MINUTES
THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO
December 10, 2014

Krishnamurthi Ramprasad, M.D., President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Administrative Hearing Room, 3rd Floor, the James A. Rhodes Office Tower, 30 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, with the following members present: Donald R. Kenney, Vice-President; Mark A. Bechtel, M.D., Secretary; Bruce R. Saferin, D.P.M., Supervising Member; Anita M. Steinbergh, D.O.; Michael L. Gonidakis; Amol Soin, M.D.; Sushil Sethi, M.D.; Robert P. Giacalone; Kim G. Rothermel, M.D.; and Andrew P. Schachat, M.D. The following member arrived at a later time: Michael L. Gonidakis.

Also present were: Anthony J. Groeber, Executive Director; Jonathan Blanton, Assistant Executive Director; Kimberly Anderson, Assistant Executive Director; Susan Loe, Assistant Executive Director, Human Resources and Fiscal; Michael Miller, Assistant Executive Director for Licensure and Renewal; Sallie J. Debolt, Senior Counsel; David Katko, Assistant Legal Counsel; Mary Courtney Ore, Deputy Director of Communications; Joan K. Wehrle, Education and Outreach Program Manager; Jonithon LaCross, Public Policy & Governmental Affairs Program Administrator; Jan Sussex, Curtis Fortner, Terry Meyer, and Amy Myers, Investigators; Rebecca Marshall, Chief Enforcement Attorney; Marcie Pastrick, Mark Blackmer, Cheryl Pokorny, Angela McNair, Greg Taposci, James Roach, and Kimberly Lee, Enforcement Attorneys; Kyle Wilcox, Melinda Snyder, and James Wakley, Assistant Attorneys General; R. Gregory Porter, Chief Hearing Examiner; Danielle Blue, Hearing Examiner; Gary Holben, Operations Administrator; Danielle Bickers, Compliance Supervisor; Annette Jones and Angela Moore, Compliance Officers; Mitchell Alderson, Chief of Licensure; Christine Schwartz, Legal Services Contractor; Cathy Hacker, P.A. Program Administrator; Judith Rodriguez, Legal Department Secretary; Jacqueline A. Moore, Legal/Public Affairs Assistant; and Benton Taylor, Interim Executive Assistant.

MINUTES REVIEW

Dr. Saferin moved to approve the draft minutes of the November 5, 2014, Board meeting, as written. Dr. Steinbergh seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Ramprasad announced that the Board would now consider the Reports and Recommendations appearing on its agenda.

Dr. Ramprasad asked whether each member of the Board had received, read and considered the hearing records, the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Proposed Orders, and any objections filed in the matters of: Michael C. Macatol, M.D.; and Lisa Ann West, D.O.

A roll call was taken:
ROLL CALL:  
Dr. Bechtel - aye  
Dr. Saferin - aye  
Dr. Rothermel - aye  
Dr. Steinbergh - aye  
Mr. Kenney - aye  
Dr. Ramprasad - aye  
Dr. Sethi - aye  
Dr. Soin - aye  
Dr. Schachat - aye  
Mr. Gonidakis - aye  
Mr. Giacalone - aye

Dr. Ramprasad asked whether each member of the Board understands that the disciplinary guidelines do not limit any sanction to be imposed, and that the range of sanctions available in each matter runs from dismissal to permanent revocation. A roll call was taken:

ROLL CALL:  
Dr. Bechtel - aye  
Dr. Saferin - aye  
Dr. Rothermel - aye  
Dr. Steinbergh - aye  
Mr. Kenney - aye  
Dr. Ramprasad - aye  
Dr. Sethi - aye  
Dr. Soin - aye  
Dr. Schachat - aye  
Mr. Gonidakis - aye  
Mr. Giacalone - aye

Dr. Ramprasad noted that, in accordance with the provision in section 4731.22(F)(2), Ohio Revised Code, specifying that no member of the Board who supervises the investigation of a case shall participate in further adjudication of the case, the Secretary and Supervising Member must abstain from further participation in the adjudication of any disciplinary matters. In the matters before the Board today, Dr. Bechtel served as Secretary and Dr. Saferin served as Supervising Member.

Dr. Ramprasad reminded all parties that no oral motions may be made during these proceedings.

The original Reports and Recommendations shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

MICHAEL C. MACATOL, M.D.

