

VERMONT BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE
Minutes of the April 6, 2022 Board Meeting
108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT
and remote via Teams

Unapproved

1. Call to Order; Call the Roll; Acknowledge Guests:

Sarah McClain, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

Members Present:

Maureen Bogosian; Brent Burgee, MD; Gail Falk; Matt Greenberg, MD;; Rick A. Hildebrant, MD; Patricia Hunter; Suzanne Jones, PA-C; Leo LeCours; David Liebow, DPM; Christine Payne, MD; Marga Sproul, MD; Margaret Tandoh, MD; Robert E. Tortolani, MD.

Others in Attendance

David Herlihy, Executive Director; Paula Nenninger, Investigator; Scott Frennier, Investigator; Karen LaFond, Operations Administrator; Justin Sheng, AAG; Megan Campbell, AAG; Kurt Kuehl, AAG; Bill Reynolds, AAG; George Belcher, Esq.; Lauren Feltz, AA-C.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 2 and March 16, 2022 Board Meetings:

Dr. Hildebrant moved to accept the minutes of the March 2 and March 16, 2022 meeting. Dr. Liebow seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

3. Board Issues (Dr. Bernstein):

Ms. McClain noted the BMP Mission Statement Workgroup had a successful meeting and the draft of the proposed mission statement will be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Administrative Updates (Mr. Herlihy):

Mr. Herlihy informed the Board that:

A former member, Sister Janice Ryan, passed away. He noted she served on the Board with enthusiasm and grace, and that the calling hours will be held on Friday, April 8, 2022, in Burlington and a service at the St. Michael's College chapel on Saturday.

The revised Board Rules were approved on March 31, 2022, but have not yet been posted because the auto numbering of sections needs to be corrected. The new Rules will be posted on the Board's website as soon as those minor corrections are made.

The Board Staff has resumed a hybrid schedule of remote and in-office work. The BMP office will be staffed each workday.

A temporary employee has been hired and will begin on April 18. The primary role of the temporary employee will be to assist Tracy with scanning and uploading documents to help manage her workload.

The special provision that allowed health care providers to practice via telehealth without a license during the COVID-19 state of emergency ended on March 31. Act 85 of 2022 created an option for those providers to obtain a no-fee registration for the period from April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. As of this week 60 telehealth registrations have been completed. Many Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center physicians and PAs who have been seeing Vermont patients via telehealth need to either become licensed or registered. Staff has been working with the DHMC medical staff to facilitate the process.

The IMLCC continues to grow. Texas, Ohio, and New Hampshire have recently begun participating. Bills pending in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Missouri, and North Carolina have been well received and have good potential to pass. That leaves just 7 states that have not joined and that are not actively considering legislation to join the Compact.

5. Presentation of Applications:

Applications for physician, physician assistant and limited temporary physician licensure were presented and acted upon as detailed in Appendix A, incorporated by reference into these minutes.

Ms. McClain moved for the issuance of physician licenses and physician assistant licenses. (See Appendix A)

Dr. Payne made a motion to accept all applicants for licensure as presented. Seconded by Dr. Hildebrant. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: none.

Ms. McClain moved for the issuance of limited temporary licenses to practice medicine. (See Appendix A)

Recommended by Dr. Tortolani for licensure. Seconded by Dr. Hildebrant. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: none.

Upon conclusion of the hearing in re: Lauren Feltz, AA-C – Stipulation, Re-Entry Plan, and Consent Order – Licensing Matter, Ms. McClain moved for issuance of anesthesiologist assistant certification for Lauren Feltz, AA-C.

Recommended by Ms. Hunter for certification. Seconded by Mr. LeCours. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: none.

6. Other Business:

- **Legislative Update**

Mr. Herlihy summarized the status of pending legislation that is of interest to the Board.

S.158 – this bill on optometrist scope of practice, which would authorize optometrists to perform surgical procedures, is still with the Senate Government Operations Committee. The Committee has not taken any testimony in weeks. The Committee Chair has indicated that the Committee will ask OPR to reconsider its report, which had recommended against making this change to the optometry scope of practice. It appears the bill will not move forward this session, but it's likely that proponents will try again in the future.

S. 206 – is a bill concerning Alzheimer's and related disorders. The bill is being followed because as originally written it created a work group whose duties would include making recommendations for mandatory CME on Alzheimer's and related disorders. The version passed by the Senate revised the charge to the work group to make recommendations for improving care and treatment for Alzheimer's patients, without the focus on mandatory CME. The bill is now in the House Human Services Committee.

