

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE
FULL BOARD MINUTES**

October 15, 2026

Department of Health Professions

Henrico, VA 23233

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Vaughan called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Brown called the roll; a quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jody P. Cametas, JD
The Honorable David Christian, RPh
Kamlesh Dave, MD
Jeffrey M. Feit, MD
William Hutchens, MD
Elliott Lucas, MD
L. Blanton Marchese
Barbra Jill McCabe, MD
Kenneth McDowell, DO – Vice-President
Patrick McManus, MD
Michele Nedelka, MD – Secretary-Treasurer
Gertude Shahady, MD
Mark Simcox, MD
Leroy Brown Vaughan, Jr., MD – President & Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT: John R. Clements, DPM
Deborah DeMoss Fonseca
Jennifer Rathmann, DC

COUNSEL PRESENT: M. Brent Saunders, JD – Senior Assistant Attorney General

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD - Executive Director
Jennifer Deschenes, JD - Deputy Exec. Director for Discipline
Michael Sobowale, LLM - Deputy Exec. Director for Licensure of Allied Professions
Colanthia Opher - Deputy Exec. Director for Administration & Licensure of Doctors
Barbara Matusiak, MD - Medical Review Coordinator
David Bown, DC – DHP Agency Director
Erin Barrett, JD – Director of DHP Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Matt Novak - DHP Policy and Economic Analyst
Deirdre Brown - Executive Assistant

Jasmine Jones – Licensing Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tamika Hines – Discipline Case and Compliance Manager
Roslyn Nickens – Licensing Supervisor
Coralyn Kirby – Discipline Support Specialist
Allison Still – Discipline Administrative Assistant
Kelly Smith – DHP Director of Communications
W. Scott Johnson, JD – Hancock Daniel & Johnson, LLC
Heather Lucas – Vice-President of Human Resources - HCA
Danielle Lewis, APRN – Centra Health
Samantha Cole - Patient Care Technician - HCA

EMERGENCY EGRESS INSTRUCTIONS

Dr. Vaughan provided the emergency egress instructions for Board Room 2.

WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Vaughan welcomed the following new Board members:

- Barbra Jill McCabe, MD
- Jeffrey M. Feit, MD
- Jody P. Cametas, JD

Each briefly introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2026

Dr. Nedelka moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2026, meeting. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. McManus and carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. McDowell moved to approve the agenda. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Dave and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

W. Scott Johnson, JD, of Hancock, Daniel & Johnson, LLC, thanked the Board for considering the HCA surgical technologist training program. He stated that, given the ongoing healthcare workforce shortage in the Commonwealth, the HCA initiative would help bring more qualified professionals into the field. He further noted that Senator T. Travis Hackworth and Senator Todd E. Pillion support the establishment of an employer-led pathway for Surgical Technology that will contribute to the Commonwealth's workforce of surgical technology professionals.

Ms. Heather Lucas, Vice-President of Human Resources for HCA, informed the Board that the new training program currently includes 19 surgical assistants. She stated that, with approval of the surgical technologist program, graduates will meet the necessary qualifications for certification and will enhance the Commonwealth's workforce.

Ms. Danielle Lewis, APRN, Director of Surgical Services at Centra Health, stated that training developed by HCA will have high standards. She explained that an alternative training model will help individuals who do not have the means to pursue the conventional pathway to surgical technology certification.

Ms. Samantha Cole, Patient Care Technician at HCA, stated that the surgical technologist workforce will benefit from a modernized training model. She explained that the Stepful Surgical Technologist Program based in Florida takes approximately 6 - 7 months to complete.

DHP DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Brown welcomed the new Board members and noted that he previously served on the Board of Medicine. He emphasized that Medicine is a working Board. He explained that the effectiveness of the Board relies on the engagement of its members and on the law, regulations, established policies, and the work of the Discipline Section. He reminded members that when addressing Board matters, they must set aside their professional affiliations and focus solely on the protection of the public. He also noted that the Board's work is public and subject to FOIA requirements, including any communications involving more than 2 Board members which would constitute a public meeting. Lastly, he reminded members that text messages and emails are all subject to FOIA.