Dr. Ramprasad directed the Board’s attention to the matter of Michael C. Macatol, M.D. Objections have been filed and were previously distributed to Board members. Mr. Porter was the Hearing Examiner.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that a request to address the Board has been timely filed on behalf of Dr. Macatol.
Five minutes will be allowed for that address.

Dr. Macatol was represented by his attorney, Daniel Zinsmaster.

Mr. Zinsmaster opined that the Hearing Examiner’s Report and Recommendation was an accurate summary of the evidence and testimony. However, objections were filed on Dr. Macatol’s behalf due to the Report and Recommendation’s characterization that Dr. Macatol’s relapse was a second relapse, which would mandate a one-year suspension of Dr. Macatol’s license from the date of the Summary Suspension under the Board’s rules.

Mr. Zinsmaster explained that Dr. Macatol received treatment for his addiction at Metro Atlanta Recovery Residences (MARR) in Atlanta, Georgia. Following this treatment, Dr. Macatol returned to Ohio and subsequently misused alcohol. When Dr. Macatol reported this misuse to the Medical Board’s Chief Enforcement Attorney, he was directed to repeat treatment at the Center for Chemical Addictions Treatment (CCAT) in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Zinsmaster noted that Dr. Macatol was not under a Board Order or Consent Agreement during the preceding events. However, while receiving treatment at CCAT, Dr. Macatol entered into a Step I Consent Agreement with the Board. Dr. Macatol subsequently fulfilled all the license reinstatement provisions of his Step I Consent Agreement, including two assessments which indicated that he was fit to practice, and returned to the practice of medicine pursuant to a Step II Consent Agreement.

Mr. Zinsmaster stated that, historically, the Board has treated substance abuse that occurs after release from treatment but before the return to practice as a continuation of the original impairment rather than as a relapse. Therefore, Mr. Zinsmaster opined that Dr. Macatol’s September 2014 relapse on alcohol constitutes a first relapse, not a second relapse. Mr. Zinsmaster stated that Dr. Macatol’s medical license should be suspended, but opined that the Board should tailor an Order that is reflective of the facts and circumstances of this case rather than a restrictive one-year suspension from the date of Dr. Macatol’s Summary Suspension.

Dr. Macatol stated that he relapsed on alcohol after two-and-a-half years of sobriety while he was on vacation in Costa Rica. Dr. Macatol stated that since that time, he has been able to reflect on what led to his relapse so he can ensure it will not happen again. Dr. Macatol stated that he takes full responsibility for what has happened and felt as if he had let down the Board, his employer, other recovering physicians who he had hired, and his family.

Dr. Macatol stated that the practice of medicine is a privilege that he takes very seriously. Dr. Macatol stated that he looks forward to any opportunity to prove to the Board where he is in recovery so he can contribute positively to the medical community and be a better member of his family.

Dr. Ramprasad asked if the Assistant Attorney General would like to respond. Ms. Snyder stated that she would like to respond.

Ms. Snyder stated that despite Dr. Macatol contention, his relapse in September 2014 was his second relapse. Ms. Snyder explained that in 2010, Dr. Macatol arrived at work at a Kentucky hospital with a
blood alcohol content of 0.13. Dr. Macatol then went into treatment at MARR, left that facility in November 2011, and then drank alcohol again in February 2012. Ms. Snyder stated that Dr. Macatol is asking the Board to not consider the February 2012 incident to be a relapse because he was still in a rehabilitation or recovery mode.

Ms. Snyder read the portion of the Board’s definition of a relapse that is pertinent to this matter:

“An instance of use that occurs during detoxification treatment or inpatient or residential treatment before a practitioner’s disease of addiction has been brought into remission does not constitute a relapse.”

Ms. Snyder continued that Dr. Macatol is asking the Board to define the term “relapse” so that someone can drink two-and-a-half months after completing inpatient treatment without it being considered a relapse. Ms. Snyder stated that this is not historically what the Board has done and noted that neither Dr. Macatol nor Mr. Zinsmaster cited any case law to support their position. Ms. Snyder opined that the February 2012 incident should be considered Dr. Macatol’s first relapse.

Ms. Snyder commented that Dr. Macatol was forthcoming at his hearing and she believed Dr. Macatol is actively in recovery at this time. Nonetheless, Ms. Snyder agreed with the Hearing Examiner that the September 2014 incident constitutes Dr. Macatol’s second relapse. Ms. Snyder asked the Board to adopt the Hearing Examiners Proposed Order, including the suspension of Dr. Macatol’s medical license for a minimum of one year, which is consistent with what statute and the Board’s rules require.

**Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve and confirm Mr. Porter’s Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Proposed Order in the matter of Michael C. Macatol, M.D. Mr. Kenney seconded the motion.**

Dr. Ramprasad stated that he would now entertain discussion in the above matter.

Dr. Steinbergh stated that one aspect of this case that has not yet been discussed is Dr. Macatol’s non-compliance with the terms of his Consent Agreement. Dr. Steinbergh agreed that Dr. Macatol is working toward his recovery, but she expressed concern that Dr. Macatol seems to be struggling to maintain sobriety. Dr. Steinbergh commented that during her years on the Medical Board she has learned that if the Board goes light on a physician in this position and does not follow its guidelines, the physician fails. Dr. Steinbergh stated that oftentimes a physician returns to the Board after completing the terms of a Board Order or Consent Agreement and expresses gratitude that the Board took the action. Dr. Steinbergh stated that, as documented by the comments of many disciplined physicians, the Board saves the professional lives, and even the physical lives, of impaired physicians.

Dr. Steinbergh stated that physicians who are chemically dependent ought not to be practicing medicine until they are in control of what is happening in their lives, and she therefore supports the Proposed Order for a minimum one-year suspension. Dr. Steinbergh opined that the suspension is not so much punitive as it is intended to be therapeutic for Dr. Macatol and give him an opportunity to get well.

A vote was taken on Dr. Steinbergh’s motion to approve:
ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to approve carried.

LISA ANN WEST, D.O.

Dr. Ramprasad directed the Board’s attention to the matter of Lisa Ann West, D.O. No objections have been filed. Ms. Shamansky was the Hearing Examiner.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that a request to address the Board has been timely filed on behalf of Dr. West. Five minutes will be allowed for that address.

Dr. West was represented by her attorney, Elizabeth Collis.

Ms. Collis stated that Dr. West is not present today because she is still in treatment in Kentucky. Ms. Collis wished she could report that Dr. West is doing well and is ready to return to practice. However, Dr. West has in fact continued to relapse and she continues to struggle with her sobriety, as well as with her posttraumatic stress disorder and her anorexia nervosa. Ms. Collis recounted that Dr. West had only held a training certificate and she was terminated from her residency program; therefore, Dr. West no longer has a training certificate or a training program to return to. Further, Dr. West has returned to Kentucky to be near her family and to continue with her treatment.

Ms. Collis urged the Board not to permanently revoke Dr. West’s certificate, noting that Dr. West is only 29-years-old and to end the career of such a young person would be devastating. Ms. Collis also suggested that a suspension with monitoring terms would not be appropriate because Dr. West may not be able to fulfill rigid monitoring terms while in treatment in Kentucky. Ms. Collis stated that the Board has two other options. First, as Ms. Collis suggested at the hearing, the Board could take no action. This would require Dr. West, if she chooses to return to Ohio, to apply for a medical license, at which time the Board can determine if such a license should be granted. Second, the Board could adopt the Hearing Examiner’s Proposed Order of a non-permanent revocation. Ms. Collis expressed concern that a revocation, which would be reported to the National Practitioner’s Databank, would have negative ramifications for Dr. West while she is ill and actively seeking treatment.

Dr. Ramprasad asked if the Assistant Attorney General would like to respond. Ms. Snyder stated that she
would like to respond.

Ms. Snyder agreed with Ms. Collis that Dr. West continues to struggle in recovery. Ms. Snyder stated that the Board has historically considered the disease model of addiction and has balanced patient safety with rehabilitating physicians who can contribute to the community. Ms. Snyder stated that a non-permanent revocation would allow the Board to consider Dr. West if she ever applies for a medical license in the future and to choose to deny that application or send her to an evaluation. Ms. Snyder opined that a permanent revocation for a physician who is as young and ill as Dr. West may not be the best option. However, Ms. Snyder stated that none of the Board’s options are perfect and she deferred to the Board’s discretion in this matter.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve and confirm Ms. Shamansky’s Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Proposed Order in the matter of Lisa Ann West, D.O. Dr. Soin seconded the motion.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that he would now entertain discussion in the above matter.

