1 **MEETING MINUTES** 2 3 August 8, 2022 4 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. 5 Physician Assistant Board Meeting Was Held Via WebEx 6 7 1. Call to Order by President 8 9 President Armenta called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. 10 2. Roll Call 11 12 Staff called the roll. A quorum was present. 13 14 15 **Board Members Present:** Charles Alexander, PhD Juan Armenta, Esq. 16 Jennifer Carlquist, PA-C 17 Jed Grant, PA-C 18 19 Randy Hawkins, M.D. 20 Diego Inzunza, PA-C Vasco Deon Kidd, PA-C 21 22 23 **Board Members Absent:** Sonya Earley, PA-C 24 25 Staff Present: Rozana Khan, Executive Officer 26 Michael Kanotz, Attorney III Karen Halbo, Regulatory Counsel, Attorney III 27 28 Kristy Voong, Assistant Executive Officer 29 Jasmine Dhillon, Legislative/Regulatory Specialist Julie Caldwell, Lead Licensing Analyst 30 Christina Haydon, Enforcement Analyst 31 32 Armando Melendez, Complaint Analyst 33 Virginia Gerard, Probation Monitor 34 Ariel Gompers, Administrative Analyst 35 3. Consider Approval of May 9, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes 36 37 38 M/ Vasco Deon Kidd S/ Jed Grant to: 39 40 Approve the May 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes. 41 Yes Member No Abstain Absent Recusal Charles Alexander Χ Χ Juan Armenta Jennifer Carlquist Χ Sonya Earley Χ Χ

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No public comment.

Vasco Deon Kidd

Jed Grant Diego Inzunza

4. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

(Note: The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment section that is not included on this agenda, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda for a future meeting. [Government Code Sections 11125, 11125.7(a).])

No public comment.

5. President's Report

A. DCA Approved Waivers Relating to the Practice of Physician Assistants

Mr. Armenta stated that after the State of California was placed into a state of emergency by the Governor, there are various waivers with respect to licensing and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. In coordination with state and local efforts, the Governor extended those with the seventh amendment to the Declaration on March 11, 2021; those waivers continue presently, and specifications are available on the Board's website.

No public comment.

6. Executive Officer's Report

A. Office Operations

Ms. Khan reported that the Board is managing ongoing teleworking for staff while continuing to balance office operations.

B. Personnel

Effective July 1, 2022, Jasmine Dhillon has been promoted to Staff Services Manager I (SSM I) [Specialist], to serve as the Legislative and Regulatory Specialist for the Board. This is the Board's first SSM I Specialist position. Historically, the incumbent tracking legislation and coordinating all rulemaking activity for the Board has always been from the Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) classification. However, due to the demand of the position and the high-level involvement in the decision-making process, the position no longer can be sustained at an AGPA level.

Ms. Dhillon joined the Board on March 8, 2021, as a Legislative and Regulatory Analyst. She has consistently demonstrated her ability to successfully assume increased responsibilities and works independently and tactfully while providing a broad range of high-level complex analytical and consultative duties as they relate to the Board's legislative and regulatory processes.

C. Annual Report

As fiscal year 2021-22 came to an end, Board staff worked diligently in submitting its Annual Report to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The Annual Report is an opportunity for the Board to demonstrate its accomplishments, provide program information such as position counts, board membership, license requirements, fees,

continuing education, licensing and enforcement statistics, and regulatory and legislative updates in the past 12 months. The report will undergo DCA's review and approval process before its publication.

D. Outreach

Board staff is looking forward to attending the California Academy of PAs (CAPA) Conference (CAPACon) in Carlsbad, California. CAPACon will be held during Physician Assistant Week, October 6 to October 9, 2022. Staff will be available to answer licensee and student questions and disseminate Laws & Regulations booklets relating to the practice of physician assistants (PA). The Board thanks CAPA for the outreach opportunity and looks forward to conducting more outreach events throughout the year to further the Board's strategic goal of informing consumers, licensees, applicants, and other stakeholders about the practice and regulation of the PA profession.

E. Information Technology

Development of the instructional video to assist applicants with licensure is currently on hold. The DCA Public Information Officer assigned to assist the Board with the production of the video has taken a promotional opportunity with another state agency. The development of the instructional video will resume once a replacement is hired.

The redesigned Board website is close to being completed. The site is currently undergoing a final accessibility check and will go live once this process is complete. The new website will include increased functionality, streamline the information presented and a more user-friendly interface.

The Board continues to utilize its subscriber alert system, social media accounts and website to maximize outreach, which serve as the primary communication tools for licensees and members of the public.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of which Board staff members will be attending the conference, Ms. Khan responded that as of now, the attendees will be the Assistant Executive Officer, the Lead Licensing Analyst and the Legislative Specialist. However, this has not been finalized.

In response to Dr. Hawkins' question of, have there been any issues with the Board attending the CAPA conference, Mr. Armenta stated that in the past the Board has had issues with attempting to coordinate the Board meetings at the same time as the CAPA conference. Due to logistics and timing, the two events have become unaligned.

Mr. Grant stated that the Board had discussions at previous Board meetings about whether it would be worthwhile to continue to alter the Board's schedule to hold the meeting at the CAPA conference as the Board has done previously. The result of these discussions was that rescheduling the Board's meeting would cause issues with the 100-day limit between meetings. The Board decided by unanimous vote to keep the Board meeting in November, rather than trying to have a meeting in October.

No public comment.

7. Board Activity Reports

A. Licensing

Licensing Population by Type Report as of July 21, 2022:

Ms. Caldwell reported that this report provides an overall view of the licensing population and different statuses.

Total Licensing Population: 23,087

Current Licenses: 15,881

Current Inactive: 32

Temporary Family Support: 2

Total: 15,915

Summary of Licensing Activity Report for April 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022:

Ms. Caldwell reported that this report provides a breakdown of how many applications the Board received for an initial license.

