

**MINUTES**

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY**

**January 27, 2026 | 8:30 A.M.**

**Room 402, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**160 E 300 S Salt Lake City UT**

**Hybrid Meeting-In Person and Electronic**

**Electronic attendance was available.**

**CONVENED: 8:31 A.M.**

**ADJOURNED: 1:00 P.M.**

**DOPL STAFF PRESENT:**

**Bureau Manager:** Jim Garfield  
**Board Secretary:** Tina Marshall  
**Pharmacy Specialist:** Maddy Holt  
**Investigator:** Travis Drebing  
**CSD Admin:** Jeff Henrie

**Compliance Specialist:** Bernice Palama  
**Legal Analyst:** Lauren Harvey  
**Investigator:** Oksana Eastin  
**Research & Policy Consultant:** Brandon Sipes

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Chair:** Christopher Sheard, Pharm.D.  
**Vice Chair:** Gary Hale, R.Ph.  
Karen Gunning, Pharm.D.  
Sabrina Ouk, Pharmacy Technician  
Cheyenne Cunningham, Pharm.D.

Matthew Higley, Pharm.D.  
Shaun Curran, PA CS, Public Member

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

**DOPL STAFF NOT PRESENT:**

**Investigation Supervisor:** Ben Baker  
**Bureau Manager:** Larry Marx

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Donelle Perez, Peterson's Pharmacy  
Jolene Evans, DOPL Investigator  
Janel Christensen, MedQuest Pharmacy  
Nathan Hagen, U of U Pharmacies  
Sara Watson, Cardinal Health – Regulatory Affairs Manager  
Gail Elliott KP Washington, Regulatory Manager  
Ryan Young, MedQuest Pharmacy  
Brian Burnham, Utah Cancer Specialists  
LaWanda Esquibel, DHHS  
Layne Wilde, Roseman University  
Dallas Moore, Utah Family Pharmacy

Sharla Glass, En-Vision America  
Jeanne Brennan, Law Office of Jeanne Brennan  
Chris Christensen, Stapley Pharmacy  
Bill Stilling, Stilling & Harrison  
Danielle Shook, Walgreens  
Emanuel Storica, Walgreens  
Cheri Robinson, Roseman University  
Kelli Jackson, UPHP  
Robert Simpson, UPHP

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**Dr. Sheard called the meeting to order at 8:31 A.M.**

**REVIEW AND APPROVE DECEMBER 16, 2025 MINUTES (Audio 00:04:00)**

**Dr. Gunning made a motion to approve the minutes.**

**Dr. Higley seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT—Travis Drebing (Audio 00:05:27)**

Mr. Drebing stated that in December, 11 cases were received, 30 cases were closed, 22 pharmacy inspections were completed, and 1 citation was issued.

Mr. Drebing introduced Oksana Eastin as a new member of the pharmacy investigation team and provided a brief background of Ms. Eastin's work history in pharmacy.

Mr. Hale asked if there were any new trends.

Mr. Drebing explained there were no new trends.

**CSD UPDATE—Jeff Henrie (Audio 00:08:08)**

Mr. Henrie explained that electronic prescriptions are holding steady at 88% and there is a slight increase in faxed prescriptions.

Mr. Henrie and the Board discussed the CII over 30-day supply the CSD has been tracking. Since July, the prescriptions over 30- days have continued a downward trend. The number of days over 30 was minimal, usually only a day or two over 30. Mr. Henrie explained that there was not a pattern of repeat offenders. Information on repeat offenders will be provided at a future meeting.

Mr. Henrie explained that UPUP was able to get 99.9% of active pharmacies registered. The CSD team is starting to send out emails about error corrections to pharmacies.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**PEP/PRP – UTAH DHHS (Audio 00:22:44)**

Ms. Esquibel explained that pharmacists will mostly not be prescribing PEP for work-related exposures and will most likely prescribe for non-occupational exposures. The reason for this is most workplaces will have their own protocols on how to handle needle sticks and exposures.

Ms. Esquibel and the Board discussed comments that were provided on the PEP guidance document. Some of the comments include clarifying the flowchart, formatting of the document, follow up with the patient and who is responsible for following up.

Ms. Esquibel and the Board discussed questions that were provided on the PrEP guidance

document. Some of the questions include does the question on the form about injection drug use need to be made into two questions, formatting of the document, what test results are needed before prescribing and the reason why some injections show refills and one shows zero refills.

**UPHP PRESENTATION** (*Audio 01:05:19*)

Due to the length of previous discussion items, the UPHP presenter was unable to present to the Board. The UPHP presentation will be moved to a future meeting.