Mr. Giacalone recounted Dr. West’s career and history with substance abuse, including her acceptance into a pediatric residency program at the University of Toledo, her diagnoses of alcohol dependency and depression, her history of treatment programs and relapses, and her termination from her residency program. Mr. Giacalone stated that Dr. West entered into a Step I Consent Agreement with the Board in May 2013 which suspended her training certificate, and entered into a Step II Consent Agreement in September 2013 which reinstated her training certificate. Dr. West’s training certificate was immediately suspended in February 2014 based on clear and convincing evidence that she was violation of her Step II CA and that her continued practice presented a danger of immediate and serious harm to public. Dr. West currently resides in Barberville, Kentucky.

Mr. Giacalone opined that Dr. West’s training certificate should be permanently revoked. Mr. Giacalone stated that his recommendation is not offered lightly, but is based on the following facts:

- Dr. West entered and completed two Board-approved treatment programs, Northland The Ridge and Arrowhead Behavioral, within a span of two years.

- After being given an opportunity to be reinstated in her pediatric residency program, Dr. West was again found by her residency program director to have relapsed, as indicated by a random drug screen.

- Subsequently, Dr. West entered into treatment again, this time in a non-Board approved program in Kentucky near her family.

- Dr. West relapsed again after completing five days of detoxification and a six-week intensive outpatient program at the Baptist Regional Medical Center in Corbin, Kentucky.

Mr. Giacalone found it somewhat surprising that there was no statement from Dr. West, written or otherwise. Mr. Giacalone acknowledged that there is an affidavit setting forth a matter-of-fact chronology,
but there was no expression of remorse or acceptance of responsibility. Rather, Mr. Giacalone saw another action in a long string of actions that calls into question whether Dr. West is capable of doing, or willing to do, what is necessary to become a physician who can safely care for patients.

Mr. Giacalone, addressing assertions that Dr. West is a young physician at the beginning of her career, stated that Dr. West is almost 30 years old and seems unable or unwilling to do what is needed to ensure that she practices pediatric medicine in a manner that upholds the standards of her profession and protects the health of the public.

Mr. Giacalone moved to amend the Proposed Order to a permanent revocation of Dr. West’s training certificate. Dr. Sethi seconded the motion.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that he will now entertain discussion of the proposed amendment.

Dr. Steinbergh stated that she opposes permanent revocation in this case. Dr. Steinbergh stated that everyone agrees that Dr. West is a very ill young woman and she has not yet had an opportunity to express herself as a clinician. Dr. Steinbergh felt comfortable that if Dr. West’s training certificate was non-permanently revoked, then at some point in the future, should she healthy enough to search for and be accepted into a training program, there would still hope for her career. Dr. Steinbergh emphasized that Dr. West would have a tremendous uphill struggle to find a training program that would be willing to work with her.

Dr. Steinbergh stated that impairment is an illness that, in her mind, is no different from other diseases that lend one to be impaired. Dr. Steinbergh stated that she cannot vote for a permanent revocation of a training certificate. Dr. Steinbergh expressed support for a non-permanent revocation so that Dr. West would have some hope that she could return to the practice of medicine if she can become and continue to be healthy. Dr. Steinbergh stated that the Board’s goal of patient protection will be served by revoking Dr. West’s training certificate.

Dr. Soin asked if Dr. West would be eligible for a full medical license if the Board permanently revoked her training certificate. Ms. Anderson replied that if Dr. West’s training certificate is permanently revoked, then she would be barred from applying for any other license or certificate from the Medical Board.

The Board continued to discuss the proposed amendment. Dr. Ramprasad agreed with Dr. Steinbergh that it is very unlikely that Dr. West will be accepted into a pediatric training program and she will have difficulty getting into any training program. Nonetheless, Dr. Ramprasad wished to give Dr. West a chance to get her life together. Dr. Ramprasad opined that Dr. West will not be a danger to anyone since she will have to take many steps before she could even apply for licensure again. Dr. Rothermel agreed and stated that Dr. West’s addiction, which is a chronic disease, has not yet been successfully addressed. Dr. Rothermel stated that when someone with the disease of addiction relapses, it is not necessarily because the person made the choice to relapse. Mr. Kenney opined that the Board need not be concerned with whether or not addiction is a disease and that the Board’s primary concern is patient safety. Mr. Kenney supported Mr. Giacalone’s motion to permanently revoke Dr. West’s medical license because of
Dr. Schachat agreed that patient safety is paramount, but opined that a non-permanent revocation of Dr. West’s license would not put patients in danger. Dr. Schachat stated that if Dr. West chooses to apply for a license in the future, then Board members at that time should be able to determine whether licensing her would be appropriate.

