

Business Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2025



WASHINGTON
**Medical
Commission**
Licensing. Accountability. Leadership.

Virtual Meeting via Teams Webinar

Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/sks7tMUYwnk>

Commission Members

Michael Bailey, Public Member – Absent
Christine Blake, Public Member
Toni Borlas, Public Member – Absent
Daniel Cabrera, MD – Absent
Po-Shen Chang, MD
Jimmy Chung, MD – Absent
Diana Currie, MD (V)
Karen Domino, MD, Chair (V)
Arlene Dorrough, PA-C – Absent
Anjali D’Souza, MD (V)
Harlan Gallinger, MD – Absent

April Jaeger, MD (V)
Jamie Koop, Public Member – Absent
Ed Lopez, PA-C, Officer-at-Large
Sarah Lyle, MD
Terry Murphy, MD, Vice Chair
Elisha Mvundura, MD – Absent
Robert Pullen, Public Member – Absent
Scott Rodgers, JD, Public Member
Claire Trescott, MD (V)
Richard Wohns, MD – Absent

WMC Staff in Attendance

Taylor Bacharach-Nixon, Management Analyst (V)	Mike Hively, Director of Operations & Informatics
Colleen Balatbat, Staff Attorney (V)	Jenelle Houser, Investigator
Jennifer Batey, Legal Support Staff Manager	Ken Imes, Information Liaison
Anjali Bhatt, Bus. Practices & Productivity Manager	Kyle Karinen, Executive Director
Amelia Boyd, Program Manager	Shelley Kilmer-Ready, Legal Assistant (V)
Carolynn Bradley, Mgmt Analyst/Contract Manager	Sara Kirschenman, Staff Attorney (V)
Kayla Bryson, Executive Assistant	Christopher Knight, Management Analyst (V)
Jimi Bush, Director of Quality & Engagement	Mike Kramer, Compliance Officer (V)
Adam Calica, Chief Investigator	Lisa Krynicki, Staff Attorney (V)
Emily Cason, Licensing Specialist (V)	Emma Marienthal, Licensing Lead (V)
Carmen Challender, Health Services Consultant (V)	Stephanie Mason, Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison
Sarah Chenvert, Performance Manager (V)	Micah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director
Marisa Courtney, Licensing Manager	Lynne Miller, Paralegal
Joel DeFazio, Staff Attorney (V)	Freda Pace, Director of Investigations
Anthony Elders, Compliance Officer (V)	Stormie Redden, Legal Assistant
Gina Fino, Director of Compliance	Kim Shiner, Forms & Records Analyst (V)
Michael Farrell, Supervising Staff Attorney	Chris Waterman, Complaint Intake Manager
Ryan Furbush, Paralegal	Trisha Wolf, Staff Attorney (V)
Rick Glein, Director of Legal Services (V)	Mahi Zeru, Equity & Social Justice Manager (V)
Kayla Gregory, Healthcare Investigator (V)	

Others in Attendance

Marlon Basco-Rodillas, Dept. of Health (DOH)	Billie Dickinson, Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) (V)
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)	Hal Goldberg, Pro Tem Commissioner
Kristin Brewer, AAG	

Others in Attendance continued

Maria Higginbotham

Hillary Norris, WSMA (V)

Cyndi Hoenhaus, Co-Chair, Washington Patients
In Intractable Pain

Gabriel S. (V)

(V) indicates the participant attended virtually

1.0 Call to Order

Terry Murphy, MD, Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Washington Medical Commission (WMC) to order at 9:36 a.m. on March 14, 2025.

2.0 Public Comment

Cindy Hoenhaus, Co-Chair of WashPIP, provided comments for patients struggling with opioid prescribing rules. She warned that current policies allow non-medical interference, leading to strict dose limits that harm those with intractable pain. She urged the WMC to clarify its stance, focusing on patient outcomes rather than rigid dosage rules. She stated that WashPIP supports clear language to prevent undertreatment and unnecessary tapering, ensuring doctors base treatment on documentation and overall patient well-being, not just dosage numbers.