**DOPL CITATIONS PUBLIC POLICY PROJECT** (*Audio 01:05:48*)

Mr. Sipes explained the five options for consideration for the potential Citation Policy. The five options are: additional reductions or modifications on citation response form, separate program for Letter of Concern reductions, changes to website publication timelines, lower class of citation and no changes to existing policy.

Mr. Sipes, Mr. Drebing and the Board discussed the current citation pathways, the reasons why the Division is considering changing the citation policy and clarified if citations are issued at the end of an inspection or at a certain time frame after the inspection for pharmacy and other professions.

The Board asked Mr. Sipes to put together a list of violations that would help the Board decide between the options. Mr. Sipes stated he could have the list ready for the March meeting.

**NPLEX (PSE) SYSTEM** (*Audio 01:51:53*)

Ms. McCormick provided an overview of the National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEx) system. The NPLEx system tracks pseudoephedrine (PSE) sale across pharmacies that use the system. Funding for the system can happen in two ways. First, the legislature of the state would need to pass a bill requiring pharmacies to report sales electronically to the NPLEx system. Second, the pharmacy can pay out of pocket to use the system.

The Board and Ms. McCormick discussed how the system works for pharmacies and how the collected data could be used.

**2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION** (*Audio 01:25:16*)

Dr. Sheard explained that the 2026 legislative session started on January 22, 2026. Senator Vickers will attempt to attend the Pharmacy Board meeting in February to give an update on bills affecting the pharmacy profession.

Dr. Sheard explained that AI prescribing has become national news and that he has reached out to the Department of AI to attend the February meeting to answer questions that have been asked and provide solutions.

**2026 PHARMACY BOARD SCHEDULE** (*Audio 01:30:20 and 01:50:12*)

Dr. Sheard said it was suggested that the Board not meet every month and asked if there were any months Board members would recommend not meeting.

Dr. Gunning recommends taking August off.

The Board agreed to not meet in August and would decide at a later date if they would like to not meet in December as well.

**NABP ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND NABP MEMBER FORUM** *(Audio 01:51:52)*

Dr. Sheard discussed the different conferences that were happening this year.

Dr. Gunning and Dr. Cunningham confirmed they would be attending the MPJE workshop in March 2026.

Mr. Garfield asked if any Board members would like to attend the NABP annual conference, which will be in May.

Several Board members volunteered to go.

Mr. Garfield asked that they check their availability and then let him know if they are able to attend or not.

**CSAC/APCEC RECOMMENDATIONS** *(Audio 01:55:36)*

Dr. Sheard explained that there is an opening on the Controlled Substance Advisory Committee as his term ends in June 2026.

Mr. Garfield explained there is an opening for a pharmacist with compounding experience that works in a rural hospital pharmacy on the Advisory Compounding Education Advisory Committee.

**APPOINTMENT ITEMS:**

**STEPHANIE HOLT, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** *(Audio 00:00:34)*

Ms. Palama explained that the January supervisor report was received and continuing education is due by 6/27/2026.

Dr. Gunning asked how things have gone at work over the last month and how many hours a week Dr. Holt is working.

Dr. Holt explained that things are going well and she works 30 to 35 hours per week.

The Board and Dr. Holt discussed the difficulty finding the continuing education that she needs to complete and the option of presenting a continuing education course to the Board for approval.

**Dr. Gunning made a motion that Stephanie Holt is in compliance with their Stipulation and Order.**

**Dr. Cunningham seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

Tentative next meeting will be on February 27, 2026.

**HRX PHARMACY, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** *(Audio 00:07:39)*

Ms. Palama explained that an investigation was completed on 12/3/2025 and early release has been requested.

Dr. Sheard asked if the pharmacy is using the new compounding standards.

Dr. Walker explained that they had built an USP 800 room for non-sterile hazardous compounding so they would be in compliance and explained how they were following the new compounding guidelines to be in compliance.

Dr. Sheard, Mr. Drebing and Dr. Walker discussed the inspection that occurred in December 2025. The inspection went well but there were some things that could be worked on. The items that were found were not major. Mr. Drebing explained that these were similar issues found in other compounding pharmacies and education was provided to correct the issues.

**Dr. Sheard made a motion that HRx Pharmacy is in compliance with their Stipulation and Order.**

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**Dr. Sheard made a motion that HRx Pharmacy be allowed early release from probation.**

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**CODY WALKER, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** *(Audio 00:07:39)*

Ms. Palama explained that Dr. Walker has requested early release.