H.655 – as discussed earlier in the meeting Act 85 created a transition period from April 2022 to June 2023 during which telehealth providers must obtain a telehealth registration (or a license) in order to continue practicing with patients in Vermont via telehealth. H.655 is the next piece, in that it addresses the enduring changes that will be enacted after the current transition from the COVID-19 emergency provisions. H.655, if enacted, will provide two new telehealth options: a short-term telehealth registration that is very limited and a telehealth license that is limited to telehealth only and only for a limited number of patients. Those options would be offered at fees lower than full licenses and with less demanding application processes. The Board would define the application processes in rules. The House has passed the bill and it appears likely to be enacted.

Psychologist Prescribing – It was anticipated that OPR would be issuing its report on a request by doctoral-level psychologists to obtain prescriptive authority. OPR has not yet issued the report and with each day that passes it is less likely that this will be taken up this session.

- **Member Appointments and Attorney General Representation:** in response to member questions there was further discussion of how members are appointed and reappointed and the role of the Assistant Attorneys Generals in the work of the Board.

Member Appointments: It was acknowledged again that a number of members are due for reappointment, but all are eligible for reappointment and continue to serve in accordance with the law stating that they serve until replaced. All have submitted applications for reappointment. The Boards and Commissions Office is aware of their status. That office has not yet processed reappointments that have been delayed since the COVID-19 response began. The Board cannot act to reappoint members. The Boards and Commissions office has been helpful in having members appointed to vacant positions and currently there is just one opening for a public member in South Investigative Committee. Ms. Hunter referred a promising candidate, but if anyone else knows of someone who might be interested, please refer them to the Executive Director.

Dr. Hildebrant provided a brief follow-up on his discussion with Frank Heald, who

recently resigned from the Board due to his concerns with this issue. He noted that Mr. Heald felt the Board holds licensees to a standard and felt the Board members should be held to the same standards. These concerns contributed to his decision to leave the Board.

Role of AAGs: Mr. Herlihy met with the AAGs and their supervisor, Jacob Humbert, Esq. and discussed the process for signing stipulations and other documents. It was agreed that there will be a change to the AAG signature block, which will now say “approved as to form.” That will confirm that the AAG has reviewed the document from a legal perspective, but avoids confusion that the AAG may be acting for the Board in signing. For licensing stipulations, the Chair of the Licensing Committee will be added to sign for the Committee. The Chair will continue to sign off as to the Board’s final approval of the Order. A similar process will be used for disciplinary stipulations, with the Committee Chairs signing for the Committee on the stipulation, which will continue to be subject to the final approval of the Board.

Mr. Kuehl added that the role of the AAGs is to provide advice and counsel, and that the Board’s authority is stated in the law. Mr. Herlihy noted that the AAGs role includes advising members when proposed courses of action are not supported by the law, such as if there were an instance in which members were concerned about a licensee’s conduct, but the actions did not fall within the definition of “unprofessional conduct” of 26 V.S.A. § 1354.

- **Update from the work group convened to prepare a mission statement for the Board.**

Ms. McClain summarized the work group’s process. Members reviewed the VDH mission statement, multiple state medical board mission statements, and a newsletter article about the Board’s work. The result was a proposed draft, which Ms. McClain read:

“The Vermont Board of Medical Practice protects the health and promotes the safety of Vermonters while maintaining professional integrity through licensure and investigation of complaints in a fair manner respectful of all parties.”

Dr. Payne suggested changing “while” to “by” to make it clear that the Board is protecting the health and well-being of the public by licensure and investigations. Dr. Hildebrant, Dr. Tandoh, and Dr. Liebow expressed support for the change.

There was discussion of whether the statement should then be approved by motion. It was noted that two members were absent and that the matter could wait until the next meeting. Ms. McClain said the final version would be included on the agenda for the May meeting for approval.

7. Recess; Convene hearing to discuss any stipulations or disciplinary matters that are before the Board:

- **In re: Lauren Feltz, AA-C – Stipulation, Re-Entry Plan, and Consent Order – Licensing Matter**

Mr. Sheng addressed the Board, summarizing the facts leading up to the Stipulation, Re-Entry Plan, and Consent Order. Dr. Hildebrant made a motion to approve the Stipulation, Re-Entry Plan, and Consent Order. Dr. Tandoh seconded the motion.