Initial Applications received – 431 Licenses issued – 358 Licenses renewed – 1,685

Pending Application Workload Report as of July 21, 2022:

Ms. Caldwell reported that this report provides a breakdown of the workload for the staff members who are overseeing the initial applications. The report gives the Board a general idea of how long it can take to process an application. The first pie chart is the desk age, and this chart reflects how long the application has been with the Board and has been reviewed. The desk age starts once it is assigned to one of the licensing analysts. The second pie chart shows how long the application has been in the system. There is a difference in the time because online applications are not downloaded daily. Applications might wait in the system for a few days before they are assigned to an analyst. However, the analyst does review all of the applications in the date order that they are received.

The majority of the applications are being licensed within 30 days. Applicants receive an update known as a deficiency letter that lists any deficiencies they may have, or they will receive a congratulatory letter stating they have been licensed. Anything that falls outside of the Board's 30-day window is typically due to the applicant having items that are deficient, such as passing the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) exam, verification of other health care licenses or certificates, or for waiting on fingerprint results from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Department of Justice (DOJ). The fulfillment of these deficiencies is out of the Board's control.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, is the trend line for processing holding steady, increasing, or decreasing, Ms. Caldwell stated that the Board has been running about three weeks from the time when an applicant submitted the

201 application to the time that they received an update from the Board. July placed the 202 Board a little past the 3-week margin; however, the Board was still under the 30-day 203 window and now the Board is back on track and tightening the 30-day window closer 204 to a 21-day window. This can depend upon the Board staff schedule, the volume of 205 PA schools that are graduating and how many applications the Board is receiving. This can cause an increase in the overall time, but it's still within 30 days, which is 206 207 also posted on the Board's website. 208 209 In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, whether Ms. Caldwell is satisfied with the 210 current timeline for processing applications, Ms. Caldwell responded yes. 211 212 In response to Dr. Hawkins' question of, what are the numbers of PAs practicing 213 compared to the numbers of PAs retiring and how are those numbers balancing out, 214 Mr. Armenta responded that this question should be addressed when the Board 215 reaches agenda item number 14, with Dr. Alexander and Mr. Grant addressing 216 workforce. 217 218 **B.** Complaint 219 220 Ms. Melendez reported the following complaint activity for the period of April 1, 2022, 221 to June 30, 2022: 222 223 Complaints Volume 224 Complaints received: 89 o Convictions/Arrest Received: 6 225 o Total Received: 95 226 227 Assigned to desk analyst (**may include cases received in previous 228 quarters): 110 229 Pending at intake: 0 230 Complaints and Investigations Complaints referred for investigation: 24 231 Complaints and investigations closed**: 116 232 233 Complaints pending at desk analyst**: 269 234 Investigations pending at field**: 76 235 Average age of pending investigation**: 239 days 236 Investigation over 8 months old: 28 237 238 Mr. Armenta stated that he is impressed with the investigation aging report of this 239 year as compared to last year's numbers and it is great to see the downward trend. 240 241 C. Discipline 242 243 Ms. Haydon reported the following discipline activity for the period of April 1, 2022, to 244 June 30, 2022: 245 246 Suspensions o Interim Suspension Order - 0 247 248 Penal Code Section 23 - 1

Office of the Attorney General Transmittal

Average age of pending cases: 300 days

Cases initiated: 11

Cases pending: 43

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253 Formal Actions Filed/Withdrawn/Dismissed 254 Accusations filed: 5 Accusations Withdrawn/Dismissed: 0 255 256 Administrative Outcomes/Final Order 257 License Application Denied: 0 258 Probationary License Issued: 0 259 o Public Reproval: 0 Surrender: 2 260 Petition for Reinstatement Granted: 2 261 Petition for Reinstatement Denied: 1 262 Petition for Termination of Probation Granted: 1 263 264 Petition for Modification of Probation Granted: 0 Citation and Fine 265 o Citations issued: 1 266 267 o Resolved/Closed: 2 268 o Pending: 2 o Fines Issues: \$5,000 269 270 Fines Received: \$750 271 272 In response to Mr. Armenta's request for clarification on the fines issued and fines 273 received, Ms. Haydon responded that the PAs are given a certain number of days to 274 comply from the date that the citation is issued. Currently, there are two citations pending due to fines. As of now the Board has received \$750, and the funds were 275 placed into the fiscal year where the fine was issued. The PA is presently paying this 276 277 fiscal year. 278 279 In response to Dr. Hawkins' question of, what is the most common reason that a 280 license application is denied, Ms. Haydon responded that there are a variety of 281 reasons, however she cannot narrow it down to one specific situation. Ms. Caldwell responded that applications get denied due to disciplinary history reported in the 282 283 National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) report. Once the applicant applies and the 284 Board has all of their requirements, Board staff complete their review. There are instances where the Board will base denial on the licensee being on a disciplinary 285 286 order from another licensing board. The Board may mirror that and refund their initial 287 licensing fee. If a criminal conviction shows up on the applicant's background check. the Board will then ask for the arrest report and court documents. Once the Board 288 289 reviews those documents, Board staff would consider denial based on the 290 information received. 291 292 D. Probation 293 294

Ms. Gerard reported the following probation activity for the period of April 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022:

Completed Probation – 1

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- Probation Terminated 1
- Total Probationers 45
 - Active 37
 - Tolled 8

Ms. Gerard stated that she made on-site visits in the East Bay and Inland areas of

northern California this quarter.

In response to Mr. Armenta's request for Ms. Gerard to elaborate on her experiences with her field visits, Ms. Gerard responded that her field visits are going well. She made some surprise visits and hopes to do it again. She stated that she took a vacation and was ill for a short period of time which caused a pause but that she will resume visits.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, how these surprise visits are received by the probationers, Ms. Gerard responded that she feels some probationers are very caught off guard. There have been some instances where individuals were not at work that day. The Board has created a new form that has required probationers to list their practice location to get a schedule down. When visiting a location, the goal is to book one individual and surprise another, that way it is not a waste of the Board's money to travel.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, are the probationers typically cooperative during the visits, Ms. Gerard responded yes.