A vote was taken on Mr. Giacalone’s motion to amend:

**ROLL CALL:**

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<td>Dr. Schachat</td>
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<td>Mr. Giacalone</td>
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The motion to amend did not carry.

A vote was taken on Dr. Steinbergh’s motion to approve the Hearing Examiner’s Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Proposed Order:

**ROLL CALL:**

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The motion to approve carried.

**FINDINGS, ORDERS, AND JOURNAL ENTRIES**

Dr. Ramprasad stated that in the following matter, the Board issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing and documentation of Service was received. A request for hearing was made, but the request was not timely pursuant to section 119.07, Ohio Revised Code. Therefore, the Respondent is not entitled to a hearing. The matter is therefore before the Board for final disposition. Dr. Ramprasad stated that this matter is disciplinary in nature, and therefore the Secretary and Supervising Member may not vote. On this matter, Dr. Bechtel severed as Secretary and Dr. Saferin served as Supervising Member.
STEVEN RALPH ANGERBAUER, M.D.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that the allegations concerning Steven Ralph Angerbauer, M.D., are that the Medical Quality Assurance Commission of the State of Washington placed monitoring requirements on Dr. Angerbauer’s Washington medical license for a period of two and one-half years; required him to complete courses in ethics, physician-patient boundaries, medical record-keeping, and opioid prescribing; and fined him $1,500.00. These actions were based on the Washington Commission’s findings related to Dr. Angerbauer’s treatment of a patient who he met at a gentlemen’s club and to whom he prescribed significant amounts of hydrocodone in violation of the Washington Commission’s pain management rules; and his violation of appropriate physician-patient boundaries by paying for the patient’s hotel room and offering to pay for her school books.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to find that the allegations as set forth in the August 13, 2014 Notice of Opportunity for Hearing have been proven by a preponderance of the evidence, and to enter an Order, effective immediately upon mailing, denying Dr. Angerbauer’s application for a license to practice medicine and surgery in Ohio. Dr. Sethi seconded the motion.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that he will now entertain discussion in the above matter.

Regarding the matter of service of Dr. Angerbauer’s Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, Dr. Steinbergh stated that Dr. Angerbauer was, in fact, properly served. Dr. Angerbauer’s request for a hearing was received on September 22, 2014, beyond the 30-day window which he had to legally make that request. Dr. Steinbergh noted that Dr. Angerbauer had already been the subject of action by the Washington Medical Quality Assurance Commission and should have been expecting communication from the Ohio Medical Board at his address of record. Dr. Steinbergh found Dr. Angerbauer’s claim that he only became aware of the Notice after the 30-day window to be disingenuous.

Mr. Giacalone opined that Dr. Angerbauer’s application should be permanently denied.

Mr. Giacalone moved to amend the motion to a permanent denial of Dr. Angerbauer’s application for a license to practice medicine and surgery in Ohio. Dr. Soin seconded the motion.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that he will now entertain discussion in the above matter.

Mr. Giacalone stated that Dr. Angerbauer overprescribed medications to an individual with whom he was having a relationship. Mr. Giacalone noted that Dr. Angerbauer left messages at the pharmacy for hydrocodone only after the pharmacy was closed and he knew no one would answer. Mr. Giacalone stated that Dr. Angerbauer’s personal boundary issues are significant, having met the woman in question at a gentlemen’s club, gave her hydrocodone, and commented about having enough money for a hotel room for one night. Mr. Giacalone opined that Dr. Angerbauer should not ever practice medicine in Ohio.

Dr. Steinbergh stated that she had moved for a non-permanent denial because she prefers to afford the opportunity to hear from an applicant before approving a permanent denial. However, in the matter of Dr.
Angerbauer, Dr. Steinbergh stated that she could support a permanent denial. Dr. Steinbergh stated that a permanent denial of a person’s application can have a significant effect on their ability to garner other licenses and can end a career. Ms. Anderson noted that whether the Board approves a denial or a permanent denial, that action will still be reported to the National Practitioner Databank.

