



Texas Medical Board

BOARD MEETING

August 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order on Friday, August 14, 2026 at 8:03 a.m. by Board President Sherif Zaafran, M.D. Board members present were: Michael Cokinos, Secretary/Treasurer; Sharon Barnes; Devinder S. Bhatia, M.D.; Garry Crain; George L. DeLoach, D.O.; James Distefano, D.O.; Kelly Green, M.D.; Tomeka Herod; Zach Jones, M.D.; Robert Martinez, M.D.; LuAnn R. Morgan; Jayaram B. Naidu, M.D.; Manuel Quinones, Jr., M.D.; Linda C. Troncoso; and David G. Vanderweide, M.D. Board members not present were: Kandace Farmer, D.O., Vice President; Luisa del Rosal; and Jason Tibbels, M.D. Staff members present were: Brint Carlton, J.D., Executive Director; Chris Palazola, J.D., Director of Operations; Scott Freshour, J.D., General Counsel; and various other staff.

Agenda Item # 1, Mission Statement. Dr. Zaafran read the board's mission statement. *Our Mission is to protect and enhance the public's health, safety and welfare by establishing and maintaining standards of excellence used in regulating the practice of medicine and ensuring quality health care for the citizens of Texas through licensure, discipline, and education.*

Agenda Item #2, Board Member Report.

- a. **CE Broker** Dr. Zaafran provided an update on CE Broker.

Agenda Item #3, Consideration and possible action for dispositions below minimum guidelines. After discussion, **Dr. Quinones moved, Dr. DeLoach seconded, and the motion passed to approve the disposition below minimum guidelines for Dare Ajibade, MD.**

Agenda Item #4, Consideration and approval of Mediated Settlement Agreed Orders. After discussion, **Mr. Cokinos moved, Dr. Martinez seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Mediated Settlement Agreed Orders for Daniel Lee, DO; Filiberto Rodriguez, MD and Frank Lane, MD.**

Agenda Item #5, Consideration and possible action for Remedial Plans. After consideration, **Dr. Quinones moved, Dr. Bhatia seconded and the motion passed to approve the Remedial Plans for Sarfraz Aly, MD; Mary Grace Bridges, MD; Pablo Padilla, MD; Tanmayee Polamraju, DO; Navid Vassey, MD; Anthony Machi, MD; Deshdeepak Sahni, MD and Mohammed Mahmoud, DO.**

Agenda Item #6, Consideration and possible action for Agreed Orders. After consideration, **Ms. Troncoso moved, Ms. Morgan seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Agreed Orders for Jason Jimenez, SA; Brittan Silva, DO; Marvin Walker, Jr, SA; Karen Fleming, MD; Nicholas Harrel, III, MD; Alfredo Hurtado, MD; Hieu Pham Nguyen, DO; Nilto Oliveira, MD; Tsung-Lin Tsai, MD; Juan Kurdi, MD; Richard Weiner, MD; and Jesus Lopez, MD.**

Agenda Item #7, Consideration and approval of Modification Request/Termination Request Orders. After consideration, **Dr. Bhatia moved, Ms. Barnes seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Modification Requests/Termination Requests Orders for Vladimir Grebennikov, MD; Robert Gross, MD; Leo Michael Hayes, DO; George Jones, MD; Azim Karim, MD; Alexander Ochoa, MD; Stylianos Sideris, MD; Thomas Synek, MD; and Dama Ziworitin, MD.**

Agenda Item #8, Consideration and approval of Modification Request/Termination Request of Non-Public Rehabilitation Orders. There were none.

Agenda Item #9, Consideration and approval of Cease-and-Desist Orders. There were none.

Agenda Item #10, Consideration and approval of Revised, Vacated, or Amended Orders.
There were none

Agenda Item #11, Consideration and approval of Consent Orders. After consideration, Ms. Morgan moved, Dr. Vanderweide seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Consent Order for Earl Blair Maes, MD.

Agenda Item #12, Consideration and approval of Determination of Default. There were none.