In response to Mr. Grant's question of, has there been any improvement since the last meeting where it discussed the pushback that Ms. Gerard received from the probationer's supervising physicians, Ms. Gerard stated that Mr. Grant may be misremembering, as the issue that she mostly had was that the PA required to have 100% on-site supervision before the effective date of their decision; this was when the Board received the most push back from the supervising physicians.

E. Diversion

Ms. Gerard reported the following diversion activity for the period of April 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022:

• Total Active Participants – 3

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of has this been operating as intended, Ms. Gerard responded yes.

No public comment.

8. Department of Consumer Affairs – Director's Update (DCA Staff) – May Include Updates Pertaining to the Department's Administrative Services, Human Resources, Enforcement, Information Technology, Communications and Outreach, as well as Legislative, Regulatory and Policy Matters.

Tonya Corcoran, Compliance and Equity Officer, thanked the Board for allowing her the opportunity to provide a department update. Specific to the Open Meetings Act legislation, the Governor signed Senate Bill 189 on June 30. It reinstituted through July 1, 2023, the remote meeting provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, that were in place during the pandemic. Ms. Corcoran advised that DCA continues to advocate on the Board's behalf, so that the Board may conduct the board meetings in a manner that best serves the business of the Board, while still taking into consideration both costs and public participation. DCA is asking boards to continue to use WebEx as much as possible to allow the public to attend remotely. DCA is

also continuing to survey the boards about public meetings to track costs for the meetings, to compare costs for in-person and WebEx meetings. Since this legislative change is only in place for this fiscal year, those surveys have been distributed to all boards and bureaus, and they're being completed within 30 days after each meeting that's being held. Specific to in-person meetings guidelines, if the Board chooses to hold in-person meetings there are some safety measures and best practices. All Board members and staff are expected to follow the state and local public health guidelines that apply in the area where those meetings are being held. It is strongly encouraged that attendees wear a face mask at these public meetings. In addition, prior to any meeting in person or at a remote public location, members need to submit vaccine verification to DCA's Office of Human Resources (OHR) or be subject to COVID-19 testing.

The Director recently held a meeting on July 5 with executive officers and bureau chiefs to roll out changes to regulation development and approval process. Those changes were discussed and reviewed by the Executive Officer and Bureau Chief Cabinet and then it was shared with all boards and bureaus, including the documentation and flow charts for those processes. DCA is hoping to see regulations moving through the process more quickly.

Specific to Board and Bureau Relations, Carrie Holmes left DCA on May 13, additionally, Brianna Miller accepted another position and left on June 10. Employees at DCA will share these responsibilities and want to assure that during this transition period DCA will continue to serve and provide the services that DCA did prior to their departure. If the Board needs anything, please feel free to reach out to member relations or call the Executive Office directly.

Ms. Corcoran stated that she would like the share a few changes in staffing. DCA is pleased to announce that Nicole Le was hired on June 24, as the Deputy Director of Office of Administrative Services. Ms. Le has more than 20 years of state experience and 10 years dedicated to those in the OHR function. Additionally, Olivia Trejo was appointed as Chief of OHR, effective August 1. Ms. Trejo has over 22 years of human resources experience and has served the last nine years within DCA's OHR. Lastly, Taylor Schick was appointed as Chief Fiscal Officer in July. Mr. Schick has more than 16 years of state service experience and he began his career as a Budget Analyst and most recently serving as the DCA Budget Officer.

For staff and Board members who have submitted travel expense claims, DCA has been notified that there has been a delay in processing and approval of the travel expense claims for the current fiscal year. This would be for July 1 to present, and that is due to setting up the new fiscal year budget in the statewide Fi\$Cal system. DCA does expect those to be resolved in the coming weeks and DCA appreciates all staff and Board members' patience at this time.

Lastly, a reminder that the current year's final Board Member Orientation Training (BMOT) is coming. BMOT will be held on October 12, and members can register through the department's Learning Management System (LMS). This is a reminder that it is required for all newly appointed or reappointed board members but is also available as a refresher for all members and Executive Officers.

No public comment.

9. Budget Update (DCA Budget Analyst)

Suzanne Balkis, DCA Budget Analyst, introduced herself as the Board's budget analyst and explained that she would go over the Board's fund condition statement that currently includes Fiscal Month 11 (FM 11) projections.

Ms. Balkis reported the Board has used about 36.72% of its expenditure on Personal Services (PS), which includes salaries and benefits; 38.81% for Operating Expenses & Equipment (OE&E), which includes contracts, purchases and travel; and 23.62% on Enforcement, which includes the Office of Administrative Hearings as well as the Office of the Attorney General. The Board has 0.85% in Reversion.

Fund Condition Report

The fund condition statement is based on fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 actuals with a beginning balance of \$4.9 million, with prior year (PY) adjustment of about \$70,000, giving the Board an adjusted beginning balance of \$4.8 million. The Board has an overall revenue of \$2.4 million and a total expenditure of \$2.4 million as well. This totals to a fund balance of \$4.8 million, which is about 19 months in reserve. For the Board's current FY 2021-22, the Board has a beginning balance of \$4.8 million and a projected total revenue of about \$2.6 million, with staff tracking an overall projection of FM 11 expenditures of about \$3 million. With those expenditures and revenue, the Board currently has a fund balance of about \$4.4 million, which gives the Board about 16.2 months in reserve. Budget year (BY) is based on Governor's budget and BY +1 is based on realized. The Board has no immediate concerns for this fund.

Expenditure Projection Report

The Expenditure Projection Report shows the expenditures reflected in the budget. The report shows that the Board is projecting about \$1.1 million in PS and \$1.9 million in OE&E expenses. The Board is showing a total of \$3 million of total expenditures, this created a savings of \$26,000, or 0.85% in savings. Based on these projections there is no immediate concern for the fund.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, what is the BY +1 23/24 based on, Ms. Balkis responded that it is based realized, meaning it is based on the Governor's budget.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, the Board's months in reserve trendline has been moving downward in FY 23/24 to 10 months, is this a cause for concern, Ms. Balkis responded no, the Board is still in an acceptable window.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, what in Ms. Balkis' opinion is an acceptable window, Ms. Balkis responded it is recommended to stay between 12 to 24 months to be considered healthy. The Board is a little below 12 months; however, this is still considered in good condition. Anything above three months is not cause for concern.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, considering what appears to be an inflationary environment, moving forward should the Board be doing something to address that in regard to the months in reserve, Ms. Balkis responded that she is

working with Ms. Khan to see what contracts the Board will need to continue moving forward and which ones the Board will no longer need.

