



# Texas Medical Board

BOARD MEETING

December 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order on Friday, December 12, 2025 at 8:09 a.m. by Board President Sherif Zaafran, M.D. Board members present were: Kandace Farmer, D.O., Vice President; Michael Cokinos, Secretary/Treasurer; Sharon Barnes; Devinder S. Bhatia, M.D.; Garry Crain; George L. DeLoach, D.O.; Luisa del Rosal; 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.; Jason Tibbels, M.D.; Linda C. Troncoso; and David G. Vanderweide, 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 into the minutes. *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.** Dr. Zaafran reported on complaints from physicians regarding questions from pharmacists about prescriptions.

**Agenda Item #3, Consideration and possible action for dispositions below minimum guidelines.** There were none.

**Agenda Item #4, Consideration and approval of Mediated Settlement Agreed Orders.** After consideration, **Dr. Bhatia moved, Dr. Farmer seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Mediated Settlement Agreed Order for Alex De Jesus, MD; George Letsou, MD; and Joel Rosen, MD.**

**Agenda Item #5, Consideration and possible action for Remedial Plans.** After consideration, **Mr. Cokinos moved, Dr. Quinones seconded and the motion passed to approve the Remedial Plans for Carlos Cardenas, MD; Paul D. Thompson, MD; Vladislav Yeganov, MD; David L. Fox, MD; Rene Acuna, DO; Anoop Ahuja, MD; Dare Ajibade, MD; William Edwards, MD; Julia Flores, MD; Carl Edward Hubbell, MD; Francisca Ifesinachukwu, MD Austin Orette, MD; Russell Putnam, MD; and Jonathan Weinstein, MD.**

**Agenda Item #6, Consideration and possible action for Agreed Orders.** After consideration, **Dr. Quinones moved, Dr. Bhatia seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Agreed Orders for Jason Joel Emer, MD; Christopher Paris, MD; John Yatsu, MD; Murray Snook, MD; Jesus Lopez, MD; Mario Vela, MD; Abbas Afif Chamsuddin, MD; and Brian August, MD.**

**Agenda Item #7, Consideration and approval of Modification Request/Termination Request Orders.** After consideration, **Ms. Barnes moved, Mr. Cokinos seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Modification Requests/Termination Requests Orders for Shane Stone, MD; Jonathan Quinby, MD; Arthur Hernandez, MD; and Talal Zahoor, 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 Nunc Pro Tunc Orders.** There were none

**Agenda Item #11, Consideration and approval of Agreed Resolution Orders.** There were none.

**Agenda Item #12, Consideration and approval of Consent Orders.** There were none.

**Agenda Item #15, Executive Director Report.**

Mr. Carlton and Mr. Estrada gave an update on the current budget, ongoing Comptroller's audit, and LAR planning.

**Agenda Item #16, Medical Director Report.** Dr. Shenava gave a report on the needs of expert panelists in specialty areas and requested referrals from the board.

**Agenda Item #17, Public Information Update.** Ms. Taurie Sloan, Director of Government Affairs, gave a report on Public Information.

**Agenda Item #18, Report Physician Assistant Liaison.** Nothing to report.

**Agenda Item #19, Consideration and possible action regarding pending litigation.** Mr. Freshour gave a report on pending litigation.

**a. Rehearing Requests** There were none.

**Agenda Item #20, Report on Automatic Orders.** A report on Automatic Orders was provided.

**Agenda Item #21, Consideration and approval of Orders to Show Cause.** There were none.

**Agenda Item #22, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding Approval of Acudetox Providers.** After discussion, Ms. Barnes moved, Dr. DeLoach seconded and the motion passed to approve occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to be added as Acudetox Providers.

**Agenda Item #23, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding SB31 Continuing Medical Education.** After discussion, Mr. Cokinos moved, Ms. Barnes seconded and the motion passed to approve the SB31 Continuing Medical Education.

There was a brief break.

**Agenda Item #13, Consideration and possible action regarding Rehearing for Mary Talley Bowden, M.D. SOAH Docket No. 503-23-17769.MD**

Ms. Amy Swanholm and Ms. Meredith Massey, Staff Attorney, provided a brief summary of the case. Dr. Bowden was present with counsel, Michael Barnhart, J.D. After discussion, **Dr. Quinones moved to reject the rehearing request. Dr. Zaafran amended the motion to ratify the Final Order entered at the October 2025 Board meeting. The Final Order stands and is final pursuant to the APA and Dr. Quinones accepted the amendment. Dr. Farmer seconded the motion as amended, and the motion with the amendment passed.**

**Agenda Item #14, Consideration and approval of Proposal for Decision.**

**a. Maria Dolores Chapa, MD SOAH Docket No 503-24-12946.MD**

Ms. Amy Swanholm and Ms. Meredith Massey, Staff Attorney, provided a brief summary of the case. Dr. Chapa did not attend. Bruce Anderson, J.D. attended on her behalf. After discussion, **Dr. Bhatia moved, Ms. Barnes seconded, and the motion passed to adopt the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law in the ALJ's Proposal for Decision and approve the Final Order of Public Reprimand.**

**Agenda Item #24, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C.**

**a. Chapter 173, Office-Based Anesthesia Services, Subchapter B, concerning IV Ketamine Therapy Standards, §§173.6-173.14.**

After discussion, **Dr. Jones moved, Dr. Bhatia seconded and the motion passed to approve Chapter 173, Office-Based Anesthesia Services, Subchapter B, concerning IV Ketamine Therapy Standards, §§173.6-173.14 for publication, including suggested changes.**

**Agenda Item #25, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C.**

- a. 161.48 Physician Graduates** After discussion, **Dr. Bhatia moved, Dr. Farmer seconded and the motion passed to adopt rule 161.48 Physician Graduates as published.**
- b. 161.53 Provisional License to Foreign Medical License Holders with Offers of Employment** – After discussion, **Ms. Herod moved, Mr. Cokinos seconded and the motion passed to adopt rule 161.53 provisional License to Foreign Medical License Holders with Offers of Employment as published with staff recommended changes.**

There were no items for Agenda Items 26-30.

**Agenda Item #32, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action relating to personnel matters.** There was nothing to discuss.

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

- 1. Consideration and approval of the October 17, 2025, Medical Board Meeting Minutes and actions items.**
- 2. Committee reports and the consideration and approval of minutes and action items committees meeting during the board meeting.**

After discussion, **Dr. Martinez moved, Ms. Herod seconded, and the motion passed to approve the October 17, 2025, Medical Board Meeting Minutes and action items and the minutes and action items of committees meeting during the board meeting.**

**Agenda Item #31, Open Forum for Public Comment.** Senator Bob Hall made public comments.

**Agenda Item #33, Adjourn.** There being no further items, **Ms. Herod moved, Dr. Bhatia seconded, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m.**