

MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2025
8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD
1747 N. Market Blvd.
Hearing Room #186
Sacramento, CA 95834

1. Call to Order by President

Dr. Kidd called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Staff called the roll. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, PA-C, President
Juan Armenta, Esq., Vice President (via video conference)
Eric Bergersen, PA-C
Philip DaVisio, DMSc, PA-C
Diego Inzunza, PA-C (8:46 a.m.)
Edwin Perez (8:36 a.m.)
Bhavana Prakash, DMSc, PA-C
Deborah Snow
Veling Tsai, M.D.

Staff Present:

Jasmine Dhillon, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist
Virginia Gerard, Probation Monitor
Pearl Her, Administrative Analyst
Jennifer Jimenez, Licensing Analyst
Michael Kanotz, Board Counsel, Attorney III
Rozana Khan, Executive Officer
Christina Lefort, Discipline Analyst
Armando Melendez, Special Investigator
Kristy Schieldge, Regulatory Counsel, Attorney IV (via video conference)
Linda Serrano, Complaint Analyst
Kristy Voong, Assistant Executive Officer (via video conference)

3. Consider Approval of April 21, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

M/ Philip DaVisio S/ Bhavana Prakash to:

Approve the April 21, 2025, meeting minutes.

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Juan Armenta	X				
Eric Bergersen	X				
Philip DaVisio	X				
Diego Inzunza				X	

Vasco Deon Kidd	X				
Edwin Perez				X	
Bhavana Prakash	X				
Deborah Snow	X				

No public comment.

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

Dr. Kidd reported that Assembly Bill (AB) 1501, the Board's Sunset Review bill, includes an increase in physician and surgeon to physician assistant (PA) supervision ratio from one-to-four to one-to-eight. Dr. Kidd expressed the long overdue update as the current ratio has not changed since 2008.

Additionally, the bill would extend the Board's operations until January 1, 2030, and includes the proposed amendments related to fee increases. Dr. Kidd testified before the Joint Hearing of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee and the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee on March 24 and June 30 regarding the Sunset Review bill. During the hearing Assembly Member Macedo inquired about expanding PA practice in the Central Valley, where access to care remains limited. Dr. Kidd emphasized that revising the supervision ratio is one of the most effective ways to expand the healthcare workforce in underserved areas.

Dr. Kidd further explained that California previously adopted a one-to-eight supervision ratio under AB 1070 for home health settings; however, those provisions do not apply to PAs who provide direct patient care or prescribe medication, even though approximately 95% of PAs nationwide prescribe. Expanding the one-to-eight ratio across all PA practice settings would create consistency and reflect current clinical practice. Dr. Kidd stated this change would help reduce regulatory barriers and improve access to care, particularly in underserved regions. The Board remains committed to collaborating with the Legislature and key stakeholders to ensure that any changes align with current clinical practices.

Dr. Kidd expressed appreciation to former Board President Sonya Earley for her partnership on this initiative, and to Board members and the California Academy of Physician Associates (CAPA) members for providing public comment in support of the bill.

Dr. Kidd reported Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 3502.3 was added to the bill, reflecting the Legislature's intent to review how PA practice agreements are structured and implemented in California compared to other states. The review

process is intended to be collaborative, involving input from relevant stakeholders across the healthcare system. Dr. Kidd clarified that the provision does not require the Board to lead or conduct the review, nor does it assign new responsibilities, mandates, or workload.

Dr. Kidd noted that the Legislature expressed their appreciation for the Board's efforts in fulfilling its consumer protection mandate and commended the contributions of the PA profession in California.

Mr. Armenta expressed his gratitude that the decision to revise the ratios was made by the Legislature rather than by the Board. Dr. Kidd agreed.

No public comment.

6. Executive Officer's Report

A. Personnel

Ms. Khan reported the Board is fully staffed with 11 authorized positions with no vacancies.

B. Annual Report

Ms. Khan reported at the conclusion of fiscal year 2024–25, staff began preparing for the Board's Annual Report. This legislatively mandated report informs the Legislature, Governor's Office, Agency, and the public of the Board's accomplishments and activities over the past year. The Annual Report includes updates on legislation and regulations, licensing and enforcement statistics, staffing, Board membership, fee structures, continuing education requirements, and other program-related information. The report is currently undergoing DCA's review and approval process prior to final publication.

C. Outreach

Ms. Khan reported that on April 29, 2025, Board staff participated in the 2025 Kaiser Northern California PA Symposium, delivering a virtual presentation focused on the Board's enforcement process.

No public comment.

