Texas Medical Board

BOARD MEETING
March 27, 2026

The meeting was called to order on Friday, March 27, 2026 at 8:03 a.m. by Board President Sherif Zaafran, M.D. Board members present were: Kandace Farmer, D.O., Vice President; Michael Cokinos, Secretary/Treasurer *(logged on at 8:30 am)*; 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. *(logged on at 8:55)*; 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 the "Message from the President" sent out regarding the streamlining of investigations. Dr. Zaafran reported on CE Broker implementation. Dr. Zaafran also reported on rules being implemented since the last board meeting.

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. There were none.

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 John Cassidy, MD; Mohamed Khalil, MD; Adebukola Adedeji, MD; Sonia Arias Franklin, MD; Asif Cochinwala, MD; Houman Koopaei, MD; Minh Nguyen, MD; Eildar Abyar, MD; James Davis, MD; Commie Hisey, MD; Darin Tessier, MD; Frank Welch, MD; and Pegga Wongsa, MD.**

Agenda Item #6, Consideration and possible action for Agreed Orders. After consideration, **Dr. Quinones moved, Ms. Barnes seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Agreed Orders for Arnold Mech, MD; Christopher Jones, MD; Myron Mariano, MD; Kendra Bookout, MD; Thomas Cole, MD; Ghassan Koussa, MD; Ali Mohamed Osman, MD; Aaron Roberts, DO; Daniel Schmidt, MD; Melinda Threlkeld, MD; David Vanderheiden, DO; Marc Aaron Wilson, MD; William Anderson, MD; Jeevan Gowda, MD; Christina Itata, MD; Lane Sebring, MD; Bamidele Adeyamo, MD; and Canaan Harris, 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 Geoffrey Bunke, MD;**

Manuel Estrada-Salazar, MD; Gregory Krynski, MD; Jorge Massare-Rodriguez, MD; Aisha Noble, MD; Michael Pendleton, MD; and Daniel Rivera.

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. Distefano seconded, and the motion passed to approve the Consent Order for Jason Couch, MD.**

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

Agenda Item #14, Executive Director Report.

a. **Financial Report** Mr. Joey Estrada, CFO, reported on the current budget and legislative appropriations request.
b. **2026 IA Plan** Mr. Estrada gave an update on the Internal Audit Plan. After discussion, **Ms. Barnes moved, Dr. DeLoach seconded and the motion passed to approve the 2026 Internal Audit Plan.**
c. **CPEP Presentation** Ms. Alisa Johnson gave a presentation.

Agenda Item #15, 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 #16, Public Information Update. Ms. Taurie Sloan, Director of Government Affairs and Communications, gave a report on CE Broker plan roll out and efforts to ensure all licensees have received notification of the requirement.

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

a. **Jason Lee Landero, D.O. SOAH Docket No. 503-24-20471.DO**
   Mr. Shane Nelder, Staff Attorney, provided a brief summary of the case. Dr. Landero was present. After discussion, **Dr. Green moved, Dr. Quinones seconded, and the motion passed to adopt the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law in the ALJ's Proposal for Decision and dismiss the case.**
b. **Luckey Connor Reed, M.D. SOAH Docket No. 503-24-23310.MD**
   Ms. Meredith Massey, Staff Attorney, provided a brief summary of the case. Dr. Reed did not attend. Rodney Montes, J.D. attended on his behalf. After discussion, **Dr. Farmer 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 suggested Final Order of suspension. Ms. Morgan opposed the motion.**

Agenda Item #17, Report Physician Assistant Liaison. Nothing to report.

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

a. **Rehearing Requests** There was one.

Mr. Freshour gave a report on pending litigation and recommended the board go into Executive Session to discuss specific litigation.

At 10:28 am, Dr. Zaafran moved, Dr. Green seconded, and the motion passed to go into Executive Session for the purpose of 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 resumed at 11:20 am.

Agenda Item #19, Report on Automatic Orders. There were none

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.

Agenda Item #22, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of 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.**

Several individuals appeared and provided comments and concerns regarding the adoption of the proposed rule. After discussion, **Dr. Jones moved, and Dr. Zaafran seconded to adopt the proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. as published, with non-substantive changes presented by staff. The motion passed 12 to 5.**

Dr. Zaafran – Yay
Dr. Farmer – Absent
Mr. Cokinos – Yay
Ms. Barnes – Yay
Dr. Bhatia – Absent
Mr. Crain – Yay
Dr. DeLoach – Nay
Ms. De Rosal – Nay
Dr. Distefano – Yay
Dr. Green – Yay
Ms. Herod – Yay
Dr. Jones – Yay
Dr. Martinez – Yay
Ms. Morgan – Nay
Dr. Naidu – Yay
Dr. Quinones – Yay
Dr. Tibbels – Nay
Ms. Troncoso – Nay
Dr. Vanderweide – Yay

Agenda Item #23, Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding adoption of proposed rule amendments to 22 T.A.C. <u>Chapter 183. Physician Assistants</u>. There were none

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

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 #29, 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 December 12, 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. Quinones moved, Dr. Green seconded, and the motion passed to approve the December 12, 2025, Medical Board Meeting Minutes and action items and the minutes and action items of committees meeting during the board meeting.**

Agenda Item #28, Open Forum for Public Comment. Sheila Hemphill and Tim Goelz, LPC-A made public comments.

Agenda Item #30, Adjourn. There being no further items, **Ms. Herod moved, Dr. Martinez seconded, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 p.m.**