



Osteopathic Medical Board of California

Teleconference Minutes

January 22, 2026

**MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF
PRESENT:**

Erika Calderon, Executive Director
Yuping Lin, Esq., Legal Counsel
Machiko Chong, SSM I, Licensing Unit
Cristy Livramento, SSM I, Enforcement Unit
Terri Thorfinnson, SSM I, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist
Beth Clark, Analyst II
Ralph Correa, Probation Monitor
Shelley Jones, Assistant Deputy Director, Board and Bureau
Relations, DCA
Kayla Van Lint, Budget Analyst, DCA Budget Office
Brad Lencioni, Budget Manager, DCA

**MEMBERS OF
THE AUDIENCE:**

Holly Macriss, Executive Director, OPSC
Michele Monserratt-Ramos, Consumer Watchdog
Maria Ibarra-Navarrette, Consumer Watchdog
Tracy Dominguez, Consumer Watchdog
Sarah Irani, Analyst II, DCA Moderator

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Agenda Item 1 Call to Order and 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 9:03 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2026, in the Hearing Room of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Headquarters, 1740 N. Market Blvd., Sacramento, California, and via Webex. President Pines reviewed meeting protocols under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, including public comment procedures and time limits. Machiko Chong called roll. A quorum of Board members was established.

Agenda Item 2 Reading of the Board's Mission Statement

Executive Director Erica 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 for Items not on the Agenda

President Pines opened the floor for public comments regarding items not listed on the agenda.

The Webex moderator provided instructions for submitting comments online.

No requests for public comment were made online or in person.

Agenda Item 4 Review and Possible Approval of Minutes

Beth Clark presented the draft minutes from November 13, 2025, Board Meeting. Ms. Clark walked through the document page-by-page and invited corrections and clarifications. One correction was noted to the subtitle to read "teleconference minutes". After discussion, the Board considered approval of the minutes as amended.

Motion to approve November 13, 2025, minutes as amended.

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

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

Motion carried to approve the November 13, 2025, minutes as amended.

No public comments were made on this item.

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Agenda Item 5 President's Report

President Pines provided an overview of Board activities during the past quarter and noted ongoing coordination with Executive Director Calderon to advance Board priorities. She announced her reappointment by the Governor and expressed appreciation for the continued opportunity to serve.

Key updates included:

- **Reappointment:** President Pines announced her reappointment by the Governor to serve another term on the Board and expressed her sincere appreciation for the continued trust and opportunity to serve in her role.
- **Inaugural Hill Day:** On January 21, 2026, the Board held its first "Hill Day." A delegation consisting of Dr. Patel, Mr. Adamyan, and Mr. Cummins met with state legislators to provide an overview of the D.O. profession and build support for future legislation to protect the professional designation.
- **FSMB Updates:** Ms. Pines will attend a Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) meeting in late February, following a working session in New Orleans focused on trauma-informed care. She also noted that the FSMB Office of AI Innovation continues to monitor evolving artificial intelligence regulations.

No public comments were made.

Agenda Item 6 Board Member Communications with Interested Parties

President Pines requested disclosures regarding Board member communications with interested parties, including meetings with legislators or other external engagements related to OMBC matters. No Board members reported communications requiring disclosure.

No public comments were made.

Agenda Item 7 Intergovernmental Relations Reports and Administrative Services Update

7A. Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Update

Shelly Jones, Assistant Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Relations, provided the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) update and congratulated President Pines on her reappointment.

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Ms. Jones reported on the following:

- **Leadership:** Christine Lally has been appointed Acting Director of the DCA following the retirement of Kimberly Kirchmeyer.
- **Governor’s 2026–27 Budget:** The proposed budget is balanced.
- **Agency Reorganization:** The former Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency is being divided into two entities. DCA will transition to the newly established Business and Consumer Services Agency, with implementation anticipated July 1, 2026.
- **Wildfire Executive Order:** A one-year renewal fee postponement was authorized for licensees impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires.
- **Compliance and Administrative Reminders:**
 - Form 700 filings are due April 1 through the FPPC e-filing system.
 - Required trainings include Unconscious Bias and Board Member Orientation.
 - Travel and operational spending remain subject to Department of Finance guidance.