7. Board Activity Reports

A. Licensing

Ms. Jimenez referred members to Agenda Item 7A and presented the following reports: Licensing Population by Type, Summary of Licensing Activity, Pending Application Workload, and Licensing Performance Measures. She noted that the NCCPA 2024 Annual Report was also included and provides comparative data among the top five states by number of PAs. She clarified that the NCCPA dataset includes only nationally certified PAs and does not reflect those who have not recertified, as NCCPA recertification is not required for license renewal in California.

Dr. Kidd asked whether it would reduce workload if applicants obtained all required documentation prior to submitting their application. Ms. Jimenez stated that there is a 30-day window between submission and initial review, during which applicants may complete any outstanding requirements.

B. Complaints

Ms. Serrano referred members to Agenda Item 7B and presented the following reports: Complaint Statistics and Complaints Received by Type and Source.

Dr. Kidd noted an increase in the number of complaints received compared to the prior year and asked how many were redundant submissions. Ms. Serrano confirmed that redundant complaints are identified and closed as appropriately but also reported an increase in new complaints.

Dr. Kidd requested data on the number of redundant complaints. Ms. Serrano stated a report could be generated and would be provide at the next meeting.

Ms. Khan added that the Board has increased outreach efforts, which may be contributing to the higher volume of new complaints.

Mr. Armenta observed that the average age of pending investigations decreased and asked what contributed to the improvement. Ms. Khan commended Ms. Serrano's efficiency since joining the Board and acknowledged the support provided by Special Investigator Armando Melendez. She thanked both staff members for their diligence and hard work.

Dr. Tsai commented that, given the growth in the PA workforce, viewing the complaints received in ratio rather than numbers could present that it is actually decreasing.

C. Discipline

Ms. Lefort referred members to Agenda Item 7C and presented the following report: Discipline Statistics.

D. Probation

Ms. Gerard referred members to Agenda Item 7D and presented the following report: Probation Activity.

E. Diversion

Ms. Gerard referred members to Agenda Item 7E and presented the following report: Diversion Program Activity.

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

Arthur Babakhanyan, from the Organizational Improvement Office, reported that in January, Governor Newsom released the proposed 2025-26 state budget, which includes a proposal to restructure the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency into two separate agencies – the California Housing and Homelessness Agency (CHHA) and the Business and Consumer Services Agency (BCSA). The Governor's reorganization plan was enacted on July 5. Under the structure, BCSA will oversee consumer affairs licensing and enforcement, and DCA will be one of the eight entities under the new agency. The two new agencies will be officially become operative on July 1, 2026.

Mr. Babakhanyan also reported that on March 3, 2025, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order requiring all state agencies and departments to implement a hybrid telework policy with a minimum of four in-person workdays per week, effective July 1, 2025. However, at the end of June, agreements reached with labor unions representing DCA employees delayed implementation of the four day in-office requirement by one year for most employees.

Additionally, Mr. Babakhanyan reported that on June 9, 2025, the Department of Finance issued updated out-of-state travel guidance. Out-of-state travel is now limited to essential business that is necessary to conduct state mission critical responsibilities.

Mr. Babakhanyan reminded that Board members and staff share responsibility to minimize state costs by exercising fiscal prudence when planning and approving travel for board business.

No public comment.

9. Budget Committee Update

Andrew Trute, DCA Budget Analyst, referred members to Agenda Item 9 and presented the expenditure projection, revenue projection, and fund condition statement.

Mr. Trute reported projected expenditure of \$1.5 million in personal services, \$2.2 million in operating expenses and equipment, totaling \$3.7 million; resulting in a small surplus of approximately \$96,000 or 2.5%.

He further reported that year-end revenue is projected at \$3.2 million, compared to an estimated revenue budget of \$3 million; there are no current concerns regarding revenue.

Regarding the Board's fund condition, Mr. Trute reported that for the prior fiscal year 2023-24 actuals, the Board has a beginning balance of \$4.2 million, received \$3 million in total revenue, and had a total expenditure of \$3.3 million. This resulted in a fund balance of \$3.9 million, equivalent to 12.8 months in reserve.

For current fiscal year 2024-25, the Board has a beginning balance of \$3.9 million, with projected revenue of \$3.2 million, and projected expenditure of \$3.7 million.

This results in a projected fund balance of \$3.5 million, equivalent to 12.3 months in reserve.

Projections for budget year 2025-26 through 2027-28 plus two years are based on the 2025 Budget Act, with the exception of projected investment income, which is formula driven.

