

UTAH MEDICAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114

CONVENED: 9:05 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 12:11 P.M.

DIVISION STAFF PRESENT:

Licensing Administrator:	Larry Marx	Compliance Officer:	Bernice Palama
Board Secretary:	Allison Pulsipher	CSD:	Jeff Henrie
Pharmacy Bureau Manager:	Jim Garfield	ITAC:	Alexander Bybee
Investigations:	James Furner	ITAC:	Jesler Molina
Investigations:	Julia Orozco		

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Alan Smith, MD, Chair	Dr. Jonathan Olsen, DO
Dr. Craig Davis, MD, Vice-Chair	Dr. Greg Hobson, DO
Dr. Nicole Clark, MD	Grant Madsen, Public Member
Dr. William Hamilton, MD	Rachel MacKay, Public Member
Dr. Susan Wiet, MD	
James Sutton, PA-C	

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Marie Pittman-Cherrington, PA-C	Shaun Curran, PA-C
Dr. Stephen Voss, MD	Dr. Spencer Pierson, MD

GUESTS:

Dr. Chris Sheard, Utah Pharmacy Board

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 9:05 am.

READ AND APPROVE JULY 17, 2025, 2025 MINUTES (AUDIO – 0:03:00)

Dr. Hamilton motioned to approve the minutes as written.

Dr. Olson seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

SWEAR IN NEW BOARD MEMBER (AUDIO – 0:03:45)

Dr. Greg Hobson introduced himself to the Board and gave the Oath of Office.

The Board introduced themselves.

UPHP UPDATE

UPHP was unable to attend the meeting, no update was given.

CSD UPDATE (AUDIO – 0:08:43)

Mr. Henrie provided the Board with an update to the changes made to the CSD.

INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE (AUDIO – 0:12:20)

Mr. Furner provided the Board with an investigation update.

Mr. Furner informed the Board the healthcare investigation unit has a new Unit Chief.

Dr. Hamilton asked for clarification regarding cases that were closed with no investigations.

Mr. Furner explained the type of cases they receive that are closed with no investigations.

COMPLIANCE UPDATE (AUDIO – 0:18:30, 0:23:06, 0:31:08)

Ms. Palama gave the compliance update.

Dr. Ponce is on a 5-year stipulation.

Dr. Ponce is working in private practice.

Dr. Ponce has submitted a request for a new supervisor.

Dr. Riyaz is on a 3-year stipulation.

Dr. Riyaz has submitted all reports.

Dr. Riyaz has asked for early release.

Dr. Newhall is on a 3-year probation.

Dr. Newhall is not currently working in the field.

Dr. Cimikoski is on a 5-year probation.

Dr. Cimikoski does not require monthly report.

Dr. Church is on a 5-year probation.

Dr. Church probation is currently tolling as he is not working in the field.

Dr. Kelly is on a 5-year stipulation.

Dr. Kelly is missing multiple reports.

Dr. Kelly does not have an approved supervisor but has been actively practicing.

Ms. Wright is on 3-year stipulation.

Ms. Wright is completing her evaluations; however, the evaluating has not been approved.

Ms. Wright completed her self-assessments.

Ms. Palama stated she did another intake interview with Ms. Wright due to the previous issues.

APPOINTMENTS:

Dr. Sean Ponce, Probationary Interview (Audio – 0:38:45)

Dr. Smith started the interview by asking Dr. Ponce for an update.

Dr. Ponce informed the Board that he has found a new supervisor and has submitted the information for approval.

Dr. Clark motioned to approve Dr. Ponce's new supervisor.

Dr. Wiet seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Smith asked Dr. Ponce to explain his private practice and new practice plan.
Dr. Ponce informed the board what type of care he intends to provide.

Dr. Davis motioned to approve the practice plan.

Dr. Clark second the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Farhaad Riyaz, Probationary Interview (Audio – 0:21:45)

Dr. Riyaz is unable to attend the meeting due to previous travel schedule.

Dr. Hamilton motioned to release Dr. Riyaz from his probations.

