

**APPROVED**  
**VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE**  
**SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES DECEMBER 11, 2025**  
*Department of Health Professions*  
*Perimeter Center*  
*9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201*  
*Henrico, VA*

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- CALL TO ORDER:** A Special Conference Committee of the Board was called to order at 9:04 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Apel, M.D., Chair  
Kenneth McDowell, D.O.  
Elliott Lucas, M.D.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Jennifer L. Deschenes, Deputy Executive Director, Discipline  
Tamika Hines, Case Manager, Discipline  
Michael Parsons, Deputy Director, APD
- MATTER:** **Christine Elizabeth Isaacs, M.D.**  
**License No.: 0101-058061** **Case No.: 239603**
- DISCUSSION:** Dr. Isaacs appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of the Board dated October 27, 2025. Dr. Isaacs was represented by Michael Goodman, Esquire.
- The Committee fully discussed the allegations in the Notice with Dr. Isaacs.
- CLOSED SESSION:** Upon a motion by Dr. McDowell, and duly seconded by Dr. Lucas, the Committee voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711.A (27) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Dr. Isaacs. Additionally, he moved that Ms. Deschenes and Ms. Hines attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.
- RECONVENE:** Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee re-convened in open session and announced its decision.

**DECISION:** Upon a motion by Dr. McDowell, and duly seconded by Dr. Lucas, the Committee voted to dismiss the matter.

**VOTE:** The vote was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Committee adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

*As provided by law this decision shall become a Final Order thirty (30) days after service of such Order on Dr. Isaacs, unless a written request to the Board for a formal hearing on the allegations made against her is received from Dr. Isaacs, within such time. If service of the Order is made by mail three (3) additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of the Special Conference Committee shall be vacated.*

  
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Jennifer L. Deschenes, J.D., M.S.  
Deputy Executive Director  
12/12/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**CALL TO ORDER:** A Special Conference Committee of the Board was called to order at 11:57 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Apel, M.D., Chair  
Kenneth McDowell, D.O.  
Elliott Lucas, M.D.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jennifer L. Deschenes, Deputy Executive Director, Discipline  
Tamika Hines, Case Manager, Discipline  
Scott Pearl, Adjudication Specialist, APD

**MATTER:** **Sonia Diaz, M.D.** **Case No.: 242639**

**DISCUSSION:** Dr. Diaz appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of the Board dated September 25, 2025. Dr. Diaz was represented by Nora Ciancio, Esquire.

The Committee fully discussed the allegations in the Notice with Dr. Diaz.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Upon a motion by Dr. McDowell, and duly seconded by Dr. Lucas, the Committee voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711.A(16) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of consideration and discussion of medical and mental health records of Dr. Diaz. Additionally, he moved that Ms. Deschenes and Ms. Hines attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its discussion.

**RECONVENE:** Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee re-convened in open session and continued its discussion with Dr. Diaz regarding the allegations.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Upon a motion by Dr. Lucas, and duly seconded by Dr. McDowell, the Committee voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711.A (27) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Dr. Diaz. Additionally, he moved that Ms. Deschenes and Ms. Hines attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.

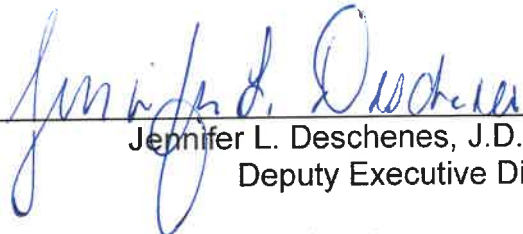
**RECONVENE:** Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee re-convened in open session and announced its decision.

**DECISION:** Upon a motion by Dr. McDowell, and duly seconded by Dr. Lucas, the Committee made certain findings of fact and voted to issue Dr. Diaz a license.

**VOTE:** The vote was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Committee adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

*As provided by law this decision shall become a Final Order thirty (30) days after service of such Order on Dr. Diaz, unless a written request to the Board for a formal hearing on the allegations made against her is received from Dr. Diaz, within such time. If service of the Order is made by mail three (3) additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of the Special Conference Committee shall be vacated.*

  
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Jennifer L. Deschenes, J.D., M.S.  
Deputy Executive Director

12/12/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

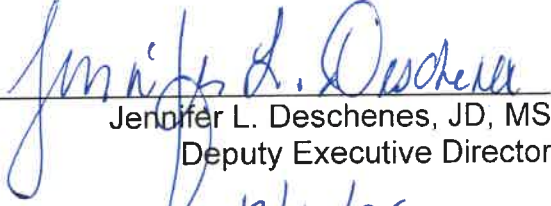
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- CALL TO ORDER:** A Special Conference Committee of the Board was called to order at 1:59 p.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Apel, M.D., Chair  
Kenneth McDowell, D.O.  
Elliott Lucas, M.D.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Jennifer L. Deschenes, Deputy Executive Director, Discipline  
Tamika Hines, Case Manager, Discipline  
Valerie Cheatham, Adjudication Specialist
- MATTER:** **Binyan Ayele Dessie, M.D. License No.: 0101-264005**  
**Case No.: 246348**
- PRELIMINARY MATTER:** The Chair noted that the time was 1:59 p.m. and Dr. Dessie was noticed to appear before the Committee at 11:00 a.m. and was not present.
- Ms. Cheatham advised that the Notice had been sent to Dr. Dessie's address of record with the Board by overnight and First class mail.
- RULING:** Based on the information provided by Ms. Cheatham, the Chair determined that proper notice had been provided to Dr. Dessie, therefore, the informal conference would proceed in his absence.
- DISCUSSION:** Dr. Dessie did not appear before the Committee in accordance with the Board's Notice of Informal Conference dated September 26, 2025, nor was he represented at the conference by legal counsel.
- The Committee fully considered the evidence before it and received information from Ms. Cheatham regarding the allegations in the Notice.

- CLOSED SESSION:** Upon a motion by Dr. Lucas, and duly seconded by Dr. McDowell, the Committee voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711.A (27) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Dr. Dessie. Additionally, he moved that Ms. Deschenes and Ms. Hines attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.
- RECONVENE:** Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee re-convened in open session and announced its decision.
- DECISION:** Upon a motion by Dr. McDowell, and duly seconded by Dr. Lucas, the Committee made certain findings of fact and conclusions of law and voted to issue Dr. Dessie a reprimand and place his license on probation with terms and impose a monetary penalty.
- VOTE:** The vote was unanimous.
- ADJOURNMENT:** The Committee adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

*As provided by law this decision shall become a Final Order thirty (30) days after service of such Order on Dr. Dessie, unless a written request to the Board for a formal hearing on the allegations made against him is received from Dr. Dessie, within such time. If service of the Order is made by mail three (3) additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of the Special Conference Committee shall be vacated.*

  
Jennifer L. Deschenes, JD, MS  
Deputy Executive Director  
12/12/25  
Date