No public comment was received.

7B. Budget Office Update

Budget Status:

Kaila Van Lindt and Brad Lencioni presented the Board’s fiscal status and projections.

- Authorized Budget: \$4.333 million
- Projected Expenditures: \$4.915 million
- Projected Reversion: 0.78% (after AG and HQIU cost augmentations)

Fund Condition:

- Fiscal Year 2024–25 year-end reserve: \$4.943 million (approximately 10.5 months).
- Current year projected reserve: approximately 7.4 months.

Staff confirmed ongoing monitoring of expenditures to ensure fiscal stability and compliance with state financial directives.

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Agenda Item 8 Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Erika Calderon provided a comprehensive update on Board operations, personnel matters, and ongoing interagency efforts.

Ms. Calderon began by recognizing Acting DCA Director Christine Lally and expressing appreciation for her leadership and mentorship. She also announced the retirement of Kathleen Nicholls, former Chief of the Department's Division of Investigation, acknowledging her more than 30 years of service in enforcement and investigative work, including her prior leadership role within the Health Quality Investigation Unit (HQIU).

Personnel and Organizational Updates

Ms. Calderon reported on recent statewide classification changes that took effect in January 2026, including the consolidation of analyst and managerial classifications:

- Staff Services Manager (SSM) classifications were converted to Manager I and Manager II.
- Associate Governmental Program Analysts (AGPA) were reclassified as Analyst II.
- Staff Services Analysts (SSA) were reclassified as Analyst I.

She reviewed the Board's authorized staffing levels and discussed operational considerations, including the use of a limited-term Special Investigator to support enforcement functions. She noted that resource constraints continue to impact workload distribution and case processing timelines.

Enforcement and Interagency Coordination

Ms. Calderon emphasized ongoing coordination with the Attorney General's Office and HQIU to prioritize high-risk cases and matters approaching statute-of-limitations deadlines. She reported that she and Enforcement Manager Cristy Livramento continue to meet regularly with enforcement partners to ensure timely case review and appropriate resource allocation.

Additionally, she referenced a joint forum held on December 17, 2025, with other prescribing boards to discuss access to controlled substances and related regulatory considerations. She also noted continued engagement with Consumer Watchdog representatives to receive stakeholder input regarding enforcement practices and consumer protection priorities.

Public Comment

Michelle Monserratt-Ramos (Consumer Watchdog) congratulated President Pines on her reappointment, expressed appreciation for the Board's continued focus on

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consumer protection, and recognized Kathleen Nicholls for her longstanding service and retirement.

Holly Macriss (Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California – OPSC) also congratulated President Pines and thanked Board leadership for its ongoing outreach and collaboration with licensees and association members. She noted that OMBC leadership is anticipated to participate in an upcoming OPSC convention panel addressing professional identity and the practice of medicine.

Agenda Item 9 Possible Action to Revise the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

Executive Director Erika Calderon and staff presented proposed revisions to the Osteopathic Medical Board of California's 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. The proposed updates included clarifying strategic objectives, refining language for improved readability, and updating Board member information to ensure the document accurately reflects the Board's current composition and priorities.

Ms. Calderon explained that the revision process included review by the Executive Committee and consideration of stakeholder input. The updates were intended to enhance public-facing clarity while ensuring the Strategic Plan remains consistent with the Board's statutory authority and does not imply responsibilities beyond its regulatory mandate.

Board members discussed the importance of clearly articulating OMBC's mission, consumer protection role, and enforcement authority. Particular attention was given to ensuring that terminology accurately reflects the Board's jurisdiction and responsibilities, and that the final document is accessible and understandable to non-board audiences.

Public comments were received as follows:

- Michelle Monserratt-Ramos (Consumer Watchdog) expressed appreciation for the emphasis on public safety and consumer protection throughout the Strategic Plan.
- Holly Macriss (Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California – OPSC) raised questions regarding specific wording and requested that final language be carefully reviewed to ensure clarity for stakeholders and licensees. She noted that reviewing the text visually during the meeting was helpful and thanked staff for the opportunity to provide input.
- Tracy Domingues (Consumer Watchdog) requested clarification regarding the sequencing of the agenda items.