No public comment.

10. Update on Medical Consultant Reviewer Program

Mr. Melendez stated that he had the opportunity to work for the Medical Board of California (MBC) for about 20 years, and in those years, he spent seven years working in the Enforcement Unit as a Complaint Analyst and two of those years as the Medical Consultant Analyst with one other colleague. As the Medical Consultant Analyst, Mr. Melendez was responsible for the recruitment and ongoing maintenance of the pool of medical consultants (MC), roughly 400 employed to perform initial review of consumer complaints and prepare reports related to whether the physician's care was within the standard of care in the medical community. He coordinated with MBC staff on the review of the complaints filed against physicians, physician assistants and midwives as it related to their care and treatment. Mr. Melendez independently identified and contacted MCs to obtain medical reviews to determine whether further investigation was indicated.

Mr. Melendez stated that the Board's Medical Consulting Program is not something new; the Board adopted the same model that was used at MBC. The Board currently has an MC application that is used for both PAs and physicians to apply for the program. When reviewing the MC applications, Mr. Melendez will confirm that the application is complete with all of the required information and that the licensee meets the minimum requirements to be an MC which include: a current unrestricted license with the Board or MBC, the license is in good standing meaning that their license is clear of complaints filed within the last three years, the candidate has not been retired for more than five years, and the candidate has been practicing a minimum of three years. Mr. Melendez stated that he also has the following desirable qualifications which are prior peer review experience and board certification. For physicians, he checks for board certification from the American Board of Medical Specialties, or a specialty board approved by MBC prior to January 1, 2019.

Once an application is approved, Mr. Melendez requests a contract, and the entire process can take two to three weeks to bring a new MC on board. Most of the time his waiting for the issuance of the contract by DCA. Mr. Melendez is also working with DCA's Information Technology Unit on the creation of an MC recruitment page. This page will provide candidates with information on the requirements and the application. At this time, the Board does not have a go-live date on the website, but the hope is that this will be completed in a timely manner. In the meantime, the Board has a pool of consultants that Mr. Melendez curated from contacts at the MBC and these consultants are reviewing the Board's current cases. Mr. Melendez shared that presently, the Board has four new PAs in the application process. To ensure the Board's new consultants provide complete and informative reports, the Board will have the first few cases reviewed by management and one of the senior consultants.

Prior to sending cases to the new consultants, Mr. Melendez will provide them with a sample case review so that they understand what is expected.

Mr. Melendez explained that complaints are reviewed by the Complaint Analyst to determine what specialty the case falls under. For example, if the PA is supervised by a family medicine physician, the case will be reviewed by a family medicine consultant. Mr. Melendez will contact an MC or several at one time if it is a specialty area for which the Board has a few consultants present, or if he has several cases to be assigned. In his request, Mr. Melendez provides the MC with a summary of the case and the subject's name, so that the MC can determine if there is a conflict of interest. If the MC accepts the case for review, the case materials are then sent via a secure box account with a report form and a billing form.

Cases are due to the Board in two weeks. Mr. Melendez will then review the report to ensure that the MCs address the concerns cited in the complaint, and the care and treatment provided by the licensee. He also makes sure that the contents of the MC report are limited to the complaint, care and treatment, and personal opinion is not cited. If necessary, Mr. Melendez will contact the MC to discuss concerns or to obtain clarification of a report. If an MC repeatedly fails to adhere to the Board's review procedures, then they are eliminated from the pool of active consultants. However, prior to taking the step, Mr. Melendez or management will work with a consultant to resolve the issue at hand.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, do practicing PAs frequently participate in peer reviews, Mr. Grant responded that yes, when a PA is publishing, they engage in a rigorous peer review process. In terms of case review, that would be based on the published literature, which has gone through the prior peer review process in terms of what the standard of care is as well as textbooks and PAs participate in that, for example, in expert case review, medical malpractice, or in performance improvement at various places where they may work. In practice, PAs are generally engaged in peer reviews if they have a desire to publish, however many practicing PAs choose the PA profession because they want to see patients and they typically will use the same references, texts, and articles for obtaining their information related to the current standard of care that physicians would use.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, when mitigating a case one of the things to look at in terms of qualifications in weighing the credibility of experts are their participation in research and peer review in publications, with this information in mind, should this application be expanded, Dr. Kidd responded that he completes expert reviews of cases and has worked with the legal team to evaluate cases on scope of practice issues. One of the questions that he is often asked is if he has ever participated in peer review literature. Dr. Kidd would need to send his curriculum vitae (CV) with a list of publications. It is in Dr. Kidd's opinion that it's a value and something that should be part of the process. Dr. Kidd's concern centers around three years of experience. Dr. Kidd stated that he feels that an MC should have a minimum of five years' experience of case reviews. Dr. Kidd stated that when he had previously completed case reviews, the years of experience does matter longevity in the position and in that area of specialty. Dr. Kidd inquired as to whether there is an opportunity for Board members to review the CVs of the top tier candidates that the Board is considering on bringing in, because it is important for the for the Board to have a general idea of the qualifications and the experience that these individuals are bringing to the table.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, how would the Board approach expanding the practice minimum as well as the inclusion in item three of the application, any peer review publication experience, how should this be incorporated, Mr. Melendez responded that in his experience working with MBC, his supervisor and management team were the individuals who changed the requirements; however, he does not see why the Board cannot set their own standards. Mr. Melendez would have to verify these changes with the Board's legal department and the standards to make that happen. Mr. Melendez clarified that consultants who are reviewing these cases at the preliminary level, are not the consultants that will testify. This is just to determine whether the case goes to the field or not. If the case is transmitted to the field for further investigation, then there is another program and the experts in that program do a more in-depth review of the case and they will be the ones asked to testify.