Mr. Trute emphasized that the fund condition is a snapshot in time only and a reflection of the data used in its creation. One of the key drivers of increased expenditures is the rising personal service adjustments, including general salary increases, employee compensation, and retirement rate adjustments. The Budget Office includes a 3% ongoing annual increase in expenditures to account for these incremental adjustments. However, this estimate does not factor in potential increases in enforcement-related expenses, which could cause additional pressure on the fund in future years.

Mr. Trute noted that months in reserve will decrease overtime if expenditures increase by 3%. Any future legislation or unanticipated events could result in the Board's need for additional resources resulting in an increase pressure on the fund.

Dr. Kidd expressed that it is positive to see the Board's reserves in double digits.

No public comment.

10. Report on Medical Board of California Activities

Dr. Tsai provided an update from the Medical Board of California (MBC), which met on May 15, 2025, with discussions focused on legislation. Dr. Tsai reported that the primary topic was AB 8408 regarding the Physician Wellness Program. He noted that MBC does not currently have a diversion program and is closely monitoring the bill.

Dr. Tsai reported the Governor appointed Jacob Arkatov, J.D., Trinidad Solis, M.D., and Gerald Tolbert, M.D. to the MBC.

No public comment.

11. Overview of the Enforcement Process

Ms. Serrano and Ms. Lefort referred members to Agenda Item 11 and reviewed the Complaint Process Overview flowchart.

Dr. Kidd asked whether a violation of the Physician Assistant Practice Act automatically constitutes a violation of the Medical Practice Act. Ms. Khan confirmed that there is a provision states that any violation of the PA Practice Act is considered a violation of the Medical Practice Act.

Ms. Snow asked whether complainants are notified during the process. Ms. Lefort stated that complainants are notified when an accusation is filed and when a final decision is rendered.

Dr. Prakash asked about handling complaints from out of state. Ms. Lefort explained that the Board receives notification of disciplinary actions through the Federation of State Medical Board (FSMB). Once certified records are obtained, the Board determines whether a violation also exists under California law.

Ms. Snow asked whether complaints made to a hospital or healthcare facility are automatically reported to the Board. Mr. Kanotz stated that there are reporting requirements for complaints filed with medical facilities.

No public comment.

12. Discussion and Possible Action to Reconsider Previously Approved Text, and to Consider Initiation of a Rulemaking to Amend Title 16, California Code of Regulations Sections 1399.506, 1399.507, 1399.511, 1399.530, 1399.535, 1399.536, 1399.538, 1399.539, 1399.546 and 1399.556 Regarding Application, Exam Scores, Addresses, and Records

Kristy Schieldge, Regulatory Counsel, referred members to Agenda item 12 for the additional changes needed to be made to the text approved at the November 8, 2024 Board meeting. The Board's Sunset Bill (AB 1501) would make additional changes to the Physician Assistant Practice Act and remove the current remaining vestiges of authority to regulate PA training programs. If AB 1501 is enacted, the rulemaking would repeal the current PA training program regulations.

Dr. Kidd stated the current accrediting body for the Board is the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

Ms. Schieldge stated that the Board approves the accrediting agency and this regulatory proposal would clean up that portion of the regulation and make clear that the ARC-PA is the approved accrediting agency by this Board, and in the event that the ARC-PA no longer exists, then the Board will be recognizing any accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

M/ Vasco Deon Kidd S/ Edwin Perez to:

Rescind the motion passed at the Board's November 2024 board meeting regarding this item, approve the proposed regulatory text in Attachment 1, and 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. If the Board does not receive any objections or adverse recommendations specifically directed at the proposed action or to the procedures followed by the Board in proposing or adopting this action, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested. If no objections or adverse recommendations are received during the 45-day 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 16 CCR sections 1399.506, 1399.507, 1399.511, 1399.530, 1399.535, 1399.536, 1399.538, 1399.539, 1399.546 and 1399.556, as noticed.

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Juan Armenta	X				

Eric Bergersen	X				
Philip DaVisio	X				
Diego Inzunza	X				
Vasco Deon Kidd	X				
Edwin Perez	X				
Bhavana Prakash	X				
Deborah Snow	X				

No public comment.

13. Regulations – Update on Pending Regulatory Packages

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

The Legislature has included amendments to BPC section 3523 in AB 1501 and once the bill is chaptered, staff will continue working to complete this package.

2. 16 CCR 1399.506, 1399.507, 1399.511, 1399.546 – SB 697: Application, Exam Scores, Addresses, & Recordkeeping

The Board adopted the proposed revised regulatory language to initiate the rulemaking process at the November 8, 2024 Board meeting. And the Board was asked in Agenda Item 12 to review and adopt the proposed revised regulatory language to continue the rulemaking process.