Ms. LaFond recorded the roll-call vote: The motion passed; Yeas: Maureen Bogosian; Brent Burgee, MD; Gail Falk; Matt Greenberg, MD; Francis Heald; Rick A. Hildebrant, MD; Patricia Hunter; Suzanne Jones, PA-C; Leo LeCours; David Liebow, DPM; Sarah McClain; Christine Payne, MD; Marga Sproul, MD; Margaret Tandoh, MD; Robert E. Tortolani, MD. Opposed: none; Abstained: none; Recused: none.

8. Reconvene meeting; Executive Session to Discuss:

- **Investigative cases recommended for closure**
- **Other matters that are confidential by law, if any**

Dr. Liebow made a motion at 1:26PM to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential matters related to investigations. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

9. Return to Open Session; Board Actions on matters discussed in Executive Session:

Dr. Hildebrant made a motion at 2:00PM to return to Open Session Dr. Liebow seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; recused: none; abstained: none.

Mr. LeCours, North Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPN 145-0921 –Letter #1

Ms. Hunter made a motion to close the cases presented. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: North Investigative Committee.

Dr. Payne, Central Investigative Committee, asked to close:

MPC 117-0821 – Special Letter #1

MPC 166-1121 – Special Letter #1

MPC 001-0122 – Special Letter #1 – Dr. Liebow and Dr. Tortolani recused

Dr. Hildebrant made a motion to close the cases presented. Ms. Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed; opposed: none; abstained: none; recused: Central Investigative Committee.

10. Board Actions on Committee recommendations regarding any non-confidential matters:

None

11. Upcoming Board meetings, committee meetings, hearings, etc.: [Locations are subject to change. You will be notified if a change takes place.](#)

- **April 14, 2022, North Investigative Committee Meeting, 9 AM, *108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT and remote via Teams***
- **April 15, 2022, Central Investigative Committee Meeting, 9 AM, *108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT and remote via Teams***
- **April 20, 2022, Board Meeting on pending applications, 12:10 PM, *108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT and remote via Teams***
- **April 20, 2022, South Investigative Committee Meeting, 12:15 PM, *108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT and remote via Teams***
- **May 4, 2022, Licensing Committee Meeting, 11:00 AM, *108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT and remote via Teams***
- **May 4, 2022, Board Meeting, 12:00 PM, *108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT and remote via Teams***

12. Open Forum:

None

13. Adjourn: Ms. McClain declared the meeting adjourned at 2:03PM.

APPENDIX A

PRESENTATION OF FULL APPLICATIONS

April 6, 2022

Note: Applicants listed below have been notified that their applications for licensure appear to be complete and may be presented at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

**** Must pass through licensing prior to being presented.**

Name	School	Specialty	Practice Location
Afshar, Saba MD	University of Queensland (Australia)	Psychiatry (BC)	UVMMC
Andreasen, Steven DPM	Kent State University		Gifford
Antall, Ingrid MD	George Washington University	Family Medicine	AmWell
Argersinger, Erika PA-C	Franklin Pierce		APD Gynecology
Baker, William MD	UVM	Emergency Medicine (BC)	UVMMC
Boniface, Catherine MD	Med Univ of S. Carolina	OB/GYN	UVMMC
Bouchard II, Michael DPM	Des Moines University		DPM
Contreras-Urby, Dolores MD	University of Texas	physical Medicine (BC)	MT. Ascutney
**Diamond, Lewis MD	University Cork College (Ireland)	Anesthesiology (BC)	UVMMC
**Digangi, Danielle PA-C	Barry University		NWVMC Orthopedics
**Dominguez, Julie MD	University of Texas Southwestern	Internal Medicine (BC)	Cricket Health
Eskew, Lawrence MD	Wake Forest University	Urology (BC)	Revive Healthcare
Farrell, Georgia MD	Michigan State University	Internal Medicine (BC)	UVMMC
**Feltz, Lauren AA-C	Nova Southeastern		SWVMC
**Fleischman, Joan MD	Harvard Medical School	Family Practice (BC)	Early Options
Fournier, Olivia MD	Western Michigan University	Psychiatry	WRJ VA
Fung-Janardhan, Arjun MD	UVM	Internal Medicine (BC)	UVMMC
Gordon, Scott MD	Michigan State University	Psychiatry (BC)	Thriveworks
**Gosselin, Jeanne MD	UVM	Internal Medicine (BC)	UVMMC
Holyoke, Alban MD	Wright State University	Emergency Medicine (BC)	Brattleboro Hospital
**Joseph, James MD	SUNY Stony Brook	Orthopedic Surgery (BC)	Northwestern Orthopedics