Dr. Soin stated that he supports permanent denial due to the egregious nature of this case. Dr. Soin agreed with Dr. Steinbergh that Dr. Angerbauer’s claim that he didn’t know he had been sent a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing seems disingenuous. Dr. Soin stated that Dr. Angerbauer has been afforded due process and has been given a chance to properly request a hearing.

A vote was taken on Mr. Giacalone’ motion to amend:

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The motion to amend carried.

A vote was taken on the amended motion for permanent denial of Dr. Angerbauer’s application:

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The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Steinbergh moved that the Board declare Executive Session to confer with the Attorney General's representatives on matters of pending or imminent court action and for the purpose of
deliberating on proposed consent agreements in the exercise of the Medical Board’s quasi-judicial capacity. Dr. Saferin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL: Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

Pursuant to Section 121.22(G)(3), Ohio Revised Code, the Board went into executive session with Mr. Groeber, Mr. Blanton, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Miller, Ms. Loe, Ms. Debolt, Mr. Katko, Ms. Wehrle, Ms. Marshall, the Enforcement Attorneys, the Assistant Attorneys General, Mr. Alderson, Ms. Moore, and Mr. Taylor in attendance.

The Board returned to public session.

RATIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

ROBERT G. FIDLER, D.P.M. – PERMANENT SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATE TO PRACTICE PODIATRIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Dr. Steinbergh moved to ratify the Proposed Permanent Surrender with Dr. Fidler. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL: Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to ratify carried.
STEPHEN T. MCCARREN, M.D. – PERMANENT SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Dr. Steinbergh moved to ratify the Proposed Permanent Surrender with Dr. McCarren. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to ratify carried.

DENNIS A. PATEL, M.D. – STEP I CONSENT AGREEMENT

Dr. Steinbergh moved to ratify the Proposed Step I Consent Agreement with Dr. Patel. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to ratify carried.

MEGHAN JULIA PETERS, M.T. – PERMANENT SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATE TO PRACTICE MASSAGE THERAPY

Dr. Steinbergh moved to ratify the Proposed Permanent Surrender with Ms. Peters. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to ratify carried.

JOSEPH PAUL THOMAS, M.D. – PERMANENT SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Dr. Steinbergh moved to ratify the Proposed Permanent Surrender with Dr. Thomas. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:
Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to ratify carried.

MARY JO-ELLEN ERICKSON, M.D. – STEP I CONSENT AGREEMENT

Dr. Steinbergh moved to ratify the Proposed Step I Consent Agreement with Dr. Erickson. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:
Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to ratify carried.

MAYA BALAKRISHNAN PURI, M.D. – PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR MEDICAL LICENSURE

Dr. Steinbergh moved to ratify the Proposed Permanent Withdrawal with Dr. Puri. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL: Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to ratify carried.

SHANNON LEE SWANSON, D.O. – ADDENDUM TO THE CONSENT AGREEMENT

Dr. Steinbergh moved to table this matter. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL: Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to table carried.
KELLIE M. CURTIS, M.T. – PERMANENT SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATE TO PRACTICE
MASSAGE THERAPY

Dr. Steinbergh moved to ratify the Proposed Permanent Surrender with Ms. Curtis. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel  - abstain
Dr. Saferin  - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney   - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi    - aye
Dr. Soin     - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to ratify carried.

CITATIONS AND ORDERS OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION, IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION, AND AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION

STRANTON BROWNING, JR. – CITATION LETTER

At this time the Board read and considered the proposed Citation Letter in the above matter, a copy of which shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to send the Citation Letter to Mr. Browning. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel  - abstain
Dr. Saferin  - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - abstain
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney   - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi    - aye
Dr. Soin     - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to send carried.
PAUL P. CHU, M.D. – CITATION LETTER

At this time the Board read and considered the proposed Citation Letter in the above matter, a copy of which shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to send the Citation Letter to Dr. Chu. Mr. Giacalone seconded the motion.

A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL: Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - abstain
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to send carried.

WILLIAM MICHAEL COX, M.D. – CITATION LETTER

At this time the Board read and considered the proposed Citation Letter in the above matter, a copy of which shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to send the Citation Letter to Dr. Cox. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL: Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - abstain
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to send carried.
THUAN DUC DANG, M.D. – CITATION LETTER

At this time the Board read and considered the proposed Citation Letter in the above matter, a copy of which shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to send the Citation Letter to Dr. Dang. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - abstain
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to send carried.

