

**MINUTES**

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY**

**February 24, 2026 | 8:30 A.M.**

**Room 474, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

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

**Hybrid Meeting-In Person and Electronic**

**Electronic attendance was available.**

**CONVENED: 8:33 A.M.**

**ADJOURNED: 12:00 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

**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:**

Kelly Barland, U of U Redstone Pharmacy  
Jolene Evans, DOPL Investigator  
Brian Burnham, Utah Cancer Specialists  
Madison Andersen, Policy Analyst, OPLR  
Jayme Garcia, Smith's Pharmacy  
Ken Whittemore, Surescripts, LLC  
Katie Smith, Pharmacy Student  
Victor Ha, PharmD  
Greg Jones, Harmons

Quinn Lifschitz, Pharmacy Student  
Shannon Schmidt, Pharmacy Student  
Cam Bronson, Legal Analyst, OAIP  
Bill Stilling, Stilling & Harrison

*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 8:33 A.M.**

**REVIEW AND APPROVE January 27, 2026 MINUTES (Audio 00:03:11)**

**Mr. Curran made a motion to approve the minutes.**

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT—Travis Drebing (Audio 00:05:14)**

Mr. Drebing stated that in January, 11 cases were received, 39 cases were closed, 20 pharmacy inspections were completed, and 2 citations were issued.

**CSD UPDATE—Jeff Henrie (Audio 00:06:34)**

Mr. Henrie stated the UPUP is going well. The developers are continuing to work on email notifications for file status. Mr. Henrie also explained the Rules that were discussed in the December Board meeting are almost complete. There are several bills in the Legislative session that affect the Rules. Once it is known if the bills pass, the Rules will be completed.

Mr. Henrie explained the CSD will be moving to ASAP 5.0 with nine additional changes that will be adopted. Mr. Henrie provided further explanation on several of the changes to fields and how certain types of data will be reported in ASAP 5.0.

Dr. Sheard and Mr. Henrie discussed what pharmacies need to do in order to report the data in ASAP 5.0 and the reasons for the reporting of the date of birth of the person picking up the medication.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (Audio Part 2 00:41:26)**

Senator Vickers wanted to update the Board on the Legislative session and some of the bills.

Senator Vickers provided a background on kratom, explained the bills that have been filed and what the policy for kratom should be. The bills filed are SB 48, SB 45 and HB 387.

Senator Vickers gave brief explanations for the following bills HB 97, HB 264, SB 261, HB 527, SB 113 and several cannabis bills that will not affect pharmacies.

**OPLR (Audio 00:21:57)**

Ms. Andersen explained that she is a policy analyst with the Office of Professional Licensure Review (OPLR). Ms. Andersen explained that OPLR will be looking at the pharmacist and pharmacy technician licenses.

Ms. Adler gave a background on what OPLR does and the areas that are looked at when reviews are conducted for professions.

Ms. Andersen explained the criteria that are being looked at are safety, access and affordability. Definitions of the criteria and how adjustments could be made were explained.

The Board and Ms. Andersen discussed the possible items that could be seen as barriers to the profession and possible ways that could solve these issues.

Ms. Andersen provided the Board with a timeline of the length of the process and when the Board would be hearing from OPLR.

**EARLY MPJE UPDATE** (*Audio 00:42:55*)

Mr. Garfield explained that students will need to complete the didactic portion of the PharmD program along with required law courses. Schools will submit rosters of eligible students between July 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> for the class of 2027. The MPJE will grant eligibility on behalf of the Board for one exam attempt before the conferral of the student's degree.

The Board and Mr. Garfield discussed whether the early attempt of the MPJE would count as one of the three attempts that are allowed and when during the last year of schooling the student would be allowed to take the exam.

**GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS REVIEW** (*Audio 00:51:43*)

Mr. Garfield explained that Representative Thurston requested an update on 58-17b-627, which allows pharmacists to prescribe with guidance documents. 58-17b-627 provides a list of medications that were requested to be discussed first. Now that the first set of medications has been completed, it has been asked that the Board discuss low-risk, high value medications that pharmacists could dispense without a physician needing to be involved.

The Board discussed medications that could be added to the list for discussion.

**DOCTRONIC** (*Audio 00:59:06*)

Mr. Bronson, a legal analyst with the Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy, explained the objectives of the Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy and why they ended up bringing the Doctronic agreement about.

Some of the topics discussed by The Board and Mr. Bronson are which physician's name will be on the prescription, how the system knows if the prescription is valid and the patient's data, the low-risk formulary was requested to be shared and the concern of specific medications which are not considered low-risk which are listed on the refill list.

