

**UTAH MEDICAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**JULY 17, 2025
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114**

CONVENED: 9:04 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 11:15 P.M.

DIVISION STAFF PRESENT:

Licensing Administrator: Larry Marx
Board Secretary: Allison Pulsipher
Investigations: James Furner

Assistant Director: Deborah Blackburn
Compliance Officer: Jennifer Johnson

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Alan Smith, MD, Chair
Dr. Craig Davis, MD, Vice-Chair
Dr. Stephen Voss, MD
Dr. William Hamilton, MD
James Sutton, PA-C
Dr. Spencer Pierson, MD

Dr. Nicole Clark, MD
Dr. Jonathan Olsen, DO
Dr. Susan Wiet, MD
Shaun Curran, PA-C
Grant Madsen, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Marie Pittman-Cherrington, PA-C

Rachel MacKay, Public Member

GUESTS:

Michelle McOmber, UMA

Rey Alonzo, UMA

Note: Other guests may have been in attendance electronically but were not identified.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Dr. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

READ AND APPROVE MAY 15, 2025 MINUTES (AUDIO – 0:04:50)

Dr. Hamilton motioned to approve the minutes with the changes discussed.

Dr. Voss seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE (AUDIO – 0:06:55)

Mr. Furner provided the Board with an investigation update.

Dr. Davis asked how a licensee is notified when an investigation takes place.

Mr. Furner explained when and how the Division communicates with a licensee when an investigation is taking place.

COMPLIANCE UPDATE (AUDIO – 0:14:30, 0:25:20, 0:47:15, 1:18:20)

Ms. Johnson gave the compliance update.

Dr. Ponce is on a 5-year stipulation.
Dr. Ponce provided all required reports.
Dr. Ponce is no longer working for the same clinic.

Dr. Ward is on a 3-year stipulation.
Dr. Wards have provided all required reports.
Dr. Ward has submitted certificates for his completed continuing education.

Dr. Kelly is on a 5-year stipulation.
Dr. Kelly has a limitation placed on his license involving surgeries.

Ms. Wright is on 3-year stipulation.
Mr. Wright is required to submit a practice plan, supervisor, and something.

APPOINTMENTS:

Dr. Sean Ponce, Probationary Interview (Audio – 0:16:20)

Dr. Smith started the interview by asking Dr. Ponce how is doing.
Dr. Ponce informed the Board he has been dropped from Medicaid, is no longer working for the same clinic due to the issues with Medicaid, and what he is doing to resume practice.
Dr. Ponce confirmed he is working about 6 to 8 hours in private practice.
Dr. Smith informed Dr. Ponce that he must practice 16 hours to remain compliant with his stipulation.
Ms. Johnson reminded Dr. Ponce he will need a new supervisor and a practice plan to continue moving towards private practice.

Dr. Davis motioned to accept Dr. Ponce in compliance with his probation.

Dr. Olsen seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Preston Ward, Probationary Interview (Audio – 0:28:00)

Dr. Hamilton started the interview by asking Dr. Ward about his practice.
Dr. Ward stated his practice is going well and has reduced the number of direct reports he has within his clinic.
Dr. Hamilton asked Dr. Ward about his support system.
Dr. Ward told the Board what kind of support he has and the different classes he has taken to help him better his professional practice.
Dr. Smith informed Dr. Ward the Board normally only considers early termination after the probationer has completed at least half of their probation.
Dr. Hamilton stated he would recommend evaluating Dr. Ward's request for early termination at a later meeting after he has completed at least 50% of his probation.

Dr. Hamilton motioned to accept the submitted continuing education and his current compliance with his probation.

Dr. Clark seconded the motion

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Christopher Kelly, Initial Probationary Interview (Audio – 0:52:45)

Dr. Clark started the interview with Dr. Kelly by asking how he is doing.
Dr. Kelly stated it was a bit rough completing all the requirements and figuring out where his practice is going.

Dr. Clark asked Dr. Kelly about the courses he completed.
Dr. Kelly stated he completed courses through PBI and the courses were helpful review.
Dr. Clark asked Dr. Kelly if he has any questions for the Board.
Dr. Kelly stated he would like to continue completing his requirements before he brings up his questions with the Board.
Dr. Davis asked Dr. Kelly to clarify the type of patient care he is going to be moving into.
Dr. Kelly informed the Board what kind of practice he is hoping to move into.
Dr. Davis asked Mr. Marx for clarification regarding the limitations on Dr. Kelly's practice.
Mr. Marx clarified the limitations on Dr. Kelly's practice.
Dr. Davis asked Dr. Kelly where he saw his practice in 3 years.
Dr. Kelly stated he does not have a plan until he receives further clarification regarding his scope of practice.
Dr. Davis clarified what is still missing from Dr. Kelly.
Dr. Clark motioned Dr. Kelly is not in compliance with his probation. The Board will readdress Dr. Kelly's compliance in the next board meeting.
Dr. Voss seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.
Dr. Davis provided a recommendation to the Division regarding Dr. Kelly's limitations.
Dr. Davis motioned to accept Dr. Kelly's mental health evaluation.
Dr. Clark seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amber Wright, Initial Probationary Interview (Audio – 1:26:00)

Mr. Curran started the interview with Ms. Wright by asking what her current practice looks like.
Ms. Wright informed the Board about her current practice in Utah and confirmed she is in private practice.
Mr. Curran asked if Ms. Wright is dispensing medications out of her office.
Ms. Wright confirmed she does not dispense medications out of her office and all prescriptions are sent to pharmacies.
Mr. Curran asked something.
Ms. Wright informed the Board she has a physician she is currently speaking with to potentially become her supervisor.
Ms. Johnson informed Ms. Wright what she would need to receive to approve a supervisor.
Mr. Curran asked if Ms. Wright is completing her required evaluations.
Ms. Wright confirmed she is working towards completing her evaluations.
Dr. Smith asked the Division for clarification regarding Ms. Wright controlled substance prescribing.
Mr. Marx confirmed Ms. Wright may prescribe controlled substances, but the prescriptions must be reviewed by an approved supervisor.
Dr. Wiet asked if she has a set of other providers she could reviewed patient cases when prescribing hormones.
Ms. Wright stated she does not have a direct group; however, she does discuss her prescribing methods with other providers in the clinic.
Dr. Voss asked Ms. Wright how she handles patients requesting additional medications or additional care that should be managed through a primary care provider.
Ms. Wright informed the Board she redirects her patients requests for additional case or medication to their primary care provider.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There was no discussion items handled at this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Upcoming Hearing Schedule (Audio – 2:00:15)

Mr. Marx provided the board with the anticipated upcoming hearing schedule.

2025 MEETING SCHEDULE:


SEPTEMBER 18, NOVEMBER 20

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 P.M.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

9-18-25
Date Approved

(ss) 
Chairperson, Utah Medical Licensing Board

9/18/2025
Date Approved

(ss) Larry Marx
Bureau Manager, DOPL