

VERMONT BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE
Minutes of the March 5, 2025, Board Meeting
280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671
Remote via Teams

Unapproved

- **Call to Order; Call the Roll; Acknowledge Guests:**

Dr. Rick Hildebrant, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

Members Present:

Rick Hildebrant, MD; Rob Ciappenelli; David Coddair, MD; Evan Eyler, MD; Gail Falk; Rachel Gaidys, MD; Matthew Greenberg, MD; Peter Ireland, MD; Suzanne Jones, PA-C; Patricia King, MD; Stephanie Lorentz; Ian Odigie, DPM; Dawn Philibert; Judy Scott; Margaret Tandoh, MD; Robert Tortolani, MD; Scott Tucker.

Others in Attendance:

Megan Campbell, AAG; Scott Frennier, Investigator; Tracy Hayes, Public Health Specialist; David Herlihy, Executive Director; Kurt Kuehl, AAG; Paula Nenninger, Investigator; Bill Reynolds, AAG; Laura Ashikaga, AAG; Ron Hunt, MLOA; Marcy Quinlan, Admin Assistant.

- **Approval of the Minutes of the February 5, 2025, Board Meeting:**

D. Philibert moved to accept the minutes of the February 5, 2025, meeting. Dr. King seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

- **Board Issues (Dr. Hildebrant):**

- **Accessing HSIN** – The Chair reminded members that they would need to obtain a Login.gov account to be able to access the HSIN system after March 6, 2025, as indicated in messaging from HSIN. Staff advised that they will monitor HSIN access and send updates. Staff will assist any member who encounters difficulties establishing a Login.gov account. Staff will also develop plans for temporary

alternative ways to share materials with those who are delayed in setting up an account.

- **S.64 – An act relating to amendments to the scope of practice for optometrists**
Dr. Hildebrant reported on his experience testifying on S.64, which is the latest in a series of bills introduced that would expand the scope of practice of optometrists to allow them to perform a list of specified procedures. The “advanced procedures,” as referred to in the bill, are considered surgical interventions and are currently performed only by ophthalmologists. Dr. Hildebrant noted that the Senate Government Operations Committee (SGO) was unreceptive to concerns raised by witnesses testifying in opposition to the bill. D. Herlihy added that the Office of Professional Regulation had previously conducted a study on expanding the scope of optometrist practice as proposed in S.64. That study concluded that optometry scope of practice should not be expanded to include surgical procedures; the Committee sent a letter to the Office of Professional Regulation indicating that the SGO Committee had concluded optometry scope should be expanded. OPR conducted another study that determined optometry scope should be expanded. The bill was voted out of SGO and next will be taken up in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.
- **Administrative Updates (David Herlihy):** D. Herlihy provided additional detail about the licensing data shared with members during the March meeting. When reviewing tables that report the number of licenses issued and renewed by year, PA renewal numbers can seem misleading. Because the PA renewal period begins in an odd year and ends in the following even year (November 1 to January 31) the odd year and even year numbers need to be combined to determine the number of PAs who renewed. R. Hunt advised that 1099 forms had been sent to members for their 2024 per diem payments. Members were asked to let staff know if they have not received a 1099.
- **Other Business:**
 - **Legislative Update:**
 - **S.28 --An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services** D.Herlihy reported that he had testified in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (SHW) on February 27th. Members were provided a summary of the version of the bill that was voted out of SHW on February 28th. The bill now includes a provision that allows the Board

and OPR to withhold personal contact information of licensees from public disclosure. Only addresses and telephone numbers designated as public would be subject to public disclosure. The bill also revises sections of the Vermont Consumer Protection Act. The Act had been amended in 2023 to add provisions applying specifically to limited services pregnancy centers. Changes in the bill as approved by SHW would make the Act apply to all advertising of health care services. The new provisions target statements in advertising of health care services that are untrue or clearly designed to mislead the public about the nature of the services provided. The bill also would make minor revisions to the wording of sections pertaining to licensees who allow their name or license to be used by entities offering medical services, and sections pertaining to delegation of medical tasks. D. Herlihy also reported that although he had presented the Board's position opposing the creation of an exception to allow prescribing medication to terminate an abortion based only on a questionnaire, SHW passed the bill with that exception intact. The bill will be taken up in other committees in the Senate and the House.

