

# Business Meeting Minutes

## May 9, 2025



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

### Virtual Meeting via Teams Webinar

Link to recording: [https://youtu.be/whdKnpE2834?si=LfdfZVhKYLj49C\\_1](https://youtu.be/whdKnpE2834?si=LfdfZVhKYLj49C_1)

#### Commission Members

Michael Bailey, Public Member  
Christine Blake, Public Member  
Toni Borlas, Public Member – Absent  
Daniel Cabrera, MD (V)  
Po-Shen Chang, MD  
Jimmy Chung, MD  
Diana Currie, MD (V)  
Karen Domino, MD, Chair  
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 (V)  
Robert Pullen, Public Member – Absent  
Scott Rodgers, JD, Public Member – Absent  
Claire Trescott, MD (V)  
Richard Wohns, MD (V)

#### WMC Staff in Attendance

Colleen Balatbat, Staff Attorney (V)  
Jennifer Batey, Legal Support Staff Manager  
Amelia Boyd, Program Manager  
Carolynn Bradley, Mgmt Analyst/Contract Mgr (V)  
Kayla Bryson, Executive Assistant (V)  
Jimi Bush, Director of Quality & Engagement  
Carmen Challender, Health Services Consultant  
Marisa Courtney, Licensing Manager  
Joel DeFazio, Staff Attorney  
Anthony Elders, Compliance Officer (V)  
Gina Fino, Director of Compliance  
Michael Farrell, Supervising Staff Attorney  
Rick Glein, Director of Legal Services (V)  
Jenelle Houser, Investigator  
Ken Imes, Information Liaison

Kyle Karinen, Executive Director  
Sara Kirschenman, Staff Attorney (V)  
Mike Kramer, Compliance Officer (V)  
Lisa Krynicki, Staff Attorney (V)  
Stephanie Mason, Public Information Officer  
& Legislative Liaison  
Micah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director  
Lynne Miller, Paralegal  
Fatima Mirza, Program Case Manager  
Freda Pace, Director of Investigations (V)  
Stormie Redden, Legal Assistant  
Chris Waterman, Complaint Intake Manager (V)  
Trisha Wolf, Staff Attorney (V)  
Mahi Zeru, Equity & Social Justice Manager

#### Others in Attendance

Alexa Ankrum (V)  
Theresa Bakare (V)  
Marlon Basco-Rodillas, Dept. of Health (DOH) (V)  
Dee Bender (V)  
Troy Bender (V)  
Amy Brackenbury (V)  
Kelli Camp (V)  
Heather Carter, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Ai Che (V)  
Erik Condon (V)  
Melissa Dacumos (V)  
Billie Dickinson, Washington State Medical  
Association (WSMA) (V)  
DJ Gonzales (V)  
Cyndi Hoenhous, Co-Chair, Washington Patients  
In Intractable Pain

## Others in Attendance continued

Robert Hsiung (V)  
Kayla Kerr (V)  
Marsha King (V)  
Christine Kohlsaat (V)  
Katerina LaMarche, Washington State Hospital  
Association (V)  
Ryan Lilley (V)  
Micheal McCarthy (V)  
Gail McGaffick (V)  
Teddi Mcguire (V)  
Nicole Moore, CAA (V)

Senator Ron Muzzall (V)  
Hillary Norris, WSMA (V)  
Penny Reck, MD, Pro Tem Commissioner  
Elizabeth Ross (V)  
Andrew Seong (V)  
Tami Thompson (DOH) (V)  
Susie Tracy (V)  
Kevin Van De Wege (V)  
Susanna Waldman (V)  
Fiona Williams (V)

(V) indicates the participant attended virtually

### 1.0 Call to Order

Karen Domino, MD, Chair, called the meeting of the Washington Medical Commission (WMC) to order at 10:45 a.m. on May 9, 2025.

### 2.0 Public Comment

Cindy Hoenhaus, Co-Chair of WashPIP, expressed gratitude for the WMC's amendments to the opioid prescribing rule interpretive statements, stating they align with WashPIP's proposals. She emphasized that morphine equivalent dose (MED) limits and forced tapers are harmful and should only occur for patient health and safety, as outlined in existing rules. She urged that patient care, not provider liability, should guide tapering decisions and requested ongoing representation in opioid policy discussions to ensure appropriate pain care access.