Dr. Brown updated the Board on the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) established under HR1 passed in 2025. He reported that Virginia was awarded \$189.5 million in the first year of this five-year grant. The Commonwealth is currently preparing its budget for the second year.

Dr. Brown shared the Grow Here - Stay Here initiative to support growing the Virginia workforce. This includes creating more pathways for learning, expediting talent to the healthcare workspace, ensuring that scope of practice matches a profession's education and training, and making sure that Virginia's workforce is prepared for tomorrow. In that regard, he mentioned the use of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare.

Dr. Brown stated that the RHTP grant funding is organized into four categories:

1. Care IQ
2. Home Grown Health Heroes
3. Community Health Paramedics

4. Live Well Together

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRESIDENT

None.

VICE-PRESIDENT

None.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Harp welcomed the new Board members. Regarding finances, he said that the Board was well within budget at this time.

Dr. Harp shared what Board members and Board staff have been involved with since its June meeting.

- July 8th – Dr. Vaughan attended the Joint Boards Work Group on SB30 Item 288 #4s about modernizing the regulatory framework for APRN's.
- Mid-July – Development of a policy for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare was begun.
- July 20th – Board of Medicine and Board of Counseling - HB768 Work Group to develop ways to ensure more mental health professionals would provide testimony in custody cases.
- August 12th – Dr. Harp and Ms. Opher met with GME directors regarding the licensing process for new trainees.
- Aug 13th – DHP & Department of Veterans' Services met to address the transition of military medics and corpsmen from military healthcare jobs to civilian ones.
- August 19th – Mr. Marchese and Mr. Christian participated in the Psychologists' Prescribing Work Group.
- August 21st – Board staff provided technical assistance to a group proposing a new profession.
- August 26th – Assisted the Birth Injury Fund with updating physician addresses for its annual notifications.
- August 28th – Dr. Madiraju and Dr. Hutchens attended and reviewed the Statewide Pharmacists' Protocols for the Board of Pharmacy.

- August 28th - Dr. McDowell participated in the Therapeutic Interchange Work Group with the Board of Pharmacy.
- August 28th – Dr. Vaughan participated in the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine Work Group meeting #2 to modernize the regulatory framework for APRN's.
- August 31st – HB768 Custody Work Group meeting #2.
- September 11th – Subcommittee #1 (Medicine) of the Military Medic and Corpsman Program (DHP & DVS) met to address the respiratory care and rad tech professions for medics and corpsmen exiting military service.
- September 16th – Dr. Vaughan submitted the Board's Annual Report to the Medical Society of Virginia.
- September 18th – Staff interviewed with Manatt Health which is helping HHR with ways to improve healthcare across the Commonwealth.
- September 24th – Staff met with a member of the House of Delegates to explain the pathways to licensure available to international medical graduates and physicians.
- September 29th – Staff met with representatives from the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Lastly, Dr. Harp stated that Dr. Vaughan will be chairing the HB573 Work Group on October 30th regarding educational materials for patients considering breast implants.

COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS

Dr. Lucas moved to accept, en bloc, all Committee and Advisory Board meeting minutes included in the packet. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Dave and carried unanimously.

OTHER REPORTS

Board Counsel – Brent Saunders, JD – Senior Assistant Attorney General

Mr. Saunders provided updates on 12 ongoing legal cases.

Ms. Deschenes advised Board members that if they are served summons in any of these cases, they are to contact the Board immediately.

Podiatry Report

No report.

Chiropractic Report

No report.

Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine

Dr. Vaughan reported that the 2 meetings about modernizing the regulatory framework for APRN's included discussion of dissolving the Committee of the Joint Boards and regulating APRN's solely under the Board of Nursing. The concern, however, was that RN's do not receive the training necessary to oversee or discipline APRN's. As a result, the Committee of the Joint Boards will remain in place, but APRN representation on the Committee of the Joint Boards will be expanded. The motion passed with a 5-4 vote. Mr. Novak will present the proposed changes to the Governor's Office.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of HCA's Surgical Technologist Training Program

Dr. Hutchens expressed concern that he was uncomfortable with the Board overseeing an accrediting body.