**IN PERSON MEETING** (*Audio 01:37:04*)

Dr. Sheard reminded the Board that the Division has requested at least one in person meeting per year. Dr. Sheard requested that the Board members look at their schedules to see which dates will work for them.

**UTAH NABP NEWSLETTER** (*Audio 01:37:38*)

Dr. Sheard explained that the next newsletter deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup> and asked if there were any

topics that could be covered. It was discussed that relevant topics that have presently been used could be reused as a topic and that members of the public can contact DOPL if they would like to submit an article for the newsletter.

**APPOINTMENT ITEMS:**

**DINA BENNETT, PHARMACY INTERN HOUR CREDIT REQUEST** (*Audio 00:01:05*)

Dr. Sheard asked Dr. Bennett to provide her pharmacy history and the reason for her request.

Dr. Bennett explained she worked in a retail pharmacy in Italy as a pharmacist for four years.

The Board and Dr. Bennett discussed her responsibilities and duties as a pharmacist in Italy.

The Board and Dr. Bennett discussed plans for studying for the NAPLEX and MPJE, when the exams may be taken and how many hours per work week Dr. Bennett is currently working.

**Mr. Hale made a motion to credit 500 intern hours to Dr. Bennett.**

**Dr. Higley seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**STEPHANIE HOLT, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** (*Audio 00:10:00*)

Ms. Palama explained that the February supervisor report has been received. Dr. Holt submitted continuing education courses for Board review and approval.

Dr. Gunning asked how things were going.

Dr. Holt explained things are going well and she is working about 35 hours per week.

The Board and Dr. Holt discussed the continuing education that Dr. Holt submitted to the Board for review.

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

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**Dr. Gunning made a motion to approve all submitted continuing education except for the continuing education titled "The Board of Pharmacy Decision Tree".**

**Dr. Cunningham seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

Tentative next meeting will be on March 24, 2026.

**DANIEL RICHARDS, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** (*Audio 00:18:36*)

Ms. Palama explained that all supervisor reports have been received with no concerns.

Dr. Gunning asked how things are going.

Dr. Richards explained that work is busy with construction of a USP800 room and that he works

40 plus hours per week.

Dr. Sheard asked what Dr. Richards' main takeaways were from being on probation.

Dr. Richards explained that his main takeaway is the process on how things need to work. Dr. Richards gave examples of thoughtful verification, looking ahead to ensure items that are needed are received on time, implementing USP800 in the pharmacy and preparing the pharmacy for the future.

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

**Mr. Hale seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**CODY HYMAS, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** (*Audio 00:30:58 and 00:59:10*)

Ms. Palama explained that the supervisor's audit reports have been received, the fine balance has been paid in full, and a discussion is needed for an early termination request.

Mr. Hale asked how things are going.

Dr. Hymas explained things are going well at work.

Mr. Hale asked if there were any issues following the Stipulation and Order.

Dr. Hymas explained that there have been no issues following the Stipulation and Order.

The Board and Dr. Hymas discussed how Dr. Hymas's role may change in the pharmacy if granted early release.

The Board and Dr. Hymas discussed what has been put into place so the issues that put Dr. Hymas on probation do not happen again.

Mr. Hale asked if Dr. Hymas would become pharmacist in charge again.

Dr. Hymas explained that he would not be a pharmacist in charge again.

The Board and Dr. Hymas discussed the Board's concern about recommending early termination, ways to broaden the scope of tasks that Dr. Hymas does at work and the possibility of changing the supervision from direct supervision to general supervision and what this entails.

**Mr. Hale made a motion that Cody Hymas is in compliance with their Stipulation and Order.**

**Ms. Ouk seconded the motion.**

**The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Hale made a motion that Cody Hymas be denied early release from probation.  
Dr. Gunning seconded the motion.  
The Board motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Hale made a motion that Cody Hymas's supervision be changed from direct to general supervision.  
Dr. Gunning seconded the motion.  
The Board motion passed unanimously.**  
Tentative next meeting will be on May 19, 2026.

**SCOTT COX, PROBATIONARY INTERVIEW** (*Audio 01:18:40*)

Ms. Palama explained that the not working in field reports have been received.

Mr. Hale asked how things are going.

Dr. Cox explained things are going well and he has found employment outside of the pharmacy profession.

Mr. Hale and Dr. Cox discussed the need to keep up with pharmacy continuing education while not working in the field.

**Mr. Hale made a motion that Scott Cox is in compliance with their Stipulation and Order.  
Dr. Higley seconded the motion.  
The Board motion passed unanimously.**  
Tentative next meeting will be on May 19, 2026.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:00 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:** *March 24, 2026*

**2026 Tentative Board Meeting Scheduled:**

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



Chairperson

3/24/24

Date



Bureau Manager

3/24/24

Date