### 3.0 Chair Report

Dr. Domino delivered her final Chair report with gratitude, saying it had been an honor to serve alongside such dedicated colleagues. She appreciated the diversity of backgrounds on the Commission and how it deepened her understanding of patient safety beyond her own field of anesthesiology and pain medicine.

She highlighted two issues that stood out during her tenure: the opioid epidemic and medical misinformation. Reflecting on the book *Dreamland*, which traces the roots of the opioid crisis, she connected its themes to challenges she has observed in Washington, as well as in Michigan, where she grew up, and in Pittsburgh, where she previously lived. She also expressed concern over the impact of social media and fragmented news sources in spreading misinformation, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Domino praised the Commission's emphasis on system-based approaches to medical errors, citing her own experience at Harborview Medical Center as an example. She supported the Communication and Resolution Program process for identifying system flaws and the Practitioner Support Program for helping clinicians improve communication and record-keeping before escalating to disciplinary action.

She also encouraged members to consider participating in the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) process, where board and commission members can contribute to exam content on ethics, patient safety, and scientific reasoning. She closed by

thanking everyone for their collegiality and saying the experience had been both meaningful and rewarding.

#### **4.0 Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

**4.1** Agenda for March 14, 2025

**4.2** Minutes from January 10, 2025, Business Meeting

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

#### **5.0 New Business**

##### **5.1 Petition for Declaratory Order**

Heather Carter, AAG, provided an overview of a request from Dr. Penner for a declaratory order under the Administrative Procedures Act, asking whether conducting independent psychiatric examinations via telemedicine constitutes the practice of medicine in Washington, thereby requiring in-state licensure. The Commission deferred the decision from its last meeting to allow time for public comment, though none were received. Ms. Carter explained that for a declaratory order to be issued, the petitioner must present specific facts, demonstrate legal uncertainty, and show that they are adversely affected. She expressed concern that Dr. Penner's request lacks sufficient detail, such as the type of IME and its purpose, and may not meet the threshold for a binding order. She also noted that enforcement of unlicensed practice is handled by the Department of Health (DOH) Secretary, not the Commission. If the Commission finds the petition insufficient, it must state its reasons in a formal response.

**Motion:** The Chair called for a motion to deny the petition for a declaratory order. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

##### **5.2 Letter from Eli Lilly and Company**

Kyle Karinen, Executive Director, presented a letter from Eli Lilly and Company regarding the unauthorized compounding of tirzepatide, the active ingredient in the patented drugs Mounjaro® and Zepbound®. During a recent FDA-declared shortage, compounding of the drug was temporarily allowed. However, the FDA lifted the shortage designation in March, reinstating full patent protections. Eli Lilly is now seeking support from regulatory boards, including the Commission, to help prevent further unauthorized compounding. Mr. Karinen noted that no complaint has been filed and emphasized that compounding enforcement typically falls under the Pharmacy Commission's authority. He recommended that no action be taken unless a specific complaint is received, as the Commission is a complaint-driven body and this matter is largely outside its regulatory scope.

#### **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, stated the Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, or CR-101, for Opioid Prescribing General Provisions for MDs and PAs, was filed on April 30, 2025. Ms. Boyd requested volunteers to participate in upcoming rulemaking workshops. She explained that a small committee is typically formed for each rule to help coordinate scheduling by having a core group of three or four Commissioners. This makes it easier to align schedules and set up the workshops. She asked that anyone interested in being part of the rulemaking effort email her to express their interest.

### **6.3 Interpretive Statement: “Qualified Physician” Under Optometry Law**

Ms. Boyd presented this document and explained that it had completed its review by the Secretary of the Department of Health and that the proposed changes from that office were included in the meeting packet. She stated that the Commission could either adopt the document as presented or return it for further revisions.

**Motion:** The Chair called for a motion to adopt the document as revised. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **6.4 Interpretive Statement: Opioid Prescribing & Monitoring for Allopathic Physicians and Physician Assistants**

Ms. Boyd presented this document and explained that it had completed its review by the Secretary of the Department of Health and that the proposed changes from that office were included in the meeting packet. She stated that the Commission could either adopt the document as presented or return it for further revisions.