Dr. Davis seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stanley Newhall, Probationary Interview (Audio – 0:23:40)

Dr. Smith started the interview by asking Dr. Newhall how he is doing.

Dr. Newhall stated he is not currently working in the medical field and is actively looking for a medical job.

Dr. Newhall stated he is struggling to find a job as most jobs want him to have an unrestricted license.

Dr. Davis asked Dr. Newhall if he completed a re-entry or training program.

Dr. Newhall confirmed he completed a program at UC San Diego.

Dr. Smith stated until Dr. Newhall can find employment, he did not believe Dr. Newhall is compliant with his stipulation.

Dr. Hamilton recused himself from the discussion.

Dr. William Cimikoski, Probationary Interview (Audio – 1:28:05)

Dr. Hamilton started the interview with Dr. Cimikoski by asking how he is doing.

Dr. Cimikoski stated he is at his new practice location and has been following his practice plan.

Dr. Hamilton confirmed Dr. Cimikoski has completed his continuing education and paid his fines.

Dr. Smith asked for clarification regarding the standards that need to be followed for Dr.

Cimikoski to utilize ketamine and other anesthetics in his office.

Dr. Cimikoski explained his ketamine use within his practice.

Dr. Hamilton motioned to find Dr. Cimikoski in compliance with his stipulation.

Dr. Wiet seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Christopher Church, Probationary Interview (Audio – 1:38:00)

Dr. Davis started the interview with Dr. Church by asking for an update on what he has been working on.

Dr. Church stated he is still waiting to complete a re-entry training program before he can continue with his probation.

Dr. Church stated he is hoping he will be able to join the re-entry program in the next 6-months.

Dr. Church asked what his options would be if he can not get into the training program.

Dr. Davis asked if Dr. Church has considered shifting specialties within the practice of medicine.

Dr. Church stated he was facing the same issues when looking to switch specialties.

Dr. Church stated he is also unable to become Board Certified and it is another hurdle stopping him from switching specialties.

Dr. Church asked for clarification regarding the new digital platform the Division is utilizing for monitoring his probation.

Ms. Palama explained the new digital platform for reporting with his probation.

Dr. Davis motioned to find Dr. Church not in compliance with his stipulation.

Dr. Smith seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Christopher Kelly, Probationary Interview (Audio – 2:32:18)

Dr. Kelly did not appear for his interview with the Board.

Dr. Wiet motioned to find Dr. Kelly not in compliance with his stipulation.

Dr. Davis seconded the motion.

The board motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amber Wright, Initial Probationary Interview (Audio – 2:08:02)

Mr. Sutton started the interview with Ms. Wright by asking Ms. Wright to provide an update.

Ms. Wright stated she has completed her evaluation and completed half of her required continuing education.

Ms. Wright has informed the Board of the issues she has had trying to find a supervising physician and asked the Board if they would accept an APRN to be her supervisor.

Mr. Sutton asked if Ms. Wright is currently practicing and prescribing.

Ms. Wright stated she is not because she does not have an approved supervisor.

Dr. Smith informed Mr. Wright the Board can not approve an APRN to be her supervisor unless her stipulation is amended to allow for that.

Mr. Marx informed the Board an amendment could be proposed to open the supervision requirement to allow for an APRN to supervise Ms. Wright's practice.

Dr. Olsen stated the stipulation clearly stated the supervisor needs to be a physician and would not be open to allowing an APRN supervisor Ms. Wright.

Mr. Sutton agreed with Dr. Olsen's assessment of the stipulation.

Dr. Davis suggested Ms. Wright open her search to a wider radius to find a supervisor she would not be directly competing with.

Dr. Wiet suggested reviewing any national institution to find providers in the area that overlap with her specialty.

Dr. Smith motioned to approve the mental health evaluator.

Mr. Sutton second the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sutton motioned to find Ms. Wright not in compliance with her stipulation.

Dr. Davis seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Robert Rodrigues, Licensure review (Audio – 2:33:50)

Dr. Smith asked Dr. Rodrigues to inform the Board why he is meeting with them today.