- **Convene hearing to discuss any stipulations or disciplinary matters that are before the Board (1:00 PM):**

In re Scott W. Smith MD, Docket No. MPC 158-0623 State's Motion for Reciprocal Discipline dated January 6, 2025 and State's Amended Motion for Reciprocal Discipline dated February 23, 2025.

Mr. Belcher convened the hearing at 1:00 PM. After having the roll called, inquiring about notice to the Respondent, and determining that the Respondent would not be present for the meeting, Mr. Belcher invited AAG Kuehl to present the case. AAG Kuehl explained the basis for the proposed action. Members asked questions and discussed the matter. Questions were asked about the written materials that had been submitted by Dr. Smith, and which had been distributed to members. AAG Kuehl addressed the issues raised in the written materials. Dr. Tandoh moved to approve the action as proposed in the Amended Motion. Philibert seconded the motion. The motion passed 11-0, with members of the Central Investigative Committee recused.

Hearing Concluded at 1:50 PM

- **Convene meeting; Executive Session to Discuss:**
 - Investigative cases recommended for closure
 - Other matters that are confidential by law, if any

D. Philibert made a motion at 1:50 PM to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential matters related to investigations. Dr. Tortolani seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

- **Return to Open Session 2:10 PM Board Actions on matters discussed in Executive Session:**

D. Philibert, North Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPN 154-1124 – Letter #1

S. Lorentz made a motion to close the case presented. S. Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: Dr. Odigie and North Investigative Committee.

G. Falk, Central Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPC 138-1024 – Special Letter #1

D. Philibert made a motion to close the case presented. S. Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: Central Investigative Committee.

PA-C Jones, South Investigative Committee, asked to close:

There were no South Committee cases presented this month.

- **Upcoming Board meetings, committee meetings, hearings, etc.:** Locations are subject to change. A notification will be provided if a change takes place.
- **March 13, 2025, North Investigative Committee Meeting, 9:00 AM.**
[Remote via Teams and 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671.](#)

- **March 14, 2025, Central Investigative Committee Meeting, 9:00 AM.** Remote via Teams and 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671.

- **March 19, 2025, South Investigative Committee Meeting, 12:00 PM.** Remote via Teams and 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671.

- **April 2, 2025, Licensing Committee Meeting, 10:30 AM.** IN PERSON at 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671 and remote via Teams.
- **April 2, 2025, Board Meeting, 12:00 PM.** IN PERSON at 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671 and remote via Teams.

- **Open Forum:**
 - **D. Herlihy noted that Vermont Commissioner of Health Mark Levine has announced that he will step down at the end of March.** D. Philibert moved that the Board commend Dr. Levine for his service to the Department and all Vermonters. Dr. Tortolani seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

- **Adjourn:**

Dr. Hildebrant declared the meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

February Licenses Issued Appendix A

Credential	Contact Name	Date Issued
042.0018387	Andrew Richard Ridinger	2/3/2025
042.0018388	Chloe Cae French	2/4/2025
042.0018389	Anthony Gbolahan Charles	2/5/2025
042.0018390	Alexis Catherine Cordone	2/5/2025
042.0018391	Anthony Bernard Fiorillo jr	2/5/2025
042.0018392	Christoforos Iraklis Giakoumatos	2/5/2025
042.0018393	Frederic Laporte	2/5/2025
042.0018394	Pamela Melissa Levine	2/5/2025
042.0018395	Elizabeth Rose Reilly	2/5/2025
042.0018396	Zoran Drmanovic	2/5/2025
042.0018397	Eric Bravin	2/6/2025
042.0018398	Emily Pik Lam Ng	2/6/2025
042.0018399	Aiden Yuzhe Feng	2/7/2025
042.0018425	James Kenneth Seffinga Clark	2/11/2025
042.0018426	Colton Michael Conrad	2/11/2025
042.0018427	Alzira Rocheteau Monteiro Avelino	2/11/2025
042.0018428	Rishi Arya	2/18/2025
042.0018429	Ron Avraham	2/18/2025
042.0018430	Susan Nan Chi	2/19/2025
042.0018431	Kyle Douglas Albagli	2/19/2025
042.0018432	Kevin De Wayne Carr	2/19/2025
042.0018433	Trisha Juliano Kammann	2/19/2025
042.0018434	Nakul Anush Ravish	2/19/2025
042.0018435	Jeffrey Ryan Savarino	2/19/2025
042.0018451	Kristin Lee Joyner	2/24/2025
042.0018452	Daniel Thomas Stein	2/25/2025
042.0018453	Talya Rebecca Benoff	2/25/2025
042.0018454	Nicholas Christopher Cochran-Caggiano	2/25/2025
042.0018466	Adipong Brickshawana	2/26/2025
055.0031797	Kendall Blanck	2/11/2025
055.0031798	Angela Lynn Cunningham	2/24/2025
055.0031799	Abigail Anne DeBay	2/24/2025
055.0031800	Matthew Robert McPhee	2/25/2025
055.0031801	Curtis Gauthier	2/26/2025

