva S:/ Dr. Mahmood; 12-0 (Ms. Torres absent)

Agenda Item 11 Update from the Physician Assistant Board **(Link to Video)**

Dr. Tsai reported that the Physician Assistant (PA) Board's budget remains stable with a strong reserve. The Legislature has asked the PA Board to review physician-assistant practice agreements to help address rural healthcare access amid projected physician shortages. The Board also discussed interstate licensure compacts and supported SB 1088, which authorizes physician assistants and nurse practitioners to sign Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms and recognizes out-of-state end-of-life documents. The next PA Board meeting will be held on November 17 in Sacramento.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Dr. Felix C. Yip, M.D., adjourned the meeting at 02:30 P.M.

RECESS

Friday, August 21, 2026

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

Members Present:
Felix C. Yip, M.D., Vice President
Veling W. Tsai, M.D., Secretary
Jacob Arkatov, J.D.
Irving Ayala-Rodriguez, M.D.
Anni Chung
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Trinidad Solis, M.D.
Richard E. Thorp, M.D.
Gerald Tolbert, M.D.
Marina Torres, J.D.
Eserick "TJ" Watkins

Members Absent:
None

Staff Present:
Rhonda Baldo, Analyst II

Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs
Roderick Custodio, Analyst II
Sean Eichelkraut, Information Technology Manager II
Douglas Hock, Chief of Licensing
Keoni Lucas, Business Services Office Manager
Mahi Nadar, Executive Assistant
Reji Varghese, Executive Director
Kerrie Webb, Legal Counsel

Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum **(Link to Video)**

Dr. Felix C. Yip, M.D., called the meeting of the Medical Board of California (Board) to order on Friday, August 21 at 09:02 A.M. A quorum was present and due notice was provided to all interested parties.

Agenda Item 12 Update and Possible Action on the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact **(Link to Video)**

Marschall Smith, Executive Director of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (IMLCC), along with Mr. Rick Masters, General Counsel, provided an overview of the compact and addressed detailed questions from Board members. He explained that the compact does not alter California's disciplinary authority but offers additional mechanisms for information-sharing and joint investigations with other states. Licenses issued through the compact remain full and unrestricted California licenses, and eligibility standards, such as board certification, a clean disciplinary and criminal history, and completion of U.S. postgraduate training, establish a higher threshold for licensure than California's traditional pathway.

Mr. Smith described fee distribution, investigative cooperation among member states, criteria for discipline and loss of compact eligibility, requirements for state participation, and processes for withdrawal. He emphasized that participation expands access to high-standard physicians, supports telehealth, and facilitates rapid multi-state communication regarding disciplinary actions. Board members discussed public protection, data transparency, differences in state reporting practices, rural access, and potential benefits to California patients. Staff noted that California law currently requires the Board to license individuals who would not meet compact standards.

Dr. Tsai moved to have Board staff develop model legislation to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact S:/ Dr. Ayala-Rodriguez; 11-1-1 (Dr. Mahmood Abstained and Mr. Watkins Opposed)

Public comments on this agenda item were made by**: Marian Hollingsworth, Michele Monserratt-Ramos, and Eric Andrist.**

Agenda Item 13 Presentation on Licensed Midwife (LM) education and training,

including how LMs are trained to identify and manage risk and make transfer decisions
(Link to Video)

Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC) Chair Madeline Wisner provided an overview of California licensed midwives, including regulatory structure, required education, scope of practice, and the midwifery model of care. She emphasized midwives' training in comprehensive prenatal, birth, postpartum, and newborn care, early complication detection, emergency response, and transfer processes. She noted challenges with existing law, particularly AB 1308, and highlighted the need for clearer, updated standards for midwifery practice and enforcement. Board members discussed emergency care capacity and the status of vacancies on the MAC, with staff confirming that new applications will be reviewed at the upcoming September meeting.

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Angela Carrillo and Alex Rounds.

Agenda Item 15 Presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare **(Link to Video)**

Karandeep Singh, M.D., outlined current and emerging uses of artificial intelligence in healthcare, noting that predictive AI can support early clinical risk detection, generative AI is already widely adopted for documentation and reducing clinician workload, and agentic AI can automate certain operational tasks under appropriate oversight. The presentation underscored the need for strong governance frameworks to ensure safety, manage bias, and guide responsible implementation. Evidence was shared showing potential benefits including improved workflow efficiency, reduced burnout, better patient access, and increased patient trust when AI tools are deployed effectively.

Board members and Dr. Singh discussed this presentation.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 14 Update from the Maternal Health Task Force **(Link to Video)**

Ms. Holmes and Dr. Solis provided an update regarding the Maternal Health Task Force. Their first meeting was in June 2026. In July 2026, the task force and staff met with representatives from the California Department of Public Health's Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division, the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), and the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative to review statewide maternal mortality data, prevention strategies, and quality-improvement initiatives. Key themes included the effectiveness of CMQCC maternal safety toolkits and findings from California's Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review regarding preventable death contributors. Next steps include presentations at the November 2026 Board meeting on maternal mortality data and the CMQCC's updated obstetric hemorrhage toolkit, followed by a newsletter article to promote evidence-based maternal safety practices. The Task Force continues to conduct outreach and extend invitations to multiple other interested parties, including, but not limited to, representatives from Consumer Watchdog, Save a Mom, Save a Family Foundation,

Black Women for Wellness Action Project, the Midwifery Advisory Council, and the California Surgeon General's Office to hear their concerns and concrete ideas on how the Board can assist in improving maternal health outcomes consistent with the Board's mission and resources. The Task Force invited other interested parties wishing to provide input to contact the Board.

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

Agenda Item 16 Future Agenda Items **(Link to Video)**

Mr. Watkins requested scheduling a meeting with patient advocates at an upcoming Board meeting.

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

Agenda Item 17 Adjournment **(Link to Video)**

Dr. Yip concluded the meeting at 1:16 P.M., extending thanks to all participants. Dr. Yip announced that the Board's next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2026, with the anticipated location in Bakersfield.

Signature on File — November 19, 2026
Dr. Felix C. Yip, M.D., President — Date

Signature on File — November 19, 2026
Marina Torres, J.D., Secretary — Date

Signature on File — November 19, 2026
Reji Varghese, Executive Director — Date