Dr. Sheard and Dr. Walker discussed how things were going at the pharmacy and the pharmacist that was hired to conduct surprise visits and help with compliance.

Dr. Sheard and Dr. Walker discussed the early termination request and how Dr. Walker is planning to move forward and what they have learned while being on probation.

**Dr. Sheard made a motion that Cody Walker is in compliance with their Stipulation and Order.**

**Dr. Gunning seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**Dr. Sheard made a motion that Cody Walker be allowed early release from probation.**

**Ms. Ouk seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**HIGH CREEK PHARMACY, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** *(Audio 00:25:01)*

Ms. Palama explained that Dr. Blair provided an updated report for the Board to review.

Dr. Cunningham asked Dr. Blair about the updated report and if they were still sending employees

to compounding training.

Dr. Blair explained the protocol that has been put into place for testing for surface and air sampling. They are planning on sending three people to the training, but they are working on what dates they can send the compounders to the training.

Dr. Cunningham asked how they share the information that is learned at the training courses.

Dr. Blair explained that three meetings have occurred since they completed the training. This allows them to provide information to staff in the pharmacy and do hands-on training.

**Dr. Cunningham made a motion that High Creek Pharmacy is in compliance with their Stipulation and Order.**

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**Dr. Cunningham made a motion that High Creek Pharmacy's frequency to meet with the Board be moved to annually.**

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**HEALTHCARE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** (*Audio 00:38:46*)

Ms. Palama explained that a self-inspection was due on 2/1/2026 but was reviewed on 1/27/2026. It was decided that self-inspection would be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Dr. Higley asked how things are going in the pharmacy.

Mr. Jensen explained the changes that they have made in the pharmacy and explained that they had a scheduled audit with the DEA.

The Board, Mr. Jensen, Dr. Jensen and Ms. Lassa discussed the DEA audit, which took place in December 2025, and the results of the audit are expected within 7-10 business days. Other items discussed during the DEA audit were annual inventories, quarterly inventory of their controlled substances, how med disposal safes are used and record keeping.

**Dr. Higley made a motion that Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc is in compliance with their Stipulation and Order.**

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

Tentative next meeting will be on May 19, 2026.

**WALGREENS #19999, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** (*Audio 01:02:04*)

Ms. Palama explained that documents have been received for the Board to review. A discussion should be had to move board meeting to semi-annual or annually.

Ms. Palama provided a brief explanation of the interview that happened at the October 2025 meeting.

Dr. Sheard asked what has been done to reduce the amount of expired medication in the pharmacy.

Dr. Steyn explained that each technician in the pharmacy is assigned a shelf in the pharmacy to check for expired medication or by Dr. Steyn for controlled substances by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Dr. Steyn also conducts random inspections of the medications and then will add his signature that it has been completed.

Dr. Gunning asked what kind of support he is receiving from store and district management.

Dr. Steyn explained management provides support as needed at this time instead of the constant support they received at the beginning.

**Dr. Gunning made a motion that Walgreens #19999 is in compliance with their Stipulation and Order.**

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**Dr. Gunning made a motion that Walgreens #19999 frequency's to meet with the Board be moved to every six months.**

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

Tentative next meeting will be on June 23, 2026.

**IRUM IFTIKHAR, PHARMACY INTERN HOUR CREDIT REQUEST** (*Audio 01:23:40 and 01:30:59*)

Dr. Sheard asked Dr. Iftikhar to explain her education and background in pharmacy.

Dr. Iftikhar explained her educational background and provided her work in pharmacies, including frontline work during Covid.

Dr. Sheard and Dr. Iftikhar discussed completing the FPGEC program, studying to take the NAPLEX, completing intern hours and the difficulty finding an intern position to complete the required hours.

**Mr. Hale made a motion to credit 500 intern hours to Ms. Iftikhar.**

**Dr. Higley seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 1:00 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.*

**Privacy Notice:**

*This meeting may be recorded. If you attend, join or participate in this meeting, the personal data that you provide, or that is collected from you, is generally classified as a public record pursuant to Utah Code 63G-2-301 of the Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA), and may be made available to the public as provided by Utah Code 63G-2-201, except where the meeting is closed under Utah Code 52-4-205.*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** February 24, 2026

**2026 Tentative Board Meeting Scheduled:**

February 24, March 24, April 28, May 19, June 23, July 28-29 Hearing, September 22, October 21-22 Hearing, November 17, December 15

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

2/24/2026  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bureau Manager

2-24-2026  
Date