Dr. Rodrigues informed the Board why his license was suspended, informed the Board what he has been working on, and is asking the Board to reinstate his license.

Dr. Smith informed the Board if they approve the reinstatement of Dr. Rodrigues license, it will be placed on probation for five years.

Mr. Marx asked the Board for their input on whether the Division should reinstate Dr. Rodrigues' license.

Mr. Marx asked Dr. Rodrigues to explain what he intends to do if his license is reinstated.

Dr. Rodrigues stated he was feeling burnt out in plastic surgery and would like to look for a better work-life balance. Dr. Rodrigues would like to focus on slowly returning to practice and eventually moving to full practice as a surgeon.

Dr. Smith asked what Dr. Rodrigues' new stipulation would look like if his license was reinstated.

Mr. Marx informed the Board who he would work with to draft a new stipulation and what would be put into the stipulation based on the recommendations from the Professional Renewal Center.

Dr. Wiet motioned to reinstate Dr. Rodrigues license in a probationary status.

Dr. Olsen seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Davis recused himself from the discussion and motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Pharmacy Board Requests (Audio 1:48:55)

Vaccine Protocol

Mr. Marx started the discussion regarding the Vaccine Protocol and introduced Mr. Garfield and Dr. Sheard from the Utah Board of Pharmacy.

Dr. Sheard explained the Vaccine Protocol and reviewed their Pharmacy Board proposed changes.

Dr. Smith expressed some concerns over the proposed language being open to interpretation.

Dr. Olsen asked if the proposed suggestion could be made clearer that all criteria would need to be met.

Dr. Wiet asked how pharmacists are tracking if a patient had an adverse reaction to a vaccine administered by a pharmacist.

Dr. Sheard informed from personal experience how a pharmacist would know if an adverse reaction happened.

Dr. Olsen motioned to accept the changes to the Vaccine Protocol.

Mr. Sutton second the motion.,

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dispensing Practitioner Drug List

Mr. Garfield informed the Board the Pharmacy Board received a letter from regarding the changes made to the dispensing medical practitioner and dispensing clinic drug list. Mr. Garfield informed the Board which drugs the Pharmacy Board has recommended to remove from the list.

Dr. Olsen motioned to accept the changes

Ms. Sutton second the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Marx and Mr. Garfield informed the Board they would be proposing moving the drug lists to the dispensing medical practitioner and clinic

ITAC Proposal Review (AUDIO 0:49:40)

Mr. Molina and Mr. Bybee presented their update on licensure pathways for internationally trained physicians.

Mr. Molina explained the proposal for a "Limited Supervised Training Permit" (LSTP).

Dr. Davis asked for clarification regarding passing the different steps of the USMLE.

Mr. Molina confirmed which steps would be required before a permit could be issued and when the final steps would need to be completed.

Dr. Davis informed the Board and the ITAC team he would increase the supervision and the timeline of supervision.

Mr. Bybee informed the Board this license is not to take place of residency, it is to help experienced physicians from other countries to fully integrate into the Utah health care system. Dr. Wiet asked if this license type is going to focus on practice in rural areas and expressed concerns over rural areas in Utah having adequate care.

Mr. Molina asked what the Board would recommend for the level of supervision.

Dr. Smith stated he would like to see a minimum of three years of supervision similar to the timeframe of a residency program.

Dr. Wiet asked what is going to happen if a provider with a Limited Supervised Training Permit does not have the adequate skills to practice medicine effectively and safely.

Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Smith informed the Board and ITAC the concerns about what these providers do after they complete their limited training because they will still not be eligible to Board Certified without completing a residency.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Upcoming Hearing Schedule (Audio – 0:)

Ms. Pulsipher reminded the board of the anticipated upcoming hearing schedule.

2025 MEETING SCHEDULE:

NOVEMBER 20

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 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.

Date Approved

(ss)



Chairperson, Utah Medical Licensing Board

9/20/2025

Date Approved

(ss)

Larry Marx

Licensing Administrator, DOPL