Mr. Kanotz stated it is appropriate for the Board to be involved in setting the standards for the MC application; however, with selecting the candidates, reviewing CVs and the information coming in from applications should be handled by Board staff in terms of the day-to-day operation, personnel, hiring and selecting consultants.

Dr. Hawkins thanked Mr. Melendez for all of his service to MBC and this area of enforcement.

In response to Mr. Grant's request to clarify the role of the medical consultant review, Mr. Melendez responded that it is to determine whether if the case has merit and if it needs to move forward to the field for further investigation or closed.

In response to Mr. Grant's request to clarify that MCs do not provide expert opinion in any kind of proceeding and that it is just an initial case review, Mr. Melendez responded, yes that is correct.

Mr. Grant stated that he doesn't know that having the requirement for an MC to have a publishing background is a wise decision because one of the things that the Board gets from the applicants is individuals who have an interest in seeing patients but not so much an interest in publishing. Mr. Grant would argue that this is the kind of person the Board would want to complete the MC review, because they are focused on seeing patients and meeting the standard of care, rather than focused on research, which is a different environment. These individuals go to the profession because they want to be in a rural area, taking care of people, not an academic medical research tertiary care center. In terms of the MC, it might be wise to not require any research or publishing, however, the Board ought to require five years of experience and the Board might even add a sub-component of that saying, at least two years of experience in the related specialty, because PAs are generalists. The average PA over the course of a 20-year career works in three different specialties so it's not just the five years of experience overall. The Board might require some experience specialty that they have reviewed.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, does Mr. Grant think that if the Board asks for applicants to list their publications that it may discourage otherwise perfectly good candidates for this initial intake process, Mr. Grant responded that he does not know if it would have a discouraging effect, but that it is a reasonable question to ask if there is any. The Board will most likely see if they have any publications listed in their CV as well, since the Board is asking for their CV. The concern was having publications be a requirement, as this would cut down on the Board's pool of MCs,

as most PAs do not participate in research.

Mr. Armenta stated that maybe a solution could be to ask for applicants to submit their CV in the application process and that this would cover that because anyone publishing their CV would certainly include their peer review publications.

Mr. Grant stated that because PAs have lateral mobility and practice specialty that the Board might require two years of experience in the case related specialty. For example, if a PA has practiced in primary care, general surgery and emergency medicine, the Board would want them to have some experience in each of those. Maybe now they're practicing in primary care, but they have two years of experience in general surgery. Then they could be an MC for a general surgery case, but the Board wouldn't want a PA reviewing a case that had no experience in general surgery.

Mr. Melendez stated that when he has a case that he needs to send to an MC for review, he will match the case with the consultant that has the specialty. Another way to see whether they have the experience is by looking at their CV in their application.

In response to Mr. Grant's question that the Board does not need a written requirement as Mr. Melendez is already completing this process internally, Mr. Melendez responded yes. As the Board's Complaint Analyst, he completes all work needed in complaints including the MC Program. When he was the MC Analyst with the MBC, his focus was the MC Program, and he was sending out anywhere from 34 to 50 cases a week to MCs for review. Mr. Melendez also kept a list of MCs with specialties and sub-specialties.

In response to Mr. Grant's question of how often the list is updated, Mr. Melendez responded that prior to assigning a case to an MC, he would check the licensee's information and if there were changes, he would update the list immediately.

Mr. Grant stated that he would like to withdraw his comment about the two years of experience in a specialty and agree with Dr. Kidd's suggestion of five years overall experience.

Mr. Armenta stated that he agrees with Mr. Grant's comment as Mr. Melendez is already ensuring the MC has the adequate experience to review the case.

Mr. Melendez stated the MC application covers both a physician and a PA and he is in the process of adding a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine to the application as well as they also supervise PAs. In response to Mr. Melendez's question are there any other changes the Board would like on the application, Mr. Armenta responded that the only change that the Board is hoping for is to add the five-year minimum requirement.

Ms. Carlquist agreed with Mr. Armenta that she would like the five-year minimum added as well.

No public comment.

11. Report on Medical Board of California Activities

Dr. Hawkins, Vice President of MBC, reported the next MBC Board meeting is scheduled virtually later this month, where both disciplinary panels will meet on August 24. The quarterly Board meeting will occur August 25 and on August 26, MBC will have a strategic planning session. The agenda can be reviewed at MBC's website at mbc.ca.gov. The next MBC quarterly newsletter will be available on August 12. Dr. Hawkins stated that he would like to highlight three articles from the report.

First, MBC's participation in a Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee oversight hearing on May 6 to review some of MBC's 2022 enforcement legislative proposals. The purpose of this hearing was to discuss the MBC's enforcement process, deficiencies and opportunities to reform and evaluate MBC's 2022 proposals for statutory updates.

The second is physician extortion scam update, where scammers posing as law enforcement officers, DEA agents, and Board staff are calling California physicians as part of an extortion scheme. Please note, law enforcement officers, DEA agents, and Board staff will never contact physicians by phone to demand money or any other form of payment. Reporting contact information will be in that newsletter.

The third is the MBC draft guidelines for prescription of opioid medication for pain. The guidelines were last updated in 2014. MBC released a draft of its updated guidelines on its website and now places the decision of what to prescribe to patients solely on the physician and the needs of the patient. The guidelines highly encouraged physicians to document the prescription decisions, and the patient records, and keep the records up to date. Also incorporates legislations such as mandatory consultation of CURES before prescribing schedule II-IV controlled substances and the requirement to prescribe all controlled substances with certain exceptions electronically.

Lastly, Kristina Lawson, President of MBC, was the recipient of the Federation of the State Medical Boards award of merit at its 110th Annual Meeting in New Orleans this April. This award is given to individuals in recognition of an activity or contribution that has positively impacted and strengthened the profession of medical licensure and discipline and helped enhance public protection. She was recognized for her steadfast leadership in upholding the mission of the Board while facing harassment, threats, and unwanted political pressure, especially in the COVID-19 era with the rapid rise of misinformation and disinformation by physicians and other health professionals.

