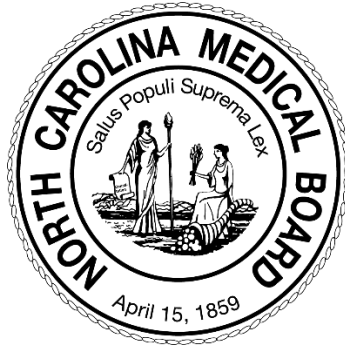




BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 20-22, 2026

**3127 Smoketree Court
Raleigh, North Carolina**

General Session Minutes of the North Carolina Medical Board (NCMB) Meeting held May 20-22, 2026. The May 20-22, 2026 meeting of the North Carolina Medical Board was held in person. meeting of the North Carolina Medical Board was held in person at 3127 Smoketree Court, Raleigh, NC 27604 and certain closed portions of the meeting were conducted virtually, including licensing and investigative interviews. Anuradha Rao-Patel, MD, President, called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Robert L. Rich, Jr., MD, President-Elect; Mark A. Newell, MD, MMM; Secretary/Treasurer; Earic R. Bonner, MD, MBA; J. Nelson Dollar, MA; Lisa Ehrler, DO; Vickie A. Harry; Sharona Y. Johnson, PhD, FNP-BC; Shannon R. Joseph; Miguel A. Pineiro, PA-C, MHPE; Anthony R. Plunkett, MD; Devdutta G. Sangvai, MD, JD, MBA. Member absent: Gregory S. McCarty, MD

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

Dr. Anuradha Rao-Patel reminded the Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board as required by the State Government Ethics Act. Reported conflicts were included within individual committee reports.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

Dr. Rao-Patel recognized new staff as they were introduced by their perspective manager. She also recognized staff with employment milestones. Staff promotions were recognized by their perspective manager.

NORTH CAROLINA PROFESSIONALS HEALTH PROGRAM REPORTS (NCPHP)

Dr. Sharona Johnson gave the NCPHP Board of Directors report.

A motion passed to close the session pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes to prevent the disclosure of information that is confidential pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes and not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes and/or to preserve attorney/client privilege.

Dr. Joseph Jordan gave the NCPHP Compliance Committee report. The specifics of this report are not included because the information contained in the report is confidential and non-public.

A motion passed to return to open session.

NCMB LEGAL DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Brian Blankenship, Chief Legal Officer, gave the Legal Department Report on Friday, May 22, 2026.

Mr. Blankenship updated the Board on the schedule of June 2026 and October 2026 hearings and hearing assignments.

Mr. Blankenship also provided information regarding work product occurring since the last Legal Department Report was presented.

The Legal Department Report was concluded.

The Board accepted the report as information.

NCMB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Report

Members present were: Anuradha Rao-Patel, MD, Chair; J. Nelson Dollar, MA; Mark A. Newell, MD, MMM; Robert L. Rich, MD; Devdutta G. Sangvai, MD, JD, MBA

Financial Update

a. Year-To-Date Financials

The Committee reviewed the following financial reports through March 31, 2026: Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Comparison, and the Profit & Loss – Budget vs. Actuals with the accounting team.

Committee Recommendation: Accept the financial information as reported.

Board Action: Accept Committee recommendation. Accept the financial information as reported.

b. Investment Account Update

The Committee reviewed the Budget to Actuals Report, which compares actual income and expenses to budgeted income and expenses for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2025, with the accounting team.

Committee Recommendation: Accept the financial information as reported.

Board Action: Accept the Committee recommendation. Accept the investment statements as reported.

c. Semi-annual Report from Investment Advisor

Mr. Len Lopez, Fifth Third Bank, provided an update on the stock and bond markets and the Board's investment account.

Committee Recommendation: Accept the report as information.

Board Action: Accept the Committee recommendation. Accept the report as information.

New Business:

a. Legislative Update

Staff presented the legislative update.

Committee Recommendation: Accept the legislative update as information.

Board Action: Accept the Committee recommendation. Accept the legislative update as information.

Closed Session

A motion passed to go into closed session pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

As per Article V, Section 2 of the NCMB Bylaws, the Executive Committee met with Mr. Thomas Mansfield to conduct the annual CEO performance review.