3.0 Chair Report

Dr. Karen Domino, Chair, stated she was away attending the Federation of State Medical Boards workshop regarding the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). She went on to say she would provide a full report on the workshop at the next business meeting.

4.0 Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

4.1 Agenda for March 14, 2025

4.2 Minutes from the January 10, 2025, Business Meeting

Motion: The Vice Chair entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Nominating Committee

Dr. April Jaeger, Committee member, stated the Nominating Committee recommends these candidates for the following positions:

- Chair – Terry Murphy, MD
- Vice Chair – Ed Lopez, PA-C
- Officer-at-Large – Elisha Mvundura, MD

Kyle Karinen, Executive Director, stated that the leadership election will be held during the Business Meeting on May 9, 2025. Commissioners interested in serving in leadership who are not among the three nominees are encouraged to put themselves forward at the meeting.

5.2 Outstanding Performance Awards

Kyle Karinen, Executive Director, presented the awards as follows:

- Administrative Staff – Ken Imes, Information Liaison
- Investigative Staff – Meghan King, Complaint Intake Coordinator
- Legal Staff – Lisa Krynicki, Staff Attorney

5.3 Petition for Declaratory Order

Mr. Karinen presented the petition for declaratory order from Dr. David Penner regarding licensure requirements for independent medical examiners. He then asked Heather Carter, AAG, to provide additional information.

Ms. Carter explained that Under state law, when an agency receives a petition like this, it has 15 days to notify interested parties and 30 days to take one of three actions:

1. issue an order;
2. decline to issue an order; or
3. schedule proceedings for a later date.

She recommended WMC staff notify the interested parties and the petitioner within the 15-day window. Then, at the next business meeting on May 9, 2025, the Commission can discuss the petition, take public comment, and decide whether to issue an order or not. Since the law allows up to 90 days to take further action, the May meeting falls well within that timeframe.

This specific petition asks whether the Commission requires individuals performing IMEs (Independent Medical Examinations) in Washington to be licensed in Washington. Since this issue comes up periodically, it would be worth reviewing. Additional legal guidance can be prepared before the next meeting to assist with the discussion.

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Committee/Workgroup Reports

These reports were provided in writing and included in the meeting packet. There were no additional reports provided.

6.2 Rulemaking Activities

The rulemaking progress report was provided in the meeting packet. In addition to the written report, Amelia Boyd, Program Manager, made the following request:

- 6.2.1 Initiate a CR-102, Proposed Rulemaking, which is the next step in the rulemaking process for establishing the use of nitrous oxide in office-based surgery settings.

During the meeting, Ms. Boyd stated that the hearing was tentatively scheduled for May 9th; however, the correct tentative date is August 22, 2025.

Motion: The Vice Chair called for a motion to authorize the filing of a CR-102 to initiate the next step in the rulemaking process. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

6.3 Commissioner Code of Conduct

Mr. Karinen presented the document for review and discussion as part of its scheduled

three-year review. He noted a minor wording change but otherwise recommended reaffirming the document with that revision.

Motion: The Vice Chair called for a motion to reaffirm the document with the noted amendment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

6.4 Research Unit – Upcoming Projects

Jimi Bush, Director of Quality and Engagement, invited Commissioners to assist in the content creation and editing of two FSMB conference posters on practitioner support and healthcare discrimination.

7.0 Policy Committee Report

Christine Blake, Public Member, Policy Committee Chair, reported on the items discussed at the Policy Committee meeting held on February 27, 2025.

7.1 Policy: Complaints Against Students, Residents, and Fellows

Ms. Blake stated that the Committee recommended postponing consideration of this policy to a future meeting to allow for further revisions. Micah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director, noted that the document included in the packet had been updated per the Committee's request. Mr. Matthews then provided a summary of those amendments.

