



## Osteopathic Medical Board of California

### Teleconference Minutes

November 13, 2025

**MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Denise Pines, MBA, President  
Hemesh Patel, D.O., Vice President  
Gor Adamyan, Secretary  
John M. Cummins, J.D.  
Brett Lockman, D.O.  
Matthew Swain, D.O.

**STAFF  
PRESENT:**

Erika Calderon, Executive Director  
Machiko Chong, Licensing Program Manager  
Cristy Livramento, Enforcement Program Manager  
Terri Thorfinnson, Legislative/Regulatory Specialist  
Shelly Jones, Asst. Deputy Director, DCA  
Kaila Van Lint, Budget Analyst, DCA  
Suzanne Balkis, Budget Manager, DCA  
Marcy Larson, Administrative Law Judge, OAH  
Matthew Fleming, Deputy Attorney General  
Beth Clark, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Ralph Correa, Probation Monitor

**MEMBERS OF  
THE AUDIENCE:**

Holly Macriss, Executive Director, OPSC  
Michelle Monserratt-Ramos, Consumer Watchdog  
Maria Ibarra-Navarrette, Consumer Watchdog  
Kimberly Turbin, Consumer Watchdog  
Tracy Dominguez, Consumer Watchdog

## **Board Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2025**

### **Agenda Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum**

The Quarterly Board Meeting of the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC) was called to order by President Denise Pines at 9:00 a.m.

Machiko Chong called roll and determined a quorum was present. The meeting was held at the Department of Consumer Affairs, Hearing Room HQ1, in Sacramento, CA.

### **Agenda Item 2 Reading of the Board's Mission Statement**

Executive Director Erika Calderon read the Board's mission statement: "to protect the public by requiring competency, accountability, and integrity in the safe practice of medicine by osteopathic physicians and surgeons"

### **Agenda Item 3 Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

President Pines opened the floor for public comments.

The WebEx moderator checked for online requests; no public comments were made for items not on the agenda.

### **Agenda Item 4 Review and Possible Approval of Board Meeting Minute**

Beth Clark presented the minutes from the August 14, 2025, Board Meeting.

**Public Comment:** Holly Macriss (OPSC) requested a correction on page 11 to clarify that she stated she would be updating the Board on the upcoming osteopath bill, rather than requesting updates from the Board.

**Motion to adopt the August 14, 2025, minutes as amended.**

**Motion – Dr. Patel Second – Mr. Cummins**

- **Aye** – Adamyan, Cummins, Lockman, Patel, Pines, Swain
- **Nay** – None
- **Abstention** – None
- **Absent** – Negeen Mirreghabie

Motion carried to approve the minutes as amended.

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### **Agenda Item 5: Hearing on Petition for Early Termination of Probation**

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Marcy Lawson presided over the hearing for Eman Abdallah, D.O.

Deputy Attorney General Matthew Fleming represented the People. Dr. Abdallah represented herself and was sworn in.

Deputy AG Fleming provided a history of the case, noting Dr. Abdallah's license was placed on five years of probation in June 2023 for gross negligence and aiding unlicensed practice at med spas.

Dr. Abdallah testified regarding her rehabilitation, her current ownership of a private practice where she performs all medical treatments herself, and her improved record-keeping systems. Deputy AG Fleming recommended the Board continue the probation, noting it was the earliest possible time for a petition and that the public interest is best served by allowing the term to play out. The Board took the matter under submission for deliberation in closed session.

### **Agenda Item 6: President's Report**

President Denise Pines reported on:

- **Personnel Changes:** Recognition of Andrew Moreno for seven years of service; welcome to new member Negeen Mirreghabie (spectator online, joining in person in January).
- **Events:** Announcement of "Hill Day" on January 21, 2026, to meet with legislators.
- **International/National:** Updates on the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) meeting in Dublin regarding medical racism standards and the emerging licensing pathway for "assistant physicians".
- **DCA Leadership:** Acknowledgment of DCA Director Kimberly Kirchmeyer's upcoming retirement.
- **Public Comment:** Representatives from Consumer Watchdog criticized the use of clinical terminology such as "cradle to the grave" and requested that enforcement committee meetings be held in public.