3. 16 CCR 1399.515 – AB 2461: Retired Status Updates and Returned Fingerprint Requirement

The Board voted to adopt the proposed regulatory language to initiate the rulemaking process at the April 21, 2025 Board meeting. Staff is working to submit initial submission documents for Budget and Legal review.

4. 16 CCR 1399.523 – SB 1441: Implement Uniform Standards Related to Substance Abusing Licensees and Update of Disciplinary Guidelines

Staff is working on the proposed language for Board approval next calendar year.

5. 16 CCR 1399.550 – Initial License Fee Increase

Agency approved this package on March 5, 2025, and the Notice was filed with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for publication on March 21, 2025 to initiate the 45-day public comment period, which ended on May 5, 2025. The final documents were sent to Legal and Agency for review. Once approved, the final documents were submitted to OAL for a final review on June 25, 2025. This package was filed with the Secretary of State on August 4, 2025 and will become effective October 1, 2025.

No public comment.

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

Dr. Kidd referred members to Agenda Item 14 for the Education/Workforce Development Review Committee Report and provided an update on the geographic distribution of PA education programs.

Dr. Kidd reported that there are currently 318 nationally accredited PA training programs in the United States, with 20 located in California. Six additional programs in California hold provisional accreditation, and four more are in development. Of the existing programs, 15 are located in Southern California or the Bay Area, and only one is located in the Central Valley. At this time, no new California PA programs have been approved for provisional accreditation.

Dr. Kidd also noted that the current annual enrollment capacity across the 20 California PA programs is nearly 1,000 students, averaging 48 students per program.

No public comment.

15. Report by the Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Ms. Dhillon referred members to Agenda Items 15 for the detailed report on the following bills.

A. AB 447 (González) Emergency room patient prescriptions.

This bill would authorize a prescriber to dispense an unused portion of a dangerous drug acquired by the hospital pharmacy to an emergency room patient upon discharge under certain conditions, including that the dangerous drug is not a controlled substance and that dispensing the unused portion of the dangerous drug is required to continue treatment to the patient.

At its April 21, 2025 meeting, the Board took a “support” position.

B. AB 479 (Tangipa) Criminal procedure: vacatur relief.

This bill was introduced on February 10, 2025 and is dead. It is a 2-year bill and may be acted upon in January 2026.

C. AB 489 (Bonta) Health care professions: deceptive terms or letters: artificial intelligence.

The bill would prohibit the use by artificial intelligence (AI) or generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) technology of certain terms, letters, or phrases that indicate or imply that the advice or care advice, care, reports, or assessments being provided through AI or GenAI is being provided by a natural person with the appropriated health care license or certificate.

Lisa Murawski, Principal Consultant to the Assembly Health Committee, presented regarding the dangers of AI systems misrepresenting themselves as licensed health professionals. She stated that consumers rely on licensing laws to establish strict standards to qualify an individual to be a licensed health professional. The intent of the bill is not to expand or change the existing title protections, but it is intended to

clarify that those protections that are in state law that apply to people, can equally be applied to AI systems.

Ms. Murawski reported conversations with the Attorney General's (AG) Office in how the law can be enforced through multiple remedies available; including under the California Unfair Competition Law, can file lawsuits, issue civil penalties, seek civil injunctions to stop unfair practices and restitution to recover ill-gotten gains.

Dr. Kidd expressed the expense concern and questioned if the bill would cover AI foreign software. Ms. Murawski stated that if there are foreign software companies that exist, this bill is providing authority to engage law enforcement.

Mr. Kanotz noted that while the Board does not have jurisdiction to pursue a multi-national corporation directly, the bill would support enforcement efforts related against licensed PAs who may misuse AI tools inappropriately.

Ms. Snow expressed her support for AB 489. Dr. Tsai added that MBC took a support position on the bill.

Mr. Armenta asked for examples of how PAs may use AI in practice. Dr. Prakash shared that some institutions use chatbot to capture clinical documentation or the conversation between a PA and the patient. She noted that potential risks may arise when the documentation is not reviewed carefully, leading to errors or omissions.

Mr. Armenta commented that AI-generated text can sometimes mislead what is actually being said. He asked whether such issues could be considered negligence. Mr. Kanotz stated that he does not anticipate this would change the current enforcement analysis, but rather an additional tool for the Board to pursue actions.

Mr. Armenta whether the bill provides clear pathway for the AG when evaluating potential AI misuse. Ms. Murawski stated that the AG would have the authority to gather evidence based on the law to assist in their analysis of a potential violation.

