Texas Medical Board

BOARD MEETING
June 12, 2026

The meeting was called to order on Friday, June 12, 2026 at 8:02 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.; Linda C. Troncoso; and David G. Vanderweide, M.D. Jason Tibbels, M.D. was not present. 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. Dr. Zaafran congratulated Mr. Carlton for his recent promotion to Colonel. Dr. Zaafran also directed staff to put a 6-year term limit on Expert Panelists.

a. **Lawful Presence Reminder** Dr. Zaafran reported that all Texas licensees must submit documentation proving lawful presence before license renewal.
b. **CE Broker Reminder** Dr. Zaafran discussed the new state mandated requirement for licensees to use CE Broker for continuous CME audits. CE Broker will be mandatory starting September 1 and licensees are encouraged to start uploading the CMEs early.
c. **FSMB Acknowledgements** Dr. Zaafran reported on the board's involvement with FSMB committees, including a newly formed work group regarding AI.

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

Agenda Item #4, Consideration and approval of Mediated Settlement Agreed Orders. After discussion, **Mr. Cokinos moved, Ms. Morgan seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Mediated Settlement Agreed Orders for Sharhonda Martin, MD; Fermin Romero-Arreola, MD; Salem Salem, MD; and Velimirovic Bratislav, MD.**

Agenda Item #5, Consideration and possible action for Remedial Plans. After consideration, **Ms. Herod moved, Ms. Del Rosal seconded and the motion passed to approve the Remedial Plans for Natasha Baah, DO; Thomas Lucas, MD; Lawrence Nguyen, MD; Lela Ruck, MD; Gregory Ryan Clayton, MD; Jeevan Gowda, MD; Mohamed Khalil, MD; Dina Madni, MD; Kimberly Ting, MD; and Jerome Washington, MD.**

Agenda Item #6, Consideration and possible action for Agreed Orders. After consideration, **Ms. Barnes moved, Ms. Herod seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Agreed Orders for Christopher Lucchese, MD; Regina Leverrier, MD; Harold Pretorius, MD; Vincent Caldarola, MD**

***(Dr. Q recused from #4)*, Steven Alan Fein, MD; Iktam Kureshi, MD; Arnold Mech, MD; Rebecca Lynn Morton, MD; Raleigh Smith III, MD; Xinyu Wu, MD; Jack Coldwell Smith, MD; and Thanapoom Boonipat, MD.**

Agenda Item #7, Consideration and approval of Modification Request/Termination Request Orders. After consideration, **Dr. Quinones moved, Ms. Morgan seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Modification Requests/Termination Requests Orders for Benjamin Adams, MD; Howard Boland, MD; Darella Cooper, MD; Humberto De Los Santos, MD; Rafael Garcia, MD; Jorge Guevara, MD; Stephanie Menes, MD; John Nguyen, MD; Nema Uwayday, MD; and Jose Trevino, 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. There were none.

Agenda Item #14, Executive Director Report. Mr. Carlton reported on the possible restructuring of DPRC and Licensure to better serve the public. Mr. Joey Estrada, CFO gave an update on the current budget and upcoming legislative appropriations requests.

a. **EBAS Presentation –** Bradley Guye provided a presentation.
b. **PBI Course Approval Presentation –** Kasey Cleary provided a presentation.
c. **Enforcement Presentations –** Craig Depoyster and Anne Rauch provided a presentation.

Agenda Item #12, Consideration and approval of Determination of Default.

a. **Michael L. Pearlman, M.D. SOAH Docket No. 503-26-14422.MD**

Mr. Shane Nelder, Staff Attorney, provided a brief summary of the case. Dr. Pearlman was not present and no one was present on his behalf. After discussion, **Dr. Quinones moved, Ms. Barnes seconded and the motion passed to accept the Default Order and revoke Dr. Pearlman's license.**

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

a. **Michael Thomas Alexander, M.D. SOAH Docket No. 503-24-24974.MD**

Ms. Meridith Massey, Staff Attorney, provided a brief summary of the case. Dr. Alexander was present with counsel Tim Weitz. After discussion, **Dr. Bhatia moved, Ms. Barnes seconded, and the motion passed to accept the Final Order of dismissal.**

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. Chad Moody, PA was present. There was nothing to report.

Agenda Item #18, Consideration and possible action regarding pending litigation. Mr. Freshour gave a report on pending litigation.

Agenda Item #19, Report on Automatic Orders. A report on Automatic Orders was provided to the board.

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

Agenda Item #21, Discussion following June 8th, 2026 Ketamine Focus Group meeting.

a. **Discussion regarding special July Medical Board meeting** Dr. Zaafran reported on the Ketamine focus group that met on June 8, 2026. There will be a special Medical Board meeting on June 25th or 29th to further discuss proposed rule amendments.

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

Agenda Item #23, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. There were none.

Agenda Item #24, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. Chapter 183. Physician Assistants. There were none

Agenda Item #25, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. Chapter 184. Acupuncture. There were none

Agenda Item #26, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. Chapter 186, Medical Radiologic Technology. There were none

Agenda Item #27, 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 #28, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding rule review to 22 T.A.C., Part 9, Texas Medical Board. There were none

Agenda Item #30, 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 March 27, 2026, 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.**
3. **Consideration and approval of direction to staff on term limitations for our expert panelists to the term of 6 years.**

After discussion, **Dr. Quinones moved, Dr. Bhatia seconded, and the motion passed to approve the March 27, 2026, Medical Board Meeting Minutes, action items and the minutes and action items of committees meeting during the board meeting, and the term limitation of 6 years for expert panelists.**

Agenda Item #29, Open Forum for Public Comment. Jolene Winkler, Deborah Oliver, Inga Trimm, and James Chumbley made public comments.

Agenda Item #31, Adjourn. There being no further items, **Dr. Bhatia moved, Dr. Farmer seconded, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 11: 17 a.m.**