060.0005857	Devon Thorpe	2/11/2025
060.0005858	Olivia Cooper	2/19/2025
042.0018400- COMP	Omar Syed Ahmed	2/10/2025
042.0018401- COMP	LEON ANIJAR	2/10/2025
042.0018402- COMP	Nataliya Bocharova MD	2/10/2025
042.0018403- COMP	Orn-Usa Boonprakong	2/10/2025
042.0018404- COMP	Jason Buchwald	2/10/2025
042.0018405- COMP	Alison Burt	2/10/2025
042.0018406- COMP	Taekwondo Byrd	2/10/2025
042.0018407- COMP	Kinjal Desai	2/10/2025
042.0018408- COMP	Maria Theresa Dizon	2/10/2025
042.0018409- COMP	Meredith Goodwin	2/10/2025
042.0018410- COMP	Stacey Gunn	2/10/2025
042.0018411- COMP	George Edmond Haddad	2/10/2025
042.0018412- COMP	Tariq Halasa	2/10/2025
042.0018413- COMP	Heather Hirsch	2/10/2025
042.0018414- COMP	Jane Lee Hur	2/10/2025
042.0018415- COMP	Karl Kristiansen	2/10/2025
042.0018416- COMP	Janel Marie Lynch	2/10/2025
042.0018417- COMP	Zachary John Plotz	2/10/2025
042.0018418- COMP	Emily Janine Ross	2/10/2025
042.0018419- COMP	Scott Alan VanDeHoef	2/10/2025
042.0018420- COMP	Ryan Jacob Vega	2/10/2025
042.0018421- COMP	Kaivalya Vyas	2/10/2025
042.0018422- COMP	Mark L Wulkan	2/10/2025

042.0018423-COMP	Nandini Yadav	2/10/2025
042.0018424-COMP	James McDowell DuRant	2/10/2025
042.0018436-COMP	Shannon Ashley	2/20/2025
042.0018437-COMP	Kahira Janay Biernat	2/20/2025
042.0018438-COMP	Lily Awatif Hanna	2/20/2025
042.0018439-COMP	Joshua Allen Jarbeau	2/20/2025
042.0018440-COMP	Joshua Kaleb Kolmetz	2/20/2025
042.0018441-COMP	Arturo Jose Lara Llerena	2/20/2025
042.0018442-COMP	David Sexton Lewis	2/20/2025
042.0018443-COMP	Neil K Mohindra	2/20/2025
042.0018444-COMP	Jose Pizarro	2/20/2025
042.0018445-COMP	Diane Gay Portman	2/20/2025
042.0018446-COMP	Susan Ashley Speckhart	2/20/2025
042.0018447-COMP	Kevin Adrian Sterling	2/20/2025
042.0018448-COMP	Colleen Surlyn	2/20/2025
042.0018449-COMP	Allison Weiffenbach	2/20/2025
042.0018450-COMP	Kathryn Shaw Williams	2/20/2025
042.0018455-COMP	Mariele Calderon Briones	2/26/2025
042.0018456-COMP	Reginald Deligent	2/26/2025
042.0018457-COMP	Steven Edward Kammann	2/26/2025
042.0018458-COMP	Anthony Alexander Mckitty	2/26/2025
042.0018459-COMP	Bilal Mustafa	2/26/2025
042.0018460-COMP	LY T NGUYEN	2/26/2025
042.0018462-COMP	Steven Glenn Schaeffer	2/26/2025

042.0018463- COMP	Riaz Ahmed Sirajuddin	2/26/2025
042.0018464- COMP	Michael Uzer	2/26/2025
042.0018465- COMP	Tamer Wassef	2/26/2025
86 Items Found		