

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE  
FULL BOARD MINUTES**

October 30, 2025

Department of Health Professions

Henrico, VA 23233

- CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Apel called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
- ROLL CALL:** Ms. Brown called the roll; a quorum was established.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter J. Apel, MD – President & Chair  
Leroy Brown Vaughan, Jr., MD– Vice-President  
Ken McDowell, DO – Secretary-Treasurer  
John R. Clements, DPM  
Kamlesh Dave, MD  
Hazem Elariny, MD  
William Hutchens, MD  
Oliver Kim, JD, LLM  
Elliott Lucas, MD  
Krishna P. Madiraju, MD  
L. Blanton Marchese  
Patrick McManus, MD  
Michele Nedelka, MD  
Jennifer Rathmann, DC  
Gertude Shahady, MD  
Mark Simcox, MD
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Deborah DeMoss Fonseca
- COUNSEL PRESENT:** M. Brent Saunders, JD – Senior Assistant Attorney General
- STAFF PRESENT:** William L. Harp, MD - Executive Director  
Jennifer Deschenes, JD - Deputy Exec. Director for Discipline  
Michael Sobowale, LLM - Deputy Exec. Director for Allied Professions Licensure  
Colanthia Opher - Deputy Exec. Director for Medical Licensure and Administration  
Barbara Matusiak, MD - Medical Review Coordinator  
Erin Barrett, JD - Director of DHP Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
Matt Novak - DHP Senior Policy and Economic Analyst  
Deirdre Brown - Executive Assistant  
Mandy Addison – Team Lead for Medicine Customer Service
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Brandi Kilmer – Refugee Physician Advocacy Coalition  
Lily Cameron, MD - Refugee Physician Advocacy Coalition

Ben Traynham, JD – Hancock, Daniel  
Sultana Salam, MD – RPAC and AACVA  
Rebecca R. Banks, CPM, LM – Advisory Board on Midwifery  
Iryna Myronchuk – Upwardly Global  
Marinda Shirdler, CPM, LM – Virginia Midwives Alliance  
Laule Faisi Sohail  
Tamika Hines – Discipline and Compliance Case Manager  
Roslyn Nickens – Licensing Supervisor  
Jasmine Jones – Licensing Specialist  
Coralyn Kirby - Discipline Case Specialist  
Allison Still – Senior Administrative Assistant

## **EMERGENCY EGRESS INSTRUCTIONS**

Dr. Apel provided the emergency egress instructions for Board Room 2.

## **SUMMARY SUSPENSION PRESENTATION**

Valerie Cheatham, Adjudication Specialist, presented information to the Board regarding Dr. Matthew Sungwoon Cho, License #0104001813, to determine if his continued practice of chiropractic constituted a substantial danger to public health and safety. Ms. Cheatham provided details of the case for the Board's consideration.

On a motion by Mr. Marchese and duly seconded by Dr. Rathmann, the Board determined that Dr. Matthew Sungwoon Cho's continued practice constituted a substantial danger to public health and safety and voted to summarily suspend his license simultaneously with the institution of proceedings for a formal administrative hearing pursuant to Section 54.1-2408.1 of the Code of Virginia. The vote was unanimous, 16-0.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2025**

Dr. Nedelka moved to approve the minutes of June 26, 2025. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Vaughan and carried unanimously.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Marchese moved to approve the agenda as amended by Dr. Apel, moving agenda items 3 and 4 for discussion with agenda item 7. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Vaughan and carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Salam stated that she is a foreign medical graduate from Afghanistan. She said that refugee physicians will experience delays in getting documents from their home countries to allow them

to begin preparation for a provisional license. She stated that she was in favor of increasing the allowable time out of practice to 12 years.

Ms. Iryna Myronchuk from Upwardly Global urged the Board to consider a 12-year standard that included 60 months of active practice.

Brandi Kilmer of the Refugee Physician Advocacy Coalition spoke in favor of increasing the proposed 4 years out of practice to 12 years with 60 months of practice within the 12 years, after the Minnesota model.

Dr. Laule Faisi Sohail shared that she previously practiced as a physician in Turkey and is not currently practicing in the United States. Dr. Sohail encouraged the Board to consider extending the allowable period for out of practice to 12 years.

### **DHP DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Owens expressed his appreciation to the Board of Medicine and staff for their accomplishments during his three-year tenure with DHP. He noted that more than 9,000 MDs, DOs, and PAs have been added to the Commonwealth's healthcare workforce during this period.

Mr. Owens also reminded the Board that the gubernatorial election will take place on Tuesday, November 4th, and said that the mission of DHP will remain unchanged.

He further reported that DHP continues to focus on internal operations, efficiency of process, and good fiscal management. DHP is committed to identifying savings where possible to ensure it remains a responsible steward for the fees submitted by licensees.

Looking ahead, Mr. Owens noted that the General Assembly will convene in January 2026, at which time the biennial budget will be submitted. He reminded the Board that although DHP does not receive general funds, it is still required to submit a budget to demonstrate how its funds are being utilized.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

#### **PRESIDENT**

No report.

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

No report.

#### **SECRETARY-TREASURER**

No report.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### Cash Balance

Dr. Harp commended the Finance team for its efficiency and accuracy with the FY2026 budget, which has been approved. Medicine's cash balance on hand June 30, 2025, was \$15,132,293.00.