Kaplita, Jillian MD	Frank Netter SOM	Ophthalmology	New England Vision
Klett, Eric MD	Med Univ. of South Carolina	Endocrinology (BC)	UVMMC
**Kobin, Emily MD	Temple University	Internal Medicine (BC)	DHMC
Laufer, Marc MD	University of Pennsylvania	OB?GYN (BC)	Brigham and Womens
Levit, Elle MD	SUNY Stony Brook	Neurology (BC)	UVMMC
**Lovoulos, Constantinos MD	Aristotelian University (Greece)	Thoracic Surgery (BC)	UVMMC
Madden, Keeva MD	Trinity College (Ireland)		UVMMC
Mann, Julianne MD	Dartmouth	Dermatology (BC)	DHMC
Merola, Joseph MD	NYU	Dermatology (BC)	Telehealth
**Munn, Charles MD	Boston University	Diagnostic Radiology (BC)	TBD
Muse, Jordan PA-C	Mass College of Pharmacy		TBD
Paradee, Chris PA-C	University of Lynchburg		TBD
Pierce, David PA-C	Franklin Pierce University		RRMC Dept Surgery
Plimpton, Jamie PA-C	University of Utah		DHMC Family Medicine
Rai, Aayushi MD	Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland)	Diagnostic Radiology (BC)	UVMMC
Ramadan-Nassar PA-C	Towson University		Tele-Health Solution
Richardson, Sean MD	St. Georges University (Grenada)	Radiology (BC)	NWVMC
**Saconn, Paul MD	University of North Carolina	Radiation Oncology (BC)	SWVMC
Saikali, Peter MD	University of Toronto	Internal Medicine (BC)	Telemedicine
**Sherif, Ajfar MD	Amer Univ. of Antigua (Antigua)	Family Practice (BC)	TBD
Shover, Carolyn MD	Medical College of Georgia	Emergency Medicine (BC)	TBD
**Steiner, Andrew MD			
Suler, Sima MD	University of Sarajevo (Bosnia)	Family Practice (BC)	MedExpress
**Teklu, Abebe MD	University of Minnesota	Cytopathology (BC)	DHMC
Villa, Natalie MD	David Geffen SOM	Dermatology	DHMC
Walker, Mackenzie PA-C	Mass College of Pharmacy		NOTCH
**Wasef, Michael MD	University of South Florida	Internal Medicine (BC)	Telemedicine
Watson, Joseph MD	Ross University (Dominica)	Internal Medicine (BC)	RRMC

**Wendling, Claire MD

University of Michigan

Psychiatry (BC)

VAMC

**Wetherill, Patricia MD

University of Missouri

Internal Medicine (BC)

Med. Reserve Corps.

4/6/2022

Presentation of Limited Temporary License Applications for Board Approval

26 VSA Section 1391 (e) authorizes a limited temporary license to practice medicine/Podiatry in the State of Vermont for a period of one year only. The following persons have applied for limited temporary licenses:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Type</u>
Bruce, Robert MD	Radiology	UVMMC	4/1/22	MD
**Chaudhry, Monazza MD	Pulmonary/Critical Care	UVMMC	4/1/22	MD
Vecchio, Marc MD	Gastroenterology	UVMMC	4/1/22	MD
Winter, Michael MD	Surgery	UVMMC	4/1/22	MD

** Must pass through licensing prior to being presented.

These applications appear to have met the requirements. The Board, pursuant to 26 VSA Section 1391 (e), grants to each of them a limited temporary license.