Staff confirmed that, upon Board approval, the Strategic Plan would be finalized to reflect the discussion and published on the Board's website for public access.

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Motion to approve the proposed updates to the OMBC 2024–2028 Strategic Plan and authorize the Executive Director to finalize and publish the revised plan.

Motion – Mr. Cummins Second – Dr. Patel

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

Motion carried to approve the Strategic Plan updates and authorize publication of the revised plan.

Agenda Item 10 Licensing Program Update

Licensing Program Manager Machiko Chong presented the Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 licensing statistics and provided operational updates, referencing materials included in the Board packet.

As of the reporting period, the Board’s licensed population included:

- 17,164 licensed osteopathic physicians and surgeons
- 1,695 postgraduate training licenses
- 1,701 fictitious name permits (FNPs)

Ms. Chong reported a 27% increase in applications received, reflecting continued growth in licensing activity. At the time of the meeting, there were 264 pending initial applications, including 19 requests for expedited processing.

Fictitious Name Permit (FNP) Compliance

Ms. Chong outlined ongoing efforts to improve compliance and oversight of fictitious name permit holders. These efforts include:

- Conducting annual audits of delinquent permits
- Increasing outreach to educate permit holders on renewal and maintenance requirements
- Implementing workflow enhancements, including additional renewal reminders following the close of renewal periods
- Utilizing expanded authority to issue citations for certain violations involving delinquent or expired permits

Delinquent License Discussion

The Board discussed concerns regarding the number of delinquent licenses, which exceeds 2,000 and represents approximately 11% of the total licensed population. President Pines expressed concern regarding the level of noncompliance and

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emphasized the importance of timely enforcement action, encouraging staff to issue citation letters promptly when appropriate.

Staff explained that while delinquency fees are assessed, their deterrent effect may be limited. Additionally, some delinquent licenses may be attributable to retirement or cessation of practice, as the Board does not currently have a formal “retired” license status. Resource constraints were also noted as a limiting factor in conducting large-scale audits across the entire license population.

Ms. Chong stated that staff will continue exploring system-based solutions, including more frequent email reminders and enhanced enforcement tools, consistent with statutory authority and available staffing resources.

No public comments were received

Agenda Item 11 Enforcement Program Update

Enforcement Program Manager Cristy Livramento presented the Quarter 2 Enforcement Report for Fiscal Year 2025–26, providing an overview of complaint intake, investigative activity, case processing timelines, and enforcement outcomes.

Complaint and Investigation Activity

Ms. Livramento reported that the Board has received 630 consumer complaints and 12 arrest/conviction notifications year-to-date, representing approximately a 25% increase in complaints compared to the prior reporting period.

The Enforcement Program currently has 733 pending cases, including:

- 134 active formal investigations, reflecting a 47% increase in active investigations
- 20 cases pending at the Attorney General’s Office

Staff noted that intake initiation averages five days, exceeding the Board’s 10-day target. Non–Attorney General cases are completed in an average of 222 days, well below the 360-day performance target. Cases transmitted to the Attorney General’s Office have an average aging of 759 days, a metric influenced by external factors such as Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) scheduling and litigation timelines.

Ms. Livramento explained that the increase in formal investigations is expected to result in additional filings as cases progress through key investigative and legal milestones, particularly in light of statutory deadlines.

Citation Authority and Administrative Actions

Ms. Livramento highlighted the Board’s expanded citation authority, which became effective October 1, 2025. This authority allows OMBC to issue administrative citations

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for certain Practice Act violations that previously may not have resulted in formal action when the conduct did not rise to the level of discipline.

During Quarter 2, the Board issued eight administrative citations under this expanded authority.

Staff also reported increased administrative actions and complaint interviews between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. Efforts continue to address aged cases, coordinate with medical consultants for quality-of-care reviews and refer matters to the Health Quality Investigation Unit (HQIU) when further investigation is warranted.