### Summer Meetings

July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> – Senate Bill 752 (Senator Favola) Work Group Meetings

- The Board of Psychology, the Board of Medicine, experts and stakeholders met to consider under what circumstances and with what training clinical psychologists could be made safe and competent to prescribe psychotropic medication. Submission of a report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on Education and Health is due November 1, 2025. Dr. Madiraju and Dr. Lucas served on the work group.

August 20<sup>th</sup> – Boards of Medicine and Nursing Work Group on Prescribing Psychotropic Medication to Children and Adolescents (Budget Bill)

- The work group included board executive directors, DHP staff, a child psychiatrist, a mental health APRN, and a mother of children who were prescribed psychotropic medication. The work group was focused on identifying best practices for prescribing and monitoring behavioral health medications in the treatment of minors.

August 25<sup>th</sup> – Revision of the Midwifery Formulary

- Mr. Marchese chaired the meeting. The Advisory Board on Midwifery members and other expert stakeholders considered the formulary revisions and aligned them with the 2024 NARM Job Analysis. Erin Barrett updated the formulary document.

PGY-4 Elective – Dr. Harp shared that 2 VCU psychiatric residents participated in a summer rotation at the Department of Health Professions. He noted that this elective has helped the broader resident group at VCU to know the Board of Medicine is fair and reasonable in its decisions. He concluded by welcoming 1 of the recent residents, Jackie Guo, MD.

## **COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS**

All reports included in the agenda were accepted without comment.

**OTHER REPORTS**

**Board Counsel** – Brent Saunders, JD – Senior Assistant Attorney General

Mr. Saunders provided an update on 7 ongoing legal cases.

**Podiatry Report**

No report.

**Chiropractic Report**

No report.

**Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine**

No report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Regulatory Chart

Mr. Novak presented the chart of regulatory actions as of October 14, 2025, stating that there is currently only 1 regulatory action in the Secretary’s Office.

This report was for informational purposes only and did not require any action.

2. Readoption of the Board’s Electronic Meeting Participation Policy

Mr. Novak reviewed the Electronic Participation Policy with the Board, noting that the policy will assist Board members in attending meetings remotely.

**MOTION:** Mr. Marchese moved to readopt the Electronic Participation Policy. Dr. McDowell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of the Revised Midwifery Formulary

Ms. Barrett presented the revised Midwifery Formulary developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Medications for Midwives.

Mr. Saunders recommended removing the phrase “*The Board recommends that a licensed midwife...*” from the document. He further suggested amending Virginia Code § 54.1-2957.9(iv) by replacing the word “*require*” with “*recommend*.”

**MOTION:** Mr. Marchese moved to approve the midwifery formulary as presented with the suggested amendments. Dr. McManus seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Revision of Guidance Document 90-56 consistent with statutory changes

Mr. Novak reviewed the amendments to Guidance Document 90-56 due to the results of action on Chapter 404 in the 2024 General Assembly.

**MOTION:** Dr. Clements moved to amend Guidance Document 90-56. Mr. Marchese seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of Biennial CE topic 2026-2027

Due to the amended agenda, the following items were added to this discussion.

- No. 3 – Consideration of petition for rulemaking regarding chiropractic education.
- No. 4 – Consideration of specific requirement for nutrition continuing education for the 2028-2029 renewal cycle.

Dr. Harp reported that during the last renewal cycle, licensees were required to complete a one-hour course on human trafficking. He asked the Board if it wished to exercise its authority to select a topic for the upcoming biennial renewal cycle, noting that licensees must be notified by January 1, 2026. Dr. Harp mentioned human trafficking and the Virginia Department of Health CE training on death certificates.

**MOTION:** Mr. Marchese moved that no specific continuing education (CE) topic be designated for the 2026–2027 renewal cycle. Dr. Nedelka seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Marchese moved to deny the petition regarding chiropractic education since the petitioner requested that it be withdrawn. Dr. Clements seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to deny.

**MOTION:** Mr. Marchese moved to require that all Board of Medicine licensees attest to having obtained 1 hour of continuing education in nutrition during the biennial renewal cycles of 2028-2029. Dr. Clements seconded. The vote was 14-2 with Dr. Elariny and Dr. Hutchens voting in the negative.

**BREAK:** 10:19 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

6. Adoption of Proposed Regulatory Language Regarding Provisional and Restricted Licensure for Foreign Physicians

Ms. Barrett reviewed draft regulations developed by the Legislative Committee during its September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Several motions were made with friendly amendments, resulting in a final motion.

**MOTION:** Dr. Nedelka moved to accept all recommendations from the Legislative Committee, with amendments to: (1) include a 30-minute proximity in the definition of indirect supervision, and (2) limit gap years to no more than 7, with at least 12 months of continuous practice within that period. Dr. Madiraju seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Licensing Report

Mr. Sobowale reported that, as of October 29, there are 97,498 licensees plus 24,316 APRNs jointly licensed with the Board of Nursing. He also noted a 95% clearance rate for applications received this year.

8. Discipline Report

Ms. Deschenes provided an update on the Sanctioning Reference Points Instruction Manual. She also gave a presentation on probable cause procedures and how to process cases in BOX.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Apel welcomed new Board member Dr. Shahady.

Ms. Opher stated that the building has enhanced its security measures. Board members will need to see Ms. Brown after the meeting to exchange their current badges for updated ones.

Dr. Apel announced that the next Full Board meeting will be held February 19, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no additional business, Dr. Apel adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

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William L. Harp, MD  
Executive Director