A motion passed to return to open session.

Licensing Committee Report

Members present were Earic R. Bonner, MD, MBA, Chair; Vickie A. Harry; Mark A. Newell, MD, MMM; Robert L. Rich, MD; Miguel A. Pineiro, PA-C, MHPE.

A motion passed to close the session pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes to prevent the disclosure of information that is confidential pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes and not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes and/or to preserve attorney-client privilege.

- a. Nine applications were submitted to the License Committee members for review. No applications were extracted for discussion and there were no recusals.

The License Committee recommendations are included at the end of this report.

Committee recommendations: Accept Licensing Committee recommendations.

Board Action: Accept Committee recommendations. Accept License Committee recommendations.

A motion passed to return to open session.

- a. Update regarding the Physician Assistant License Compact

Board Attorney Rob Patchett provided updated information regarding Session Law 2025-37 the Physician Assistant License Compact. There are 24 member states in the Compact and there is one delegate per member state. Further explained that he was appointed to the PA Compact Commission.

It is projected that the PA Compact Commission will begin issuing compact privileges in 2027 but is not operational at this time. Future updates will be provided.

Committee recommendations: Accept as information.

Board Action: Accept Committee recommendation. Accept as information

- b. Internationally Trained Physician Employee Rule 21 NCAC 32B.1362.

Deputy General Counsel Marcus Jiminson provided updated information regarding the Internationally Trained Physician Employee (ITPE) Rule. Based on technical changes that were recently provided by a Rules Review Commission counselor for Rule 21 NCAC 32B .1403 Conversion Application for Physician License, the following change is being proposed to the ITPE rule to list out what details an applicant would provide in the application.

Committee recommendations: Approve the proposed rule with proposed changes as written.

- b. Board Action: Accept Committee recommendation. Approve the proposed rule with proposed changes as written.

License Interview Report

A motion passed to close the session pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes to prevent the disclosure of information that is confidential pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes and not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes and/or to preserve attorney-client privilege.

Eight licensure interviews were conducted virtually. A written report was presented for the Board's review. The Board adopted the Committee's recommendation to approve the written report. The specifics of this report are not included because these actions are not public information.

Disciplinary (Investigative) Committee Report

The Disciplinary Committee did not convene as there were no extractions of the 49 investigative cases. A written report was presented for the Board's review. The Board adopted the recommendations and approved the written report. The specifics of this report are not included because these actions are not public information pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Disciplinary (Complaints) Committee Report

The Disciplinary Committee did not convene as there were no extractions of the 54 complaint cases. A written report was presented for the Board's review. The Board adopted the recommendations and approved the written report. The specifics of this report are not included because these actions are not public information pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Disciplinary (Compliance) Committee Report

The Disciplinary Committee did not convene as there were no extractions of the 9 compliance cases. A written report was presented for the Board's review. The Board adopted the recommendations and approved the written report. The specifics of this report are not included because these actions are not

public information pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Disciplinary (Malpractice) Committee Report

The Disciplinary Committee did not convene as there were no extractions of the 39 malpractice cases. A written report was presented for the Board's review. The Board adopted the recommendations and approved the written report. The specifics of this report are not included because these actions are not public information pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Disciplinary (Department of Health and Human Services or DHHS) Committee Report

The Disciplinary Committee did not convene as the one DHHS case was not extracted. A written report was presented for the Board's review. The Board adopted the recommendations and approved the written report. The specifics of this report are not included because these actions are not public information pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Investigative Interview Report

A motion passed to close the session pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes to prevent the disclosure of information that is confidential pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes and not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes and/or to preserve attorney-client privilege.

Seven investigative interviews were conducted virtually. A written report was presented for the Board's review. The Board adopted the recommendations and approved the written report. The specifics of this report are not included because these actions are not public information.

A motion passed to return to open session.

