

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure  
Board of Registration of Physician Assistants  
250 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02108**

**Public Meeting Minutes**

**January 9, 2025**

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Physician Assistants (the Board) was held remotely with video and audio conference as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations, signed into law on July 16, 2022.

Attendees were informed that the meeting was being recorded.

Jaime Jaronko, Chair, noted a quorum of members present via video or phone and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Julie Hurley, DSc PAS, MS, PA-C, Physician Assistant 1  
Jaime Jaronko, PA-C, Physician Assistant 4, Chair  
Ryan Lapham, Public Member 1  
Guerline Menard, MMS, PA-C, Physician Assistant 3  
Jessica Spissinger, PA-C, PA Educator  
Melissa Sundberg, MD, Physician Member  
Kenneth Wakwe, PA-C, Physician Assistant 2

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kevin Simon, MD, MMS Physician Member

**STAFF PRESENT**

Lisa Guglietta, Board Executive Director  
Katie Goldrick, Board Associate Executive Director  
Rebecca Barros, Esq., Board Counsel  
Lauren McShane, Investigative Supervisor  
Lisa Seeley-Murphy, Investigator  
Anastasia Bouikidis, Investigations Intern  
Lauren Nelson, Esq., Deputy Director  
Heather Engman, Esq., Chief Board Counsel  
Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy  
Gillian Coffey, Health Communications Manager

**ATTENDANCE:**

Chair Jaime Jaronko took attendance by roll call and a quorum of board members was recorded with the following members present via video conference: *Hurley, Jaronko, Lapham, Menard, Spissinger, Sundberg, Wakwe*

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Chair Jaime Jaronko asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Thereafter a motion was made by Kenneth Wakwe seconded by Melissa Sundberg and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the January 9, 2025 agenda as drafted.**

*in-favor: Hurley, Jaronko, Lapham, Menard, Spissinger, Sundberg, Wakwe*

*opposed: none*

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND OPEN MEETING LAW REQUIREMENTS**

Rebecca Barros, Board Counsel, reviewed Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Law requirements with the Board. Members should contact the Executive Director or Attorney Barros with questions about possible conflicts with applicants, petitioners, or cases before the Board as soon as possible before meetings.

#### **PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Jaime Jaronko asked for a motion to approve the draft public meeting minutes of December 12, 2024.

Thereafter a motion was made by Guerline Menard, seconded by Julie Hurley and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the public meeting minutes of December 12, 2024 as drafted.**

*in-favor: Hurley, Jaronko, Lapham, Menard, Spissinger, Sundberg, Wakwe*

*opposed: none*

#### **EMERGENCY AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SHIELD LAW**

Bureau Deputy Director, Lauren Nelson, Esq. presented the proposed emergency amendments to 263 CMR 3.00: Licensure of Individual Physician Assistants and 263 CMR 6.00: Investigations, Complaints and Board Actions.

The proposed emergency amendments implement and codify into regulation the provisions of M.G.L. c. 112, § 9H, as amended by St. 2022, c. 127, [\*An Act Expanding Protections for Reproductive and Gender Affirming Care\*](#) (Chapter 127). This statute protects physician assistants from disqualification from licensure, and from Board discipline, on the basis of providing, or assisting in providing, **reproductive health care services and gender affirming health care services** if the services provided would be lawful and consistent with good professional practice in Massachusetts. The protection extends to discipline based on a judgment, discipline, or other sanction arising from such services.

Ms. Nelson explained to the Board that the amendment requires emergency approval to reassure physician assistants that their Massachusetts license will not be disciplined due to the provision of reproductive health care services and gender affirming health care services or due to a conviction, judgment, discipline, or other sanction in another jurisdiction arising from such services and to provide clarity for Massachusetts licensees regarding legally protected health care services in light of rapidly evolving variations in the laws applicable to these services across different states.

Ms. Nelson explained that the new section **3.10: Legally Protected Health Care Activity** is proposed to be added to 263 CMR 3.00: *Licensure of Individual Physician Assistants*. In addition, new language is proposed to be added to 263 CMR 6.03: *Grounds for Board Action*. She explained the emergency regulation process and took questions from Board members. Board staff will receive a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to distribute to Board members.

At the conclusion of board member questions, a motion was made by Guerline Menard, seconded by Melissa Sundberg and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the filing of the emergency regulatory amendments with the Secretary of State's office and allowing for the public commencement period.**

*in-favor: Hurley, Jaronko, Lapham, Menard, Spissinger, Sundberg, Wakwe*

*opposed: none*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair announced that the next Board meeting is February 13, 2025 and asked who would be attending. All members confirmed their attendance at the next meeting except for Ryan Lapham who may not be able to attend.

At 9:17 a.m. a motion was made by Melissa Sundberg, seconded by Guerline Menard and VOTED (roll call); **to end the public session and go into closed session per G.L. c. 112, § 65C.**

*in-favor: Hurley, Jaronko, Lapham, Menard, Spissinger, Wakwe*

*opposed: none*

### **NEW AND OPEN CASES**

The Board took the following actions during closed session:

#### **Investigative Case Conference: [Closed Session: G.L. c. 112, § 65C]**

1. SA-INV-18481 – *Dismiss for Insufficient Evidence*
2. CASE-2023-0554 - *Dismiss for Insufficient Evidence*
3. PA-2023-0004 - *Dismiss*
4. PA-2023-0005 – *Investigate further and bring Licensee to Executive Session*
5. CAS-2023-1122 – *Dismiss for Insufficient Evidence*
6. PA-2023-002 – *Dismiss with Advisory Letter*
7. CASE-2023-0407 – *Dismiss for Insufficient Evidence*

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa M. Guglietta, Executive Director  
Board of Registration of Physician Assistants

#### **Documents used by the Board during open session:**

- *Posted agenda 1/9/2025*

- *Draft public meeting minutes of 12/12/2024*