In response to Mr. Grant's question of does the Board have many reports of extortion scams calling the licensees, Ms. Khan responded that the Board did have some earlier in the year. The Board received three or four incidents of licensees reporting that they received calls from individuals claiming to be DCA investigators contacting licensees asking for payments or saying that they have a complaint against them. The licensee immediately called the board. The Board put an alert on the website, which links to the page where there are all the fraud alerts that includes the scam alert and asks licensees to contact the Board directly if they receive any of these calls. Also, that DCA investigators will not be calling any licensees directly for payments.

No public comment.

16, California Code of Regulations (16 CCR) section 1399.XX – Military Applicant Temporary License

Ms. Halbo reported that the legislature passed a bill indicating that the legislature wanted individuals to be able to obtain a temporary license to military spouses and have a temporary license process in place. The point of that rulemaking process is to have the application with the information that's needed for military applicants that have the qualifications, it would allow them to be able to practice with a temporary license while they proceed with the regular licensure process.

12. Review, Consider and Possible Action to Initiate Rulemaking to Add Title

Ms. Dhillon stated that the text in the memo was provided by DCA and all of the boards that are affected by Assembly Bill 107 will be implementing similar text to what is seen in this memo.

In response to Mr. Armenta's question of, does this regulation mirror the other regulation the arose from this bill, Ms. Halbo responded yes.

In response to Mr. Grant's question of how long is the temporary license valid and can it be converted to a regular license, Ms. Halbo responded that it will be valid for a year, and the applicant can finish the regular licensing process at any point during the year and receive a regular license.

In response to Mr. Grant's question of how long it takes for staff to issue the license, Ms. Dhillon responded that she believes that the licensing staff already prioritizes license military applications, because the Board does have an expedited licensure process in place where staff is able to process those applications within the 30-day timeframe. Currently, the Board's regular license application is also the review for that is also completed within the 30 days, however when this regulation is implemented Board staff will be prioritizing the applications even more, providing a concierge service to those applications. But currently Board staff has no issues prioritizing or expediting those licenses. This, however, provides a framework for the temporary licensing process, which the Board does not have in regulation yet.

Ms. Halbo stated that many of the medical-related boards have become backed up in processing licenses and there has been constant pressure for that, however the PA Board is in a good place and has good processes. The licensing team processes their licenses in good time. It can take some boards up to 60 days to process a license. By having this process in place, it's clear for someone who has a right to receive a temporary license on how they would go about requesting it. Without this regulation the Board doesn't have any information on how to apply for a temporary license. The applicant will have the pleasant surprise if they also file for a regular license about the same time or within a month or two and it comes quickly.

M/	Jed Grant	S/	Jennifer Carlquist	to:

Motion to approve the proposed regulatory text, adding Title 16, of the California Code of Regulations, section 1399.XX. The Board is also asked to direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency for review and authorize the

Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process and make any non-substantive changes to the package. If no adverse comments are received during the 45-day public comment period and no hearing is requested, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking and adopt the proposed regulations at Section 1399.XX to be determined on the number as noticed.

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Charles Alexander	X				
Juan Armenta	X				
Jennifer Carlquist	Χ				
Sonya Earley				Χ	
Jed Grant	X				
Diego Inzunza	X				
Vasco Deon Kidd	X				

13. Regulations – Update on Pending Regulatory Packages

Ms. Dhillon provided the updates for the regulatory packages.

<u>1. 16 CCR 1399.514, 1399.615 – SB 697: License Renewal and Continuing Medical Education Required</u>

The revised proposed regulatory language was approved and adopted by the Board at its November 8, 2021, meeting. Staff will be working on initial documents to submit for initial review this calendar year.

<u>2. 16 CCR 1399.502, 1399.540, 1399.541, 1399.545 - SB 697: SB 697</u> Implementation

The proposed regulatory language was passed by the Board and approved by the MBC has been revised to address concerns raised by the California Academy of PAs (CAPA) and DCA's Legal Affairs Division. The revised proposed regulatory language was approved and adopted by the Board at its November 8, 2021, meeting. Staff is currently working on initial documents with regulations counsel and the Budget Office to submit for initial review.

<u>3. 16 CCR 1399.506, 1399.507, 1399.511, 1399.546 – SB 697: Application, Exam Scores, Addresses, & Recordkeeping</u>

The proposed regulatory language passed by the Board has been revised to address further concerns raised by CAPA and DCA's Legal Affairs Division. The revised proposed regulatory language was approved and adopted by the Board at its November 8, 2021, meeting. Staff submitted initial submission documents for Budget and Legal review which was completed July 29, 2022. The initial submission documents have moved to Executive and Agency review, and once approved, the Notice of the proposed regulatory action will be published in the California Notice Register to start the 45-day public comment period, likely to be in mid-September.

<u>4. 16 CCR 1399.515 – AB 2461: Retired Status to Include Fingerprint Requirement</u>
This regulatory proposal is on hold for 2022 until the above packages are completed.

814 <u>5.</u> 815 S

5. 16 CCR 1399.523 – SB 1441: Implement Uniform Standards Related to Substance Abusing Licensees and Update of Disciplinary Guidelines

This regulatory proposal is also on hold for 2022 until the above packages are completed.

6. 16 CCR 1399.XX – AB 107: Military Applicant Temporary Licensure

This package was previously discussed on agenda item 12. The proposed regulatory text is to be reviewed, discussed, and potentially adopted and it was just adopted during agenda item 12.

In response to Mr. Grant's inquiry, that the Board approved regulatory language eight or nine months ago, is this a normal time frame for the amount of time it takes for the bill to complete the approval process, Ms. Dhillon responded that she tries to get through the packages as thoroughly as possible while prioritizing specific packages as well. She is currently working on the SB 697 Implementation and the Address and Record Keeping package, which is moving forward. However, Ms. Dhillon stated that she is the only staff member that is working on these packages as well as the legislative portion for the Board. However, the regulatory process does take quite a bit of time, due to the frequent back and forth with the Legal Affairs Division, the Budget Office, as well as edits going back and forth between herself and the Regulations Counsel. The packages can also get held up with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), this is dependent on how busy OAL is. Staff do their best to move these packages along DCA has recently been assisting with this as well.