**Motion:** The Chair called for a motion to adopt the document as revised. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **6.5 Interpretive Statement: Opioid Prescribing & Monitoring for Patients**

Ms. Boyd presented this document and explained that it had completed its review by the Secretary of the Department of Health and that the proposed changes from that office were included in the meeting packet. She stated that the Commission could either adopt the document as presented or return it for further revisions.

**Motion:** The Chair called for a motion to adopt the document as revised. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **6.6 Policy: Visiting Student Learning Opportunity License Exemptions**

Ms. Boyd presented this document and explained that it had completed its review by the Secretary of the Department of Health and that the proposed changes from that office were included in the meeting packet. She stated that the Commission could either adopt the document as presented or return it for further revisions.

**Motion:** The Chair called for a motion to adopt the document as revised. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **7.0 Policy Committee Report**

Christine Blake, Public Member, Policy Committee Chair, reported on the items discussed at the Policy Committee meeting held on May 1, 2025.

### **7.1 Request for WMC Commissioner Volunteers for Small Workgroup on Medical Marijuana Authorization Guidelines**

Ms. Blake asked Micah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director, to present this request. Mr. Matthews clarified that this request is for Commissioners. He stated that the DOH periodically reviews and revises medical authorization guidelines for cannabis across healthcare boards and commissions. The goal was to update the guidelines based on new research and create a consistent set for approval or adoption by the various boards. He addressed a question about the difference between medical cannabis and recreational marijuana, explaining that medical authorization provides tax exemptions by reducing taxes at the producer, wholesale, and retail levels, making it less expensive for patients.

Commissioners who would like to volunteer for this workgroup should contact Ms. Boyd at [amelia.boyd@wmc.wa.gov](mailto:amelia.boyd@wmc.wa.gov).

**7.2 Policy: Practitioners Exhibiting Disruptive Behavior (MD2021-01)**

Ms. Blake stated that this document was presented as part of its scheduled four-year review. She stated that the Committee recommended reaffirming the document as written.

**Motion:** The Committee Chair entertained a motion to reaffirm this document. The motion was approved unanimously.

**7.3 Procedure: Interactive and Transparent Development of Evidence-based Policies and Guidelines (PRO2018-02)**

Ms. Blake stated that the Committee recommended deferring this item to a future meeting because a new Policy Manager would be starting soon, and the Committee wanted them to review and suggest revisions to the procedure.

**7.4 Guidance Document: Medical Professionalism**

Ms. Blake stated that this document was presented as part of its scheduled four-year review. She stated that the Committee recommended deferring this document for additional work based on comments received.

**7.5 Proposed: Joint Guidance for Retail Intravenous Therapy Clinics**

Ms. Blake asked Mike Farrell, Supervising Staff Attorney, to present this document. Mr. Farrell explained that four boards and commissions including the WMC, the Washington Board of Nursing, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, and the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission, collaborated to address the growing issue of IV hydration clinics and related legal concerns, with a particular focus on absentee medical directors who fail to provide adequate supervision, potentially resulting in pharmacy regulation violations. A workgroup, including WMC Commissioners Dr. Murphy and Dr. Jaeger, developed a draft policy largely based on a joint statement from West Virginia. The four boards and commissions reviewed and provided feedback on the draft. The WMC's Policy Committee incorporated many of these suggestions, aiming to keep the guidance general to assist medical directors and nursing staff in practicing responsibly. Mr. Farrell emphasized that this was an ongoing process and not up for adoption at that time. Rather, he sought feedback to refine the draft before returning it for final approval by the four boards and commissions.

## 9.0 Member Reports

No members provided a report.

## 10.0 Staff Reports

Written reports were included in the meeting packet. No additional reports were provided.

## 11.0 AAG Report

Ms. Carter had nothing to report.

## 12.0 Leadership Elections

### 12.1 Restatement of Nominating Committee Report

Dr. Domino restated the nominations for the following leadership positions:

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

### 12.2 Nominations from the Floor

Dr. Domino called for nominations for all positions from the panel of Commissioners. No additional nominations were received.

### 12.3 Election of Leadership

Dr. Domino stated the slate of candidates was elected by a formal vote.

## 13.0 Adjournment

The Chair called the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Submitted by

(signature on file)

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Amelia Boyd, Program Manager

(signature on file)

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Terry Murphy, MD, Chair  
Washington Medical Commission

Approved August 22, 2025

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