Motion: The Committee Chair entertained a motion to adopt this document with the noted amendments. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

7.2 Guidance Document: Sexual Misconduct and Abuse (GUI2017-03)

Ms. Blake stated that the Committee recommended approving the document with the noted amendments. Mr. Matthews provided a summary of the amendments.

Motion: The Committee Chair entertained a motion to adopt this document with the noted amendments. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

7.3 Policy: Elective Educational Rotations (POL2020-01)

Ms. Blake stated that this document was reviewed as part of its scheduled four-year review process. The Committee recommended approving the document for DOH Secretary review with the noted amendments and title change.

Motion: The Committee Chair entertained a motion to approve this document for DOH Secretary review with the noted amendments. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

7.4 Interpretive Statement: Opioid Prescribing & Monitoring for Allopathic Physicians and Physician Assistants

Ms. Blake stated that this document was reviewed and revised due to the recent changes in the WMC's opioid prescribing rules as well as a public request. The Committee recommended approving the document for DOH Secretary review with the noted amendments.

Motion: The Committee Chair entertained a motion to approve this document for DOH Secretary review with the noted amendments. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

7.5 Interpretive Statement: Opioid Prescribing & Monitoring for Patients

Ms. Blake stated that this document was reviewed and revised due to the recent changes in the WMC's opioid prescribing rules as well as a public request. The Committee recommended approving the document for DOH Secretary review with the noted amendments.

Motion: The Committee Chair entertained a motion to approve this document for DOH Secretary review with the noted amendments. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

9.0 Member Reports

Dr. Domino reported that the FSMB invited Commissioners to attend a workshop regarding USMLE exams. She reported that so far, the presentation has focused on how the USMLE exams are developed, rather than clarifying what they want from Commissioners. It seems they may be looking for board members to help write questions or contribute to exam development, especially for Step 3, which now includes computerized clinical scenarios. Over 400 people are involved in USMLE development, and board members do participate in various roles.

10.0 Staff Reports

The reports below are in addition to the written reports that were included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Karinen noted that the FSMB Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place in Seattle this April, with several staff members and Commissioners planning to attend. As part of the event, Dr. Domino will deliver the welcome remarks.

Mr. Matthews provided an update on legislative and budget matters. House Bill 1640, which updates the Uniform Disciplinary Act by adding compact provisions, has passed the House and is scheduled for a Senate Health Care Committee hearing next week, where Taylor Nixon will testify. Senate Bill 5118, which updates the International Medical Graduate Clinical Experience License, passed the Senate the week of March 3 and had a hearing on March 14, receiving no opposition and positive feedback. On the budget front, efforts are ongoing to ensure requested funds are included in the House and Senate budgets. While some requests were included in the Governor's proposal, none appeared in the revised Governor Ferguson budget, though this seems to be a broad cut across healthcare rather than a reflection of need. The next economic forecast, expected on March 18, is likely to indicate a worsening financial outlook, with House and Senate budget proposals following the next week, which will likely spark political disagreements due to the significant deficit. Key legislative deadlines include April 2 for policy bills to pass out of committee and April 16 for bills to clear their opposite chamber unless tied to the budget. The legislative session is set to conclude on April 27, but given the large deficit, a special session is expected rather than an on-time budget agreement.

Ms. Boyd highlighted the correspondence section in the packet, which is included for informational purposes. The correspondence doesn't always relate to ongoing matters but is typically from the public wanting to share information with the Commission. Instead of sending individual emails, these messages are compiled in the business meeting packet for reference.

11.0 AAG Report

Ms. Carter reminded Commissioners of open public meeting rules when attending events like FSMB. They should refrain from discussing Commission business and keep conversations informal, avoiding official matters.

12.0 Adjournment

The Chair called the meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

Submitted by

(signature on file)

Amelia Boyd, Program Manager

(signature on file)

Terry Murphy, MD, Vice Chair
Washington Medical Commission

Approved May 9, 2025

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