Mr. Armenta stated that he is not surprised by the length of time that it is taking for the for packages to go through. OAL takes a while to process these matters.

Mr. Grant thanked Ms. Dhillon and Ms. Halbo for their reports and all of their hard work.

Ms. Halbo stated that completing regulations is a unique analyst skill, and many analysts get bogged down when the legislature gets frisky and there are a lot of legislative bills that the analyst has to watch. Ms. Halbo stated that she knows to be patient during the legislative sessions because it is a common to be in the position to have legislative and regulatory responsibilities. Ms. Dhillon is learning and picking up speed quickly from practice.

No public comment.

14. Education/Workforce Development Advisory Committee: Update on Physician Assistant Education Programs and Applicants in California

Mr. Grant stated that these numbers were last updated about two weeks ago. Currently, there are 287 PA programs across the United States, and in California there are 19 programs with four under development. The most recent addition to the list is the UC San Diego is one that is developing, this is one that the Board was not aware of before. There was another school that was removed from the list due to not having any traction. In terms of programs in California, two have been placed on probation and one has come off probation. If members of the public or Board

members are curious about why these programs are on probation, this information can be found at the ARC-PA website. Once a program is placed on probation, it will have a year to fix whatever issue they are having. With the 19 accredited PA programs, there are 883 new graduates per year. Assuming that programs do not have attrition, however many programs do, one could estimate the number to be around 870. It can be hard to find the average number of seats in some of the developing program, in these instances the nationwide average of 46 has been used as a place holder. By using 46, Mr. Grant was able to estimate the annual capacity.

With the developing programs for the ones that have listed the number of seats in their programs, once those programs come online there will have a little over 1,000 to 1,058 PAs graduating every year in the state of California. Which is a lot of growth, about eight or nine years ago, when Mr. Grant first came to the Board there was around seven PA programs in California. This shows the tremendous amount of growth and that individuals who are from California tend to train in California, and if they are from California and train in California, they are more likely to remain in California. There are also students who come to California from out of state, however when there are individuals from California staying within California it is a good thing to help with the PA workforce needs.

On page 94 of the meeting materials, Mr. Grant included a graphic that comes from the Physician Assistant Education Association website that shows geographically where the programs are located. This graphic does not include the developing programs, only those which have been accredited.

In response to Dr. Hawkins' question of, what are the workforce numbers looking like for the number of PAs leaving California compared to arriving, Mr. Grant responded that in terms of workforce he does not have California specific data; however, Board staff may have better data that shows at which rate people are retiring. If the Board were to look at the national statistics from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, they keep track of data for this which has been updated in May of 2021. There is a 31% predicted growth in the profession in this decade with about 12,200 new job openings nationwide per year. If the average number of seats were added up across all of the programs in the United States, it's about 13,000 graduates per year, showing much growth. There are many programs to meet the openings and nationwide. Since California's numbers generally trend right along 10% of the nationwide numbers.

Ms. Caldwell responded that there was a report that was ran on July 21, and it shows 117 individuals have a retired status.

Mr. Grant stated that there were other items he came across while preparing this report in terms of PAs per capita and some other data between the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) that he can share in future reports, if this is something that is of interest to the Board.

Mr. Grant answered a question that previously inquired on distribution. The following information is coming from the 2022 AAPA Annual Survey Report and this reflects the nationwide statistics, but again PAs tend to fall in line under individuals in California. He stated that about 13% of PAs are practicing in family medicine, orthopedic surgery is about 10%, and emergency medicine is about 8%. The professional organization reports urgent care is a separate specialty from family

medicine and emergency medicine, which are often combined in other sources. Urgent care is reported as the fourth most common specialty for PAs which is about 7.4%. This gives the Board the distribution of what specialties PAs are working in.

Great growth is seen in the educational programs. These are all programs that are in within their first five years of operation from the accrediting body and the ones that say developing will be seeding a class within the next couple of years. The limiting factor is clinical rotations, as PAs come on and receive provisional accreditation, they must have their clinical rotations for their students set up, even though the students won't enter those clinical rotations for 12 to 15 months. It is good to see a lot of growth there, and that certainly portends well for meeting California's healthcare needs.

No public comment.

15. Report by the Legislative Committee; Discussion and Possible Action to Consider Positions Regarding the following Legislation

A. AB 646 – Low: Department of Consumer Affairs: Expunged Convictions

Ms. Dhillon stated that this bill was introduced on February 12, 2021 and is located in the Senate Committee on Appropriations. AB 646 would require programs under DCA that post information on its website about a revoked license due to a criminal conviction to post notification of an expungement after receiving this certified order within 90 days of the Board receiving a certified expungement order related to the conviction for those who reapply for licensure or are relicensed.

As of the last meeting, no new amendments have been made to this bill. There is an upcoming hearing on August 11. Ms. Dhillon will be monitoring this bill as it is likely that the bill will not pass the Senate by the end of August. The Board has maintained its watch position on this bill.

B. SB 731 - Durazo: Criminal Records: Relief

This bill was introduced on February 19, 2021 and is located in the Senate. This bill was recently amended in Assembly on June 23, 2022.

On May 20, 2021, a Board position letter was sent to the Author's office, opposing the bill unless it was amended to exclude healing arts boards within DCA. However, the Author's office believes that excluding the healing arts boards would undermine the intent of the bill within this sector of employment.

This bill would expand automatic conviction record relief, for a defendant convicted on or after January 1, 2005, to nonserious, nonsexual, and nonviolent felonies after an individual completes all terms of incarceration, probation, mandatory supervision, post release community service and parole, and a period of four years has elapsed during which the defendant was not convicted of a new felony offense.

This bill would, commencing July 1, 2023, generally make this arrest record relief available to a person who has been arrested for a felony, including a felony punishable in the state prison, as specified.

