UTAH MEDICAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

MAY 21, 2026
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114

CONVENED: 9:03 A.M. ADJOURNED: 12:24 P.M.

DIVISION STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director:	Margaret Busse	Communications Manager:	Melanie Hall
Division Director:	Mark Steinagel	Assistant Division Director:	Deborah Blackburn
Licensing Administrator:	Larry Marx	Board Administrator:	Allison Pulsipher
Pharmacy Board Manager:	Jim Garfield	Pharmacy Board Administrator:	Tina Marshall
Legal Analyst:	Lauren Harvy	Pharmacy Specialist:	Maddy Holt
Compliance Specialist:	Sicily Hill	Compliance Specialist:	Tori Sackett
Assistant Attorney General:	Robert Wing	Investigations:	James Furner

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Dr. Stephen Voss, MD
Dr. Spencer Pierson, MD
Dr. Susan Wiet, MD
Shaun Curran, PA-C
Dr. Greg Hobson, DO

GUESTS:

Zach Boyd, Office of AI Policy
Courtney Rae, Office of AI Policy
Thomas Jokerst
Warren Birch
Anna Matthews
Grace Wingate
Jenny Frazier-Relyea
Keri Jensen

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 9:03 am.

READ AND APPROVE MARCH 19, 2026 MINUTES (AUDIO – 0:04:55)

Dr. Hamilton motioned to approve the minutes as written.
Ms. McKay seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE (AUDIO – 0:06:05)

Mr. Furner reviewed the investigation statistics with the Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

AI Office Discussion (Audio – 0:08:05, 2:32:25)

Ms. Busse started the discussion by outlining the different topics she will be reviewing with the Board today.

Ms. Busse explained the State and Department approach to safely integrate AI into the public.

Mr. Steinagel recapped the recent projects the Office of AI Policy has launched.

Mr. Steinagel addressed the Boards concerns regarding Doctronics.

Mr. Wing reviewed the Open and Public Meeting Act with the Board and explained the exception regarding emergency natures.

Mr. Boyd reviewed the pilot programs and changes they have made since the Board expressed their concerns.

Dr. Davis and Dr. Olsen expressed concerns regarding how the pilot was launched and would like to see the Office of AI Policy communicate with the Board when reviewing and testing these pilot programs.

Mr. Steinagel summarized his final thoughts with the Board.

Mr. Sutton asked if the Board could introduce their written letter and vote on it today.

Dr. Hamilton motioned to ratify the letter of concern the Board created and enter it into the record.

Dr. Olsen seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Clark and Mr. Madsen agreed an additional meeting is a great idea, but the meeting needs to have a set agenda and purpose to ensure the meeting is useful.

Dr. Olsen clarified the large concerns and the insight of the stakeholders who would like to meet with the Board and the Office of AI Policy to create a way to regulate these pilots moving forward.

Dr. Olsen motioned to hold a meeting between the Board and the Office of AI to review the AI pilots and how to safely regulate AI policies.

Dr. Hamilton seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Smith continued discussion regarding the AI pilot program and the letter the Board wrote.

Dr. Davis asked the Board to openly discuss the letter and why the different Board Members did or did not sign the letter.

Ms. McKay informed the Board of her opinion and why she did not sign the letter.

Dr. Hamilton stated he appreciated the integration of AI, but he had concerns over how it was implemented.

Dr. Davis informed the Board where he has concerns and what information he would like to mitigate his concerns.

Mr. Madsen informed the Board why he did not sign the Board's letter.

Dr. Hamilton informed the Board of a discussion he had with his primary care physician.

Dr. Clark responded to Dr. Hamilton explaining methods she teaches the current medical residents and who AI can help but it needs balance.

Dr. Smith stated the AI Interpretation can only be as good as the information it has been provided. If a patient intentionally or unintentionally omits medical history, it can cause concerns and problems within healthcare.

FSMB Conference Update (Audio – 2:26:40)

Dr. Olsen reviewed the main discussions he had with state holders at the FSMB Annual Conference.
Dr. Hamilton stated Utah current AI policies were a part of many of the discussions had throughout the weekend.
Mr. Sutton stated it was evident many attendee's felt the same as the Board regarding the Doctronics discussions.