### **Agenda Item 7: Board Member Communications with Interested Parties**

President Pines requested disclosures. No board members reported communications.

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### **Agenda Item 8: Intergovernmental Relations Reports and Administrative Services Update**

- **DCA Update:** Shelly Jones reported on the appointment of Lucy Saldivar as Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Relations and provided updates on mandatory training (Sexual Harassment Prevention and Unconscious Bias).
- **Budget Update:** Kaila Van Lindt reported the Board ended FY 24/25 with approximately 12.4 months in reserve. However, future expenditures are projected to increase by 3% annually while revenues remain static.

### **Agenda Item 9: Executive Director's Report**

Erika Calderon introduced new staff members Rachel Molina (Enforcement Analyst) and Yvonne Almazan (Special Investigator).

She noted that enforcement staff have returned to the office three days per week for onboarding and collaboration.

### **Agenda Item 10: Licensing/Admin Program Summary**

Machiko Chong reported a total population of 17,012 licensed D.O.s. Total applications are up 17% overall.

Revisions were made to FNP applications to clarify requirements for various filing types.

### **Agenda Item 11: Enforcement Program Summary**

Cristy Livramento reported 320 complaints received this quarter, a 33% increase from the previous year.

Referred cases to the AG doubled compared to the same quarter last year.

**Public Comment:** Consumer Watchdog volunteers shared personal stories regarding the impact of physician negligence and requested transparency in case management.

### **Agenda Item 12: Probation Program Summary**

Ralph Correa reported 31 active probationers.

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He detailed field monitoring efforts, including unannounced visits to ensure compliance with cease practice orders.

### **Agenda Item 13: Rulemaking Update**

Terri Thorfinnson confirmed that the prior regulatory package became effective October 1, 2025.

The Fee and License Status package and Disciplinary Guidelines are currently in progress

### **Agenda Item 14: Discussion and Possible Action to Consider Initiation of a Rulemaking (Retired License, Petitions and Fees)**

Terri Thorfinnson and Kristy Schieldge presented a trimmed-down regulatory package focused on increasing fees to statutory maximums to address a structural budget imbalance. Staff noted that fees have not been raised since 1994.

**Key details include:**

- **Conviction Reporting (Section 1630):** Updated to require disclosure of crimes in foreign countries while excluding minor traffic infractions of \$500 or less (unless involving drugs/alcohol).
- **Retired Status (Section 1648):** Established a new status with an application fee of \$200 (OMB.31) and a restoration fee of \$400 (OMB.32).
- **Petitions (Section 1656):** Review time increased to 120 days. New non-refundable fees of \$2,800 for reinstatement and \$1,500 for modification of penalty were established.
- **Adjudication Fee:** Implementation of a \$20,000 upfront adjudication fee to recover reasonable costs for the ALJ, court reporters, and DAG. A refund mechanism was added if actual costs are lower than the upfront fee.
- **Board Discussion:** Dr. Lockman raised concerns about financial hardship for petitioners. Staff clarified that cost recovery shifts the burden from the general licensee population to the individual utilizing the service.

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**Motion to approve the proposed regulatory text in attachments one through five and authorize the Executive Director to initiate the rulemaking process.**

- **Motion** – Dr. Lockman **Second** – Mr. Adamyan
- **Aye** – Mr. Adamyan, Mr. Cummins, Dr. Lockman, Dr. Patel, Ms. Pines, Dr. Swain
- **Nay** – None
- **Abstention** – None
- **Absent** – Negeen Mirreghabie

Motion carried to move the rulemaking process forward.

### **Agenda Item 15: Discussion on Legislation**

Terri Thorfinnson reviewed the status of several bills:

- **AB 489** (AI Deception) was signed into law.
- **AB 460** (Radiologist Telemedicine) was signed into law.
- **AB 432** (Menopause CME) and **AB 742** (Expedited Licensure) were vetoed by the Governor.

### **Agenda Item 16: Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates**

The Board requested a future presentation on the administrative law process and a panel discussion on CME requirements.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2026.

### **Agenda Item 17: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by President Denise Pines.