Advanced Practice Providers & Allied Health Committee Report

Members present were: Miguel Pineiro, PA-C, MHPE; Anthony R. Plunkett, MD, Vice-Chair; Earic R. Bonner, MD, MBA; Vicki A. Harry. Members absent: Lisa Erhler, DO; Gregory S. McCarty, MD.

a. Proposed Rule 21 NCAC 32U .0103 – Influenza Test and Treat by Pharmacists

Staff reviewed SL 2025-37. This new law authorizes pharmacists to test for and initiate treatment for influenza. In September 2025, the State Health Director issued two standing orders implementing the new law. In December 2025, representatives from the Medical Board and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy ("NCBOP") met and approved the standing orders as written.

SL 2025-37 directs both Boards to adopt the standing orders as administrative rules. In January 2026, the NCBOP passed its rule. Proposed rule 21 NCAC 32U .0103 incorporates NCBOP's rule by reference.

On March 17, 2026, a joint public hearing with the Board and the NCBOP for the proposed rule was convened. No oral or written comments were received.

The proposed rule came before the Board for final approval.

Committee recommendation: Approve proposed rule 21 NCAC 32U .0103 as written.

Board Action: Accept Committee recommendation. Approve proposed rule 21 NCAC 32U .0103 as written.

b. Proposed Rule 21 NCAC 32S .0227 – Physician Assistants Team-Based Practice

Staff reviewed SL 2025-37, which amended the Medical Practice Act to allow physician assistants who have obtained 4,000 clinical hours of experience and 1,000 clinical hours in a particular specialty to practice in a team-based setting without physician supervision. The new law goes into effect June 30, 2026, or when a rule is in place, whichever is earliest.

A public hearing for the permanent rule was convened on May 1, 2026, which was heavily attended by the public. Representatives from the North Carolina Academy of Physician Associates (“NCAPA”) attended and submitted comments. The Board received the NCAPA’s written comments and proposed edits in advance of the public hearing. Additional written comments were provided by Karen Burke, M.D., FAAP.

The permanent rule came before the Board for final approval. A discussion was held regarding the provisions set forth in section (d) of the proposed rule. As written, section (d)(3) requires a three-part attestation, signed by the physician assistant, under oath affirming that the physician assistant has met the requirements to practice as a team-based physician assistant in a team-based practice or setting.

Section (d)(4) requires a licensed physician who is a member of the team-based setting or practice to confirm that the physician assistant will be practicing in a team-based practice or setting. Section (d)(5) requires an employer/authorized representative to confirm that the physician assistant has been hired or promoted as a team-based physician assistant in a team-based setting or practice.

Representatives from the NCAPA advocated for a single attestation completed by the physician assistant and requested the Board strike “three-part” in section (d)(3) and strike sections (d)(4) and (d)(5) in their entirety.

Committee recommendation: Take to the full Board.

Board Action: Approve proposed rule 21 NCAC 32S .0227 with the following revisions: (d)(3) strike “three-part”; strike (d)(4) and (d)(5) in their entirety.

New Business:

a. Perfusionist Advisory Committee (“PAC”) Reappointment of Melinda Couper, BS, CCP, LP

Staff discussed that PAC member Melinda Couper's current term on the committee expires on October 31, 2026. Ms. Couper is willing to serve a second term, and staff recommended reappointing her.

Committee recommendation: Approve reappointment of Melinda Couper to the PAC.

Board Action: Accept Committee recommendation. Approve reappointment of Melinda Couper to the PAC.

b. PAC Physician Vacancy Update

Staff discussed that Dr. Elliott Fennell Williams, the physician member of the PAC, is currently ineligible for reappointment since he has served on the committee for two terms. Dr. Williams has continued to serve on the committee until a new member is appointed. The Board received an application from Sharon McCartney, MD, FASE, to fill the vacant position. Staff recommended appointing Dr. McCartney to the PAC.

Committee recommendation: Approve appointment of Dr. Sharon McCartney to the PAC.

Board Action: Accept Committee recommendation. Approve appointment of Dr. Sharon McCartney to the PAC.

A motion passed to close the session pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes to prevent the disclosure of information that is confidential pursuant to Sections 90-8, 90-14, 90-16, and 90-21.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes and not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes and/or to preserve attorney/client privilege.

a. Joint Subcommittee Panel Recommendations

Staff reviewed the Joint Subcommittee Panel Recommendations from September 2025, November 2025, January 2026, and March 2026.