Enforcement Outcomes

Year-to-date enforcement outcomes include:

- Nine accusations filed
- One petition to revoke probation
- Public letters of reprimand
- Probation placements
- Cease practice orders
- An automatic suspension order
- License surrenders accepted
- Revocations ordered

Board members requested additional analysis regarding the categories and types of complaints received to better evaluate trends in complaint volume relative to disciplinary outcomes.

Public Comment

Michelle Monserratt-Ramos and Maria Ibarra-Navarette (Consumer Watchdog) expressed support for the increase in formal investigations and commended the Board for transparency in reporting complainant interview activity.

Tracy Dominguez (Consumer Watchdog) provided personal testimony regarding patient harm and emphasized the importance of timely and meaningful disciplinary action to protect the public.

No additional public comments were made.

Agenda Item 12 Probation Program Update

Probation Monitor Ralph Correa presented the Probation Program summary and provided an overview of current probationary oversight activities.

As of the meeting date, 31 licensees were on active probation. Of those:

- Five licensees reside out of state and are not receiving probation credit toward completion due to non-practice status in California.

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- Twenty-six licensees are actively practicing in California and are under ongoing monitoring.

In addition, two physicians are being monitored for compliance with the terms of public letters of reprimand, including required coursework and cost-recovery payments.

Monitoring and Compliance Oversight

Mr. Correa described the probation unit's monitoring process, which includes the systematic review and analysis of required reports, documentation, and compliance submissions to ensure adherence to probationary terms. The unit evaluates practice-monitor reports, therapy or rehabilitation documentation (when applicable), coursework completion, and other mandated conditions to identify compliance concerns in a timely manner.

He reported that in late December, three cease practice orders were issued due to probation violations and non-compliance with imposed terms. Additionally, two petitions for revocation of probation were filed as a result of continued non-compliance.

Public Comment

Maria Ibarra-Navarette (Consumer Watchdog) inquired about the types of probation violations that resulted in cease practice orders and whether any were related to substance-abuse probation terms.

The Board thanked the commenter for her question. Staff explained that specific details regarding active probation or enforcement matters are generally not discussed in open session due to confidentiality requirements. Staff indicated that any appropriate follow-up information would be provided consistent with statutory and privacy limitations.

Agenda Item 13 Rulemaking Update

Terri Thorfinnson, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist, provided an update on the status of the Board's pending rulemaking activities.

Ms. Thorfinnson reported that previously approved regulatory proposals have been separated into distinct rulemaking packages to streamline review, reduce complexity, and facilitate more efficient processing. Priority has been placed on the fee rulemaking package, given its fiscal significance to the Board's operations.

The fee package, which includes proposed fee adjustments, is currently undergoing internal review within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), including required budget approvals. Ms. Thorfinnson explained that the proposal must receive final budget sign-off before it can proceed to formal notice, public comment, and the rulemaking process under the Administrative Procedure Act.

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Regarding the Disciplinary Guidelines rulemaking effort, Ms. Thorfinnson reported that drafting remains in progress in coordination with regulatory counsel. She noted that the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines have not been comprehensively updated since 1996. The proposed modernization is intended to update penalty structures, incorporate current statutory authority, and provide clearer guidance for disciplinary decision-making.

Staff indicated that the draft Disciplinary Guidelines are expected to be reviewed by the Enforcement Committee prior to presentation to the full Board, with anticipated discussion at a future meeting.

Board members emphasized the importance of continued follow-up with DCA to advance long-pending regulatory items and ensure timely progression through the review and approval process.

No public comments were received on this item.

Agenda Item 14 Lobby Day Update

Terri Thorfinnson and President Pines provided a recap of the Board's inaugural Lobby Day ("Hill Day") held on January 21, 2026.

Ms. Thorfinnson explained that the primary objective of the outreach effort was educational in nature. Although the Osteopathic Medical Board of California has existed since 1922, many legislators and members of the public remain unfamiliar with the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) profession and the Board's distinct regulatory authority. The purpose of Hill Day was to strengthen relationships with legislative offices, provide information about the Board's public protection mandate, and ensure OMBC is appropriately included in policy discussions when legislation implicates physician regulation and patient safety.