**PRESENTATION OF FULL APPLICATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED THROUGH THE
COMPACT**

***Note: Applicants listed below have already received a license through the compact.
April 6, 2022***

Credential Number	Name
<u>042.0015797-COMP</u>	Stuart Alva Babcock
<u>042.0015798-COMP</u>	Saravana Balaraman
<u>042.0015799-COMP</u>	Robert Nathan Blatman
<u>042.0015800-COMP</u>	Shannon Bownds
<u>042.0015801-COMP</u>	Chris Tara Bulaon Delos Reyes
<u>042.0015802-COMP</u>	Catherine Esther DuBeau
<u>042.0015803-COMP</u>	Sarah Rose Durante
<u>042.0015804-COMP</u>	Sheila L Feyrer
<u>042.0015805-COMP</u>	Timothy John Fisher
<u>042.0015806-COMP</u>	Tina Clark-Samazan Foster
<u>042.0015807-COMP</u>	Arvin Joseph Gallanosa
<u>042.0015808-COMP</u>	eileen Frances granahan
<u>042.0015809-COMP</u>	Tricia Groff
<u>042.0015810-COMP</u>	Karen Hsu Blatman
<u>042.0015811-COMP</u>	Sharone Lynn Jensen
<u>042.0015812-COMP</u>	Barbara Christine Jobst MD
<u>042.0015813-COMP</u>	H. Samuel Landsman
<u>042.0015814-COMP</u>	Jeanie Leddon
<u>042.0015815-COMP</u>	Frances B Lim-Liberty
<u>042.0015816-COMP</u>	Isabel Stewart Lowell
<u>042.0015817-COMP</u>	Jeffrey Craig Mazique
<u>042.0015818-COMP</u>	Deborah L Ornstein
<u>042.0015819-COMP</u>	Mollie Woehling Philip
<u>042.0015820-COMP</u>	Erin Leanne Reigh
<u>042.0015821-COMP</u>	Akayla Dawntress Robinson
<u>042.0015822-COMP</u>	Gary Neil Schwartz
<u>042.0015823-COMP</u>	Stephanie Nicole Seasly
<u>042.0015824-COMP</u>	Jonathan Shaw
<u>042.0015825-COMP</u>	Suzanne Davey Shipman
<u>042.0015826-COMP</u>	Mark Christopher Smith
<u>042.0015827-COMP</u>	Scott William Smith

<u>042.0015828-COMP</u>	Aleksandra Catherine Stark
<u>042.0015829-COMP</u>	Kris Medical Strohbehn
<u>042.0015830-COMP</u>	Jawahar Sundaram
<u>042.0015831-COMP</u>	Susanne Elizabeth Tanski
<u>042.0015832-COMP</u>	David Thomas Zamos
<u>042.0015833-COMP</u>	Emily Jane Zaragoza
<u>042.0015834-COMP</u>	Paul Zhang
<u>042.0015845-COMP</u>	Andres Abreu
<u>042.0015846-COMP</u>	Sheilla Marie Bachelder
<u>042.0015847-COMP</u>	Lillybeth Acosta Birriel
<u>042.0015848-COMP</u>	Ilana Cass
<u>042.0015849-COMP</u>	Jeffrey Allen Cohen
<u>042.0015850-COMP</u>	Bradford Lee Cottrell Dr
<u>042.0015851-COMP</u>	Jason Scott Finkelstein
<u>042.0015852-COMP</u>	Marathon Chinyere Health
<u>042.0015853-COMP</u>	Laura M Greer
<u>042.0015854-COMP</u>	Maryam Gul
<u>042.0015855-COMP</u>	Michael V. Heinz
<u>042.0015856-COMP</u>	Thomas Wayne Hysler Jr
<u>042.0015857-COMP</u>	Chester Gregory Laskowski
<u>042.0015858-COMP</u>	Bonnie Lau
<u>042.0015859-COMP</u>	Christopher Lindshield
<u>042.0015860-COMP</u>	Daniel L Meltzer
<u>042.0015861-COMP</u>	Douglas Taylor Nelsen
<u>042.0015862-COMP</u>	Samuel J Ogden
<u>042.0015863-COMP</u>	Amy Paris
<u>042.0015864-COMP</u>	Juan Fernando Ramirez
<u>042.0015865-COMP</u>	Elizabeth Shaker
<u>042.0015866-COMP</u>	Catherine D. Shubkin
<u>042.0015867-COMP</u>	David Nathan Woznica
<u>042.0015868-COMP</u>	Eric L. Bronstein
<u>042.0015869-COMP</u>	Kristin Oberg Burdick
<u>042.0015870-COMP</u>	Timothy Edward Burdick
<u>042.0015871-COMP</u>	Amy Mei Mei Chan
<u>042.0015872-COMP</u>	Brian Lee Crenshaw
<u>042.0015873-COMP</u>	Yan Li
<u>042.0015874-COMP</u>	Gregory Matthew McCarthy

<u>042.0015875-COMP</u>	Stephen Andrew Dawkins
<u>042.0015876-COMP</u>	Brent Galloway
<u>042.0015877-COMP</u>	Kathleen T Jordan
<u>042.0015878-COMP</u>	Margaret Drinker Stephens