Committee recommendation: Accept as Information.

Board Action: Accept Committee recommendation. Accept as Information.

A motion passed to return to open session.

Outreach Committee Report

Members present were: Anthony R. Plunkett, MD, Chair; Lisa Ehrler, DO; Vicki A. Harry. Member absent: Sharona Y. Johnson, PhD, FNP-BC

Old Business:

a. Update on Presentations

- i. Professional and public presentations
- ii. Regulatory Immersion Series events
- iii. Webinar presentations

iv. Pocket Presentations

The Communications Director gave an overview of professional and public outreach efforts, including the Regulatory Immersion Series mock disciplinary course. The Communications Director noted that there are no RIMS sessions in May or June, but that the program continues to grow. Staff have contacted and secured opportunities to present the RIMS program to the Lenoir-Rhyne PA program, as well as the newly formed NC A&T PA program. Public outreach efforts have also continued to grow and are reaching more counties than we previously had. NCMB hosted its first live webinar in May, delivering an overview of licensure provisions of HB67 and an update on NCMB efforts to improve time to licensure. Nearly 50 people attended and post-session survey feedback was positive. Communications staff are working on building a library of short “pocket presentations,” as discussed in past meetings. These presentations will have 10 or fewer content slides and will allow staff and Board Member presenters to routinely offer shorter and more focused presentations to public and professional audiences. The Outreach Committee Chair presented the first of these “pocket presentations” to physician medical staff at First Health of the Carolinas in Pinehurst covering NCMB’s licensing and disciplinary process

Committee recommendation: Accept as information.

Board Action: Accept committee recommendation. Accept as information

b. Update on Board Member Presentation Training

During the March 2026 Board Meeting, the Committee discussed holding a Board Meeting training for Board Members on NCMB presentations. The Communications Director updated the Committee that the earliest this training could be held would be during the September 2026 Board Meeting, and ideally last for 90 minutes. The Communications Director presented the proposed training outline, which would cover NCMB outreach goals, logistics, most frequently presentation topics, coaching in delivering 30 second anecdotal examples and responding to attendee questions. Staff will be sending a survey to Board Members to gather information about any barriers to participation, issues, or ideas to help inform the training.

Committee recommendation: Finalize plan for training and direct staff to schedule it for the September Board Meeting.

Board Action: Accept committee recommendation. Finalize plan for training and direct staff to schedule it for the September Board Meeting.

Miscellaneous:

a. Social Media Campaign Results

The Communications Specialist shared with the Committee NCMB’s second quarter of 2026 social media campaign which highlighted NCMB’s most popular online resource, the Look Up a Doctor or PA tool. The campaign was ran on Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook and targeted the entire state of NC. The consumer-focused posts highlighted using the tool as a resource to learn about your clinician’s regulatory history or in researching a new clinician. For

professionals, the messaging centered on keeping the information in your licensee information page current.

Committee recommendation: Accept as information.

Board Action: Accept Committee recommendation. Accept as information.

b. Licensing Focused Social Media Posts

The Communications Specialist shared that staff are developing social media content focusing on licensing and registration activity during the “busy season” issuing training licenses to incoming residents. Staff are posting weekly updates on how many RTLs have been issued and how applicants can use NCMB’s Licensure Gateway to monitor application status. Staff are also creating posts on general licensing stats, similar to those found in the Licensing Dashboard, as well as information on different license types. The goal of this content is to educate followers about the high application volume NCMB receives to better manage applicant expectations.

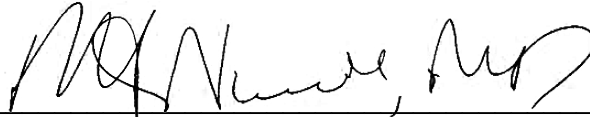
Committee recommendation: Accept as information.

Board Action: Accept Committee recommendation. Accept as information.

ADJOURNMENT

The Medical Board officially adjourned at 10:16 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2026.

The next meeting of the Medical Board will be in person, July 15-17, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Newell, MD', written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Newell, MD, MMM, Secretary/Treasurer