Two Board-member teams conducted approximately eleven meetings with legislative leadership and key committee offices. Meetings were structured to comply with open meeting requirements, with members participating in small groups. Informational materials—developed in collaboration with the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC)—were distributed during the visits. These included fact sheets comparing D.O. and M.D. education and training, as well as demographic and workforce information intended to clarify the profession's role within California's healthcare system.

Board members reported that the meetings were well received and that legislative staff expressed appreciation for the outreach. Several offices indicated interest in maintaining communication and consulting the Board for subject-matter expertise when relevant legislation arises.

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During discussion, members emphasized the distinction between education and lobbying, noting that the Board’s participation focused on public safety, regulatory awareness, and relationship building rather than advocacy for specific legislation. The Board expressed interest in continuing Hill Day efforts in future years, particularly in advance of the Board’s anticipated 2027 sunset review, to further strengthen legislative awareness of OMBC’s mission and authority.

No public comments were received

Agenda Item 15 Election of Officers

Erika Calderon, Executive Director opened the elections portion of the meeting, explaining the process for nominations, seconds, acceptance by nominees, Board discussion, public comment, and roll call voting for each position. The Board conducted elections for President, Vice President, and Secretary–Treasurer.

President

Denise Pines, MBA, was nominated for the office of President. The nomination was seconded, and Ms. Pines accepted the nomination. No additional nominations were offered. No public comments were received.

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

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

Motion carried. Denise Pines, MBA, was elected President.

President Pines thanked Board members for their confidence and reiterated her commitment to consumer protection, transparency, and authenticity in the Board’s work across licensing, enforcement, and public-facing clarity about the profession and the Board’s mission.

Vice President

Hemesh Patel, D.O., was nominated for the office of Vice President. The nomination was seconded, and Dr. Patel accepted the nomination. No additional nominations were offered. No public comments were received.

Motion – Ms. Pines **Second** – Mr. Cummins

- **Aye** – Ms. Pines, Dr. Patel, Dr. Lockman, Mr. Cummins, Mr. Adamyan
- **Nay** – None

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- **Abstention** – None
- **Absent** – Negeen Mirreghabie, Matthew Swain

Motion carried. Hemesh Patel, D.O., was elected Vice President.

Dr. Patel thanked the Board for the nomination and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve, emphasizing his commitment to public protection and the value of the Board's work and collegial collaboration.

Secretary–Treasurer

Gor Adamyan was nominated for the office of Secretary–Treasurer. The nomination was seconded, and Mr. Adamyan accepted the nomination. No additional nominations were offered. No public comments were received.

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

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

Motion carried. Gor Adamyan was elected Secretary–Treasurer.

Mr. Adamyan thanked the Board for its confidence and noted he valued the opportunity to continue serving and learning in his role on the Board.

Agenda Item 16 Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates

President Pines invited Board members to suggest potential future agenda items for consideration at upcoming meetings.

Board members requested the inclusion of expanded enforcement reporting metrics to provide additional context regarding regulatory activity and outcomes. Specifically, members asked that future Enforcement Program reports include data on:

- The number of 805 reports received and processed;
- The number of education letters issued; and
- Related contextual information to better evaluate trends in enforcement actions relative to complaint volume.

The Board also discussed potential educational presentations for future meetings, including:

- A presentation addressing the physician–patient relationship, including professional boundaries and standards of care;
- A presentation on the corporate practice of medicine, reflecting prior interest expressed by Dr. Lockman; and

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- A potential presentation from Dr. Graham McMahon (ACGME) to provide insight into graduate medical education standards and accreditation matters.

Regarding meeting logistics, staff confirmed that Board meetings are generally held in person when feasible and that meeting dates are scheduled well in advance to ensure compliance with Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements.

The following meeting locations were discussed:

- The April 23, 2026 meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona.
- The July 23, 2026 meeting location remains under consideration.

Agenda Item 17 Adjournment

President Pines thanked Board members, staff, and participants for their time and contributions and wished safe travels to those attending in person. The meeting was adjourned following completion of the agenda.