APPOINTMENTS:

Ms. Amber Wright, Probationer Interview (Audio – 1:15:40)

Ms. Hill provided the compliance report.

Mr. Sutton asked Ms. Wright for an update.
Ms. Wright indicated she went back to work on May 4th and her supervisor is present today to meet with the Board.
Dr. Jokerst introduced himself to the Board and explained his background with Ms. Wright's specialty with the Board.
Mr. Sutton asked for clarification regarding the supervisor role.
Dr. Jokerst explained his current meeting schedule with Ms. Wright, the chart review he conducts, his availability for assistance, and the reports he completes.
Dr. Smith informed the Board he and Mr. Curran provided tentative approval of the practice plan until she could meet with the Board.

Mr. Sutton motioned to approve Ms. Wright's practice plan.
Dr. Clark seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sutton motioned to accept the Dr. Jokerest as Ms. Wrights supervisor.
Dr. Hamilton seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sutton asked Dr. Jokerst about Ms. Wright's reentry into work.
Dr. Jokerst stated Ms. Wrigh has been doing well and reaches out whenever she has concerns or questions.

Mr. Sutton motioned to move Ms. Wright to quarterly check in with the Board.
Dr. Hamilton seconded the motion
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Sean Ponce, Probationer Interview (Audio – 1:25:25)

Ms. Hill provided the compliance report.
Ms. Hill informed the Board Dr. Ponce failed his continuing education audit.
Dr. Hamilton asked for clarification regarding how the audit was processed.
Ms. Pulsipher informed the Board of the Divisions process to audit licensees.

Dr. Clark asked Dr. Ponce how he is doing.
Dr. Ponce stated he has been taking care of his family recently and has still been seeing patients.
Dr. Clark asked how many hours a week he is working with patients.
Dr. Ponce confirmed he is still working about 20 to 24 hours a week with patients.
Dr. Clark asked Dr. Ponce about his continuing education audit.
Dr. Ponce informed the Board of his continuing education audit and what he thought he had completed during the audit window versus what he actually completed.

Dr. Clark motioned to find Dr. Ponce in compliance with his stipulation.

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

Mr. Marx requested a motion from the Board regarding the continuing education reprimand audit.
Dr. Clark motioned to support the CE Audit reprimand.
Dr. Hamilton seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Christopher Kelly, Probationer Interview (Audio – 2:21:10)

Ms. Hill provided the compliance report.
Ms. Hill informed the Board of Dr. Kelly's missing reports.
Ms. Hill informed the Board Dr. Kelly failed the continuing education audit.

Mr. Marx explained Dr. Kelly's failed audit.
Mr. Marx reviewed Dr. Kelly's compliance with the Board.
Dr. Olsen motioned to find Dr. Kelly as non-compliant and support the suspension of his Utah License.
Dr. Smith seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Robert Rodrigues, Probationer Interview (Audio – 1:59:00)

Ms. Hill provided the compliance report.
Ms. Hill informed the Board Dr. Rodrigues' current supervisor would like to retire and Dr. Rodrigues has submitted a new supervisor for approval.

Dr. Smith asked Dr. Rodrigues how he is doing and asked for an update.
Dr. Rodrigues informed the Board of his practice with Dr. Haupt and asked to be able to continue that with Dr. Haupt while he was under a different supervisor.
Dr. Smith stated is sounds like a good opportunity for Dr. Rodrigues and the Board agreed Dr. Rodrigues can continue to scrub in with Dr. Haupt.
Dr. Smith requested Dr. Rodrigues's new supervisor be present at his next interview.
Dr. Smith suggested moving Dr. Rodrigues to quarterly interviews with the Board.
Dr. Smith motioned to approve the Dr. Sonntag as Dr. Rodrigues' new supervisor.
Dr. Hamilton seconded the motion
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Smith motioned to approve Dr. Rodrigues' practice plan.
Dr. Hamilton seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Smith motioned to find Dr. Rodrigues in compliance with his stipulation.
Dr. Clark seconded motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Smith motioned to move Dr. Rodrigues to quarterly check-ins with the Board
Dr. Hamilton seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jeffrey Christensen, Initial Probationer Interview (Audio – 2:09:45)

Ms. Hill provided the compliance report.