Dr. Harp mentioned that since the surgical technology regulations became final, the Board has approved 2 more pathways to certification.

Dr. Lucas stated that he supports this pathway, particularly during times of staffing shortages. He noted that he has faced these challenges firsthand and believes this approach would help address the healthcare workforce needs.

Mr. Marchese commented that HCA has a strong track record and that its involvement would be beneficial to the Commonwealth's workforce.

Dr. Vaughan agreed with Dr. Lucas and expressed his support for the HCA training pathway.

MOTION: Mr. Marchese moved to approve the HCA training program for surgical technologists consistent with Virginia Code § 54.1-2956.12. Dr. Lucas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Current Regulatory Chart

Mr. Novak presented the chart of regulatory actions as of September 18, 2026, noting that there are currently 20 regulatory actions in progress. He said that he is submitting actions to the Secretary's Office in groups of five.

This report was for informational purposes only and did not require any action.

3. Regulatory Process Chart

Mr. Novak reviewed the chart as presented.

This report was for informational purposes only and did not require any action.

4. Exempt action to implement HB746 regarding PA practice

Mr. Novak reviewed the draft regulatory language implementing HB746. He noted that the draft had been reviewed by the PA Advisory Board and recommended that the Board adopt the proposed action.

Mr. Saunders offered a few edits to the language of the regulations.

MOTION: Mr. Marchese moved to accept the recommendation of the Advisory Board with Mr. Saunders edits and adopt an exempt regulatory action to conform the regulations with HB746. Dr. Nedelka seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. NOIRA for Implicit Bias Training (SB22)

Ms. Barrett reviewed the NOIRA for implicit bias training.

MOTION: Dr. Simcox moved to initiate a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to implement the implicit bias legislative mandate. Ms. Cametas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. NOIRA for Foreign Chiropractors (HB1026)

Ms. Barrett informed the Board that chiropractors currently do not have an international pathway for licensure. She noted that foreign credentials are not approved at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Christian moved to initiate a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to implement the provisions of HB1026. Dr. Feit seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Revisions to Guidance Document 85-12 (Telemedicine)

Ms. Barrett reviewed revisions to Guidance Document 85-12 with the Board.

MOTION: Dr. Nedelka moved to amend Guidance Document 85-12 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. McDowell and carried.

8. Exempt action to create Licensure by Endorsement for Chiropractors

Mr. Novak reviewed the exempt regulatory action to create an endorsement pathway for licensure for chiropractors.

MOTION: Mr. Marchese moved to adopt an exempt regulatory action for licensure by endorsement of chiropractors as presented or as amended by the Board. Dr. Nedelka seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Fast-track action to remove 10-year requirement to take and pass USMLE

Mr. Novak explained to the Board that eliminating the 10-year requirement to take and pass the USMLE would help qualified applicants who are not Board-Certified become eligible for licensure.

MOTION: Dr. Shahady moved to adopt a fast-track regulatory action to delete 18VAC85-20-140(E). Dr. McManus seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

LICENSING REPORTS

1. Medical Licensing Unit for Allopathic, Osteopathic, Chiropractic, and Podiatric Professions

Ms. Opher thanked the Medicine and Administrative Section staff for keeping the time to licensure under 30 days.

2. Allied Licensing Unit

Mr. Sobowale informed the Board that there are 16 allied professions and will soon add the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants.

He reported that he attended the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact Commission meeting held in Washington, D.C. on October 5–6. He was elected to serve on the Commission's Executive Committee.

Mr. Sobowale said the Board currently has 39,784 licensed allied health professionals. The average time to the issuance of a license is now 19 days.

DISCIPLINE REPORT

Ms. Deschenes provided a brief report on the status of open cases as of October 1, 2026, stating that there is a total of 831 cases across all stages. During the 1st Quarter of FY2026, the Board received 750 cases and closed 775 cases.

Ms. Deschenes presented a Consent Order for Dianna S.L. Yan, MD, an applicant for reinstatement.

MOTION: Mr. Marchese moved to accept the Consent Order. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Dave, and the motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Vaughan noted that the next Full Board meeting will be held February 18, 2027, at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, Dr. Vaughan adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

William L. Harp, MD
Executive Director