Agenda Item #14, Executive Director Report.

a. AI Discussion. Mr. Carlton provided an update on questions and discussions regarding AI as a tool in healthcare.

b. Ketamine Rule Update. Mr. Carlton provided an update on the extended comment period for the Ketamine Rule.

Mr. Estrada provided an update regarding the current budget.

Agenda Item #15, Medical Director Report. Dr. Shenava thanked the board for their help with referring Expert Panelists.

Agenda Item #16, Public Information Update. Ms. Taurie Sloan, Director of Government Affairs, gave a report on Public Information.

Agenda Item #17, Report Physician Assistant Liaison. Ms. Karrie Crosby, PA-C was present. There was nothing to report.

Agenda Item #19, Report on Automatic Orders. Reports on Automatic Orders were provided to the board.

Agenda Item #20, Consideration and approval of Orders to Show Cause. There were none.

Agenda Item #21, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. There were none.

Agenda Item #22, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C.

a. 160.8 Employee Training and Education. After discussion, Dr. Vanderweide moved, Ms. Barnes seconded, and the motion passed to adopt the proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. 160.8 Employee Training and Education.

b. 161.35 – Continuing Medical Education (CME) Requirements for Licensure Renewal. After discussion, Ms. Barnes moved, Dr. Martinez seconded, and the motion passed to adopt the proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. 161.35 Continuing Medical Education (CME) Requirements for Licensure Renewal.

Agenda Item #23, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. Chapter 183. Physician Assistants.

- a. **183.16 – Biennial Continuing Medical Education (CME) Requirements.** After discussion, Ms. Barnes moved, Dr. Distefano seconded, and the motion passed to adopt the proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. Chapter 183. Physician Assistants. 183.16 Biennial Continuing Medical Education (CME) Requirements.

Agenda Item #24, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. Chapter 184. Acupuncture. There were none.

Agenda Item #25, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. Chapter 186, Medical Radiologic Technology.

- a. **186.26 – Education Standards for NCTs.** After discussion, Dr. Bhatia moved, Ms. Barnes seconded, and the motion passed to adopt the proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. Chapter 186, Medical Radiologic Technology. 186.26 Education Standards for NCTs.

Agenda Item #26, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. Chapter 187, Respiratory Care. There were none

Agenda Item #27, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding rule review to 22 T.A.C., Part 9, Texas Medical Board. There were none

Agenda Item #18, Consideration and possible action regarding pending litigation.

At 8:48 the board moved into Executive Session for private consultation and advice of counsel concerning pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, and/or legal matters subject to the attorney-client privilege under the authority of the Open Meetings Act Section 551.071, Government Code.

Open session at 9:20 am, and it was announced that no action was taken during executive session. A certified agenda of the executive sessions were made.

Ms. Sarah Tuthill, Assistant General Counsel gave a report on pending litigation.

Agenda Item #13, Consideration and approval of Proposal for Decision.

- a. **Steve Frank Montoya, M.D. SOAH Docket No. 503-25-23794.MD**

Ms. Sharada Menon, Staff Attorney, provided a brief summary of the case. Dr. Montoya was not present and no one was present on his behalf. After discussion, **Dr. Quinones moved, Dr. Vanderweide seconded, and the motion passed to adopt the Findings of Fact and conclusions of Law of the Administrative Law Judge in the Proposal for Decision, and approve the suggested Final Order of revocation.**

Agenda Item #29, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action relating to personnel matters. There was nothing to discuss.

Agenda Item #28, Open Forum for Public Comment. Sheila Hemphill made public comments.

Consent Agenda, Discussion/Action Items – to be considered and any time the full board is in session:

1. **Consideration and approval of the June 12, 2026, and June 29, 2026 Medical Board Meeting Minutes and actions items.**
2. **Committee reports and the consideration and approval of minutes and action items of committees meeting during the board meeting.**

After discussion, **Dr. Quinones moved, Ms. Morgan seconded, and the motion passed to approve the June 12, 2026, and June 29, 2026 Medical Board Meeting Minutes, action items and the minutes and action items of committees meeting during the board meeting.**

Agenda Item #30, Adjourn. There being no further items, **Dr. Bhatia moved, Dr. Distefano seconded, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m.**