This bill further expands discretionary expungement relief to include felonies where the defendant was sentence to state prison, rather than just realigned felonies, as specified. If the defendant seeks relief under this section for a felony that resulted in a sentence to the state prison, the relief available under this section may only be granted if that felony did not result in a requirement to register as a sex offender pursuant to Chapter 5.5 of Title 9 of Part 1.

The exclusion of records of arrest and conviction that were granted relief from state summary criminal history information does not apply to records for which the recordholder is required to register as a sex offender, has an active record In the Supervised Release File, or if based on information available in the department's record, it appears the person is currently serving a sentence or if there is an indication of pending criminal charges.

On this bill the Board has maintained its oppose unless amended position.

C. AB 562 – Low: Frontline COVID-19 Provider Mental Health Resiliency Act of 2021: Health Care Providers: Mental Health Services

This bill was introduced on February 11, 2021 and is located in the Senate Committee on Appropriations. It has a separate hearing on August 11, 2022, but will likely not progress as it is considered dead.

As the Board may recall, this bill would require DCA to establish a mental health resiliency program until January 1, 2025, in consultation with relevant boards. The Board will continue to monitor this bill after the hearing.

D. AB 1306 – Arambula: Health Professions Careers Opportunity Program

This bill was introduced on February 19, 2021 and is located in the Senate Committee on Appropriations. This bill is no longer being advanced according to the Author's office as the proposal made it into statute via AB 133.

E. AB 1733 – Quirk: State Bodies: Open Meetings

This bill was introduced on January 31, 2022, and is located in the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization. There have been no amendments as of the last Board meeting. As the Board may recall, this bill specifies the term meeting under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, which includes a meeting held entirely by teleconference as defined. Board staff will be closely monitoring this bill as well.

<u>F. AB 1662 – Gipson: Licensing Boards: Disqualification from Licensure: Criminal</u> Conviction

This bill was introduced on January 18, 2022 and is located in the Senate Appropriations Committee. On May 31, 2022, a Board position letter was sent opposing the bill.

This bill would require a board to establish a process by which prospective applicants may request a preapplication determination as to whether their criminal history could be cause for denial of a completed application for licensure by the board.

 The bill would require a board to publish information regarding its process for requesting a preapplication determination on its internet website and authorize a board to charge a fee, as specified, to be deposited by the board into the appropriate fund and available only upon appropriation by the Legislature.

 At its May 9, 2022, Board meeting, the Board took an opposed position. There is a likelihood that this bill will become a much more limited pilot program, that may not affect the Board according to the legislative analyst that monitors this bill. Board staff will continue to monitor this bill closely as well for any amendments.

G. AB 657 – Cooper: Healing Arts: Expedited Licensure Process: Applicants Providing Abortion Services

This bill was introduced on February 12, 2021 and is located in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

This bill would require the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the Board of Registered Nursing, and the Physician Assistant Board to expedite the licensure process of an applicant who can demonstrate that they intend to provide abortion services within their scope of practice and would specify the documentation an applicant would be required to provide to demonstrate their intent. An applicant may demonstrate their intent to provide abortion services by providing documentation, including a letter from an employer or health care entity indicating that the applicant has accepted employment or entered a contract to provide abortion services, the applicant's starting date, and the location where the applicant will be providing abortion services within the scope of practice of their license.

The Board does not anticipate any fiscal impact as a result of this bill; however, Board staff will continue to monitor this bill for any amendments as it is relatively new.

H. AB 2626 - Calderon: Medical Board of California: Licensee Discipline: Abortion

This bill is a related bill to AB 657. This bill was introduced on February 18, 2022 and is located in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

This bill prohibits the PA Board from suspending or revoking the certification or license of a PA for performing an abortion so long as they performed the abortion in accordance with the provisions of the Physician Assistant Practice Act and the Reproductive Privacy Act.

This bill would also prohibit the board from denying licensure of a PA, because the person was disciplined in another state in which they are licensed or certified solely for performing an abortion in that state, or if the person was convicted in that state for an offense related solely to the performance of an abortion in that state.

This bill contains an urgency clause that will make it effective upon enactment. The Board does not anticipate any fiscal impact as a result of this bill. In response to Mr. Armenta's question of are there any bill that Ms. Dhillon would suggest that Board changes the current position on or take actions on, Ms. Dhillon responded that the Board has maintained their position on many of the bills.

However, it would be up to the Board if further discussion is needed on AB 657 and AB 2626 as these are both new bills. In response to Mr. Grant's question of whether this bill saying that the Board cannot discipline a licensee for something that they did outside of the state, because the Board already does not have jurisdiction outside the state, Ms. Dhillon responded that what she believes is that the bill is specifying if an applicant for a licensure was convicted in another state or an offense solely related to the performance of an abortion in that state, that the Board could possibly could not deny the licensure based on just that. Mr. Grant stated that he does not see any reason to change any positions on any of the bills and thanked Ms. Dhillon for her report. Mr. Armenta commented that AB 657 and AB 2626 are clearly a direct fallout of the overturning of the Roe vs. Wade and are highly political in nature. However, these bills do not really impact the business of the Board, so he is not sure that the Board should take any position at all, support or oppose. Both seem highly politicized, and that is within the purview of the Legislature itself and it doesn't appear to impact the Board's ability to carry out the Board's mission statement. Dr. Kidd stated that he has no opposition to Mr. Armenta's suggestion.

Mr. Grant stated that he agrees with Mr. Armenta and does not feel that the Board should take a position on AB 657 and AB 2626.

No public comment.

16. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- 1) Nominations and elections of Board President and Vice President.
- 2) Setting the Board meeting dates and locations for 2023
- 3) Update on the Medical Consultant Program.

No public comment.

17. CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Section 11126(c)(3) of the Government Code, the Board will deliberate and take action on disciplinary matters.

18. Adjournment

Adjournment will immediately follow the closed session and there will be no other items of business discussed.

Minutes do not reflect the order in which agenda items were presented at the Board meeting.