Ms. Hill informed the Board Wyoming will remain the primary state monitoring Dr. Christensen and the Board will receive updates from Wyoming.

Dr. Hamilton started the interview by confirming the proposed supervisor is of the same specialty and at the same practice location.
Dr. Christensen confirmed that Dr. Birch is also an anesthesiologist and practices at the same location.
Dr. Hamilton asked about Dr. Christensen's Wyoming's monitoring requirements.
Dr. Christensen explained his monitoring and testing requirements with Wyoming and stated his monitoring is going well.
Dr. Hamilton suggested the Board meet quarterly with Dr. Christensen.
Dr. Hamilton asked Dr. Birch to update the Board regarding his monitoring of Dr. Christensen's practice.
Dr. Birch informed the Board the monitoring has been going really well and there has been no concerns.

Dr. Hamilton motioned to approve the practice plan.
Dr. Clark seconded the motion.
The Boad motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hamilton motion to quarterly interviews with Dr. Christensen.
Dr. Olsen seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hamilton motioned to accept Dr. Birch as Dr. Christensen's supervisor.
Dr. Olsen seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hamilton motioned to find Dr. Christensen in compliance with his stipulation.
Dr. Olsen seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Justin Watkins, Initial Probationer Interview (Audio – 1:40:40)

Dr. Olsen asked Dr. Watkins to introduce himself to the Board and what brought him in front of the Board today.
Dr. Watkins informed the Board of his background and why he is meeting with the Board today.
Dr. Olsen read the different violations included in Dr. Watkins stipulation.
Dr. Olsen asked Dr. Nagao to introduce himself to the Board and confirm his supervising role.
Dr. Nagao introduced himself to the Board and confirmed he is supervising Dr. Watkins at one of his three practice locations.
Ms. Hill reviewed the different requirements Dr. Watkins needs to meet.
Mr. Marx confirmed the standard for chart review Dr. Nagao will need to meet.
Mr. Marx informed the Board the Division has concerns regarding Dr. Watkins not having supervision at two of his practice locations.
Dr. Watkin informed the Board he has questions regarding who the supervisor may be.
Dr. Nagao asked for clarification regarding the amount of chart review needed with Dr. Watkins hospice practice.
Dr. Smith suggested to the Board the chart review that could be needed for his hospice care.
Dr. Nagao informed the Board he had not spoken with Dr. Watkins regarding supervising him with his med-spa clinic.

Dr. Olsen asked Dr. Nagao if he needed more time to consider if he could supervise Dr. Watkin at all his practice locations.
Dr. Nagao stated he would be comfortable supervising Dr. Watkins with two of the three practice locations.
Mr. Marx expressed concerns with Dr. Watkins keeping his practice hours within a reasonable range and asked Dr. Watkins if the thought he might need to walk away from the third practice location for some time.
Dr. Watkins stated he had already notified the third employer he might need to step away from practicing at their clinic.

Dr. Olsen motioned to approved Dr. Nagao as the supervising physician.
Dr. Clark seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Olsen motioned to approve Dr. Watkins practice plan
Dr. Davis seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Olsen motioned to find Dr. Watkins in compliance with his stipulation and to again meet in July.
Dr. Clark seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Upcoming Hearing Schedule (Audio – 2:58:35)

Mr. Marx informed the Board he would like his input regarding a provider in Utah.

Dr. Hamilton made a motion to close the meeting in accordance with the Open and Public Meetings Act, 52-4-205(1)(a) to discuss the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual.
Dr. Smith seconded the motion.
All Board members voted in favor of closing the meeting.
The meeting was closed at 12:03 p.m. The meeting was opened at 12:12 p.m.

Dr. Olsen motion to require a fitness for duty evaluation for Dr. Heather Curtis and for Dr. Curtis to cease practice until the evaluation has been reviewed.
Dr. Clark seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed unanimously.

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

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE:

JULY 16TH, SEPTEMBER 17TH, NOVEMBER 19TH

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 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.

7-16-26 (ss) ______________________

Date Approved **Chairperson, Utah Medical Licensing Board**

7/6/2026 (ss) Larry Marx

Date Approved **Licensing Administrator, DOPL**