Dr. DaVisio asked whether the provisions apply only to initial evaluation or for the discharge summary as well. Ms. Murawski stated the bill does not cover all the different applications in health care, rather, it focuses on title protection and if said person is a licensed professional.

M/ Vasco Deon Kidd S/ Deborah Snow to:

Support this bill.

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Juan Armenta	X				
Eric Bergersen	X				
Philip DaVisio	X				
Diego Inzunza	X				
Vasco Deon Kidd	X				
Edwin Perez	X				
Bhavana Prakash	X				
Deborah Snow	X				

D. AB 667 (Solache) Professions and vocations: license examinations: interpreters.

This bill would require certain boards under DCA to permit an applicant who cannot read, speak, or write in English to use an interpreter to interpret the English written and oral portions of the license examination if the applicant meets all other requirements for licensure, as specified.

An exemption for healing arts boards was included in the bill, so this ensures the boards are not required to provide interpreter accommodations for the license examination.

At its April 21, 2025 meeting, the Board took an “oppose, unless amended” position.

M/ Vasco Deon Kidd S/ Edwin Perez to:

Change position on the bill to watch.

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Juan Armenta	X				
Eric Bergersen	X				
Philip DaVisio	X				
Diego Inzunza	X				
Vasco Deon Kidd	X				
Edwin Perez	X				
Bhavana Prakash	X				
Deborah Snow	X				

E. AB 742 (Elhawary) Department of Consumer Affairs: licensing: applicants who are descendants of slaves.

This bill would require those boards to expedite applications for applicants seeking licensure who are descendants of American slaves once a process to certify descendants of American slaves is implemented, as specified. This bill would make these provisions operative only if Senate Bill (SB) 518 is enacted establishing the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery and would make these provisions operative when the certification process is implemented pursuant to that measure.

At its April 21, 2025 meeting, the Board took an “oppose” position.

F. AB 1501 (Committee on Business and Professions) Physician assistants and podiatrists.

This bill includes various necessary updates to reflect that Board does not approve PA training programs. This bill would increase the number of PAs whom a physician and surgeon may supervise at any one time to eight. This bill would instead establish a \$60 application fee, a \$250 initial license fee, and a \$300 biennial license renewal fee. The bill would authorize the board to increase the application fee to not more than \$80, the initial license fee to not more than \$500, and the biennial license renewal fee to not more than \$500. This bill would require that renewal applications be made on an electronic form, or other form, provided by the board. The bill would require an application form to contain a legal verification by the applicant certifying

under penalty of perjury that the information provided by the applicant is true and correct. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature that a comprehensive review of practice agreements structures be undertaken in consultation with relevant stakeholders and, in that regard, would authorize the Board to collaborate, as appropriate, with the Legislature and other stakeholders to inform future policy discussions through existing processes and expertise. This review would consider how practice agreements are utilized in other states and evaluate their potential benefits or detriments to patient care, workforce efficiency, and regulatory oversight.

M/ Juan Armenta S/ Deborah Snow to:

Support this bill.

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Juan Armenta	X				
Eric Bergersen	X				
Philip DaVisio	X				
Diego Inzunza	X				
Vasco Deon Kidd	X				
Edwin Perez	X				
Bhavana Prakash	X				
Deborah Snow	X				

G. SB 470 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.

The act authorizes meetings through teleconference subject to specified requirements, including, among others, that the state body post agendas at all teleconference locations, that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that the agenda provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly at each teleconference location, and that at least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting. The act repeals these provisions on January 1, 2026. This bill would instead repeal these provisions on January 1, 2030.

At its April 21, 2025 meeting, the Board took a “support” position.

H. SB 641 (Ashby) Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Real Estate: states of emergency: waivers and exemptions.

This bill would authorize the Department of Real Estate (DRE) and boards under the jurisdiction of DCA to waive the application of certain provisions of the licensure requirements for licensees and applicants impacted by a declared federal, state, or local emergency or whose home or business is located in a declared disaster area, including certain examination, fee, and continuing education requirements. This bill would exempt impacted licensees from the payment duplicate license fees and require all applicants and licensees of DRE or boards under DCA to provide an email address.

At its April 21, 2025 meeting, the Board took a “watch” position.

No public comment.

16. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Ms. Khan suggested setting next board meeting dates and Dr. Kidd suggested establishing a practice agreement committee.

17. CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), the Board will Convene to Deliberate on Disciplinary Actions and Decisions to be Reached in Administrative Procedure Act Proceedings

18. Adjournment

With no further business, the opening meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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