MARY JO FOOTE, P.A. – CITATION LETTER

At this time the Board read and considered the proposed Citation Letter in the above matter, a copy of which shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to send the Citation Letter to Ms. Foote. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - abstain
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to send carried.
ROBERT SETH HABER, M.D. – CITATION LETTER

At this time the Board read and considered the proposed Citation Letter in the above matter, a copy of which shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to send the Citation Letter to Dr. Haber. Dr. Schachat seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:  Dr. Bechtel - abstain
            Dr. Saferin - abstain
            Dr. Rothermel - abstain
            Dr. Steinbergh - aye
            Mr. Kenney - aye
            Dr. Ramprasad - aye
            Dr. Sethi - aye
            Dr. Soin - aye
            Dr. Schachat - aye
            Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to send carried.

KARL M. HAGEN, M.D. – CITATION LETTER

At this time the Board read and considered the proposed Citation Letter in the above matter, a copy of which shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to send the Citation Letter to Dr. Hagen. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:  Dr. Bechtel - abstain
            Dr. Saferin - abstain
            Dr. Rothermel - abstain
            Dr. Steinbergh - aye
            Mr. Kenney - aye
            Dr. Ramprasad - aye
            Dr. Sethi - aye
            Dr. Soin - aye
            Dr. Schachat - aye
            Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to send carried.
DAVID ANTHONY HOWARD, M.T. – CITATION LETTER

At this time the Board read and considered the proposed Citation Letter in the above matter, a copy of which shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to send the Citation Letter to Mr. Howard. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - abstain
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to send carried.

HIMACHALA RAO VELIGANDLA, M.D. – CITATION LETTER

At this time the Board read and considered the proposed Citation Letter in the above matter, a copy of which shall be maintained in the exhibits section of this Journal.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to send the Citation Letter to Dr. Veligandla. Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - abstain
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to send carried.

Dr. Saferin exited the meeting at this time.
APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve for licensure, contingent upon all requested documents being received and approved in accordance with licensure protocols, the acupuncturist applicants listed in Exhibit “A,” the genetic counselor applicants listed in Exhibit “B,” the massage therapist applicants listed in Exhibit “C,” the physician assistant applicants listed in Exhibit “D,” the physician applicants listed in Exhibit “E,” and the radiologist assistant applicants listed in Exhibit “F.” Dr. Soin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL: Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

Dr. Saferin returned to the meeting at this time.

PROBATIONARY REQUESTS

Mr. Kenney advised that at this time he would like the Board to consider the probationary requests on today’s consent agenda. Mr. Kenney asked if any Board member wished to discuss a probationary report or probationary request separately. No Board member wished to discuss a probationary request separately.

Dr. Steinbergh noted that she will abstain from the matters of Jennifer S. Dyer, M.D., and Elizabeth B. Lottes, D.O. Dr. Rothermel noted that she will abstain from the matter of Jennifer S. Dyer, M.D. Dr. Schachat noted that he will abstain from the matter of Erik J. Kraenzler, M.D.

Dr. Soin moved to accept the Compliance staff’s Reports of Conferences and the Secretary and Supervising Member’s recommendations, as follows:

• To grant Rebecca Ann Brauch, M.D.’s request for reduction in appearances to every six months;
• To grant James E. Breidenstein, D.O.’s request for approval of Joseph P. Kitzmiller, M.D., to serve as the monitoring physician; and determination of the number and frequency of charts to be reviewed at 10 charts per week;
• To grant Cynthia Lynn Brown, M.D.’s, request for discontinuance of the comparative audit and assay reports;
• To grant Jennifer S. Dyer, M.D.’s request for reduction in alcohol and drug rehabilitation meeting attendance to two per week with a minimum of ten per month; discontinuance of the chart review requirement; and discontinuance of the psychiatric sessions;

• To grant Mary Jo Foote, P.A.’s request for approval of Shari Borgeson, M.Ed., L.P.C.C., to serve as the new treating counselor;

• To grant Matthew R. Harris, D.O.’s request for approval of Donata A. Rechnitzer, M.D., to serve as the new monitoring physician;

• To grant David C. Kirkwood, M.D.’s request for reduction in appearances to every six months;

• To grant Erik J. Kraenzler, M.D.’s request for discontinuance of the assay report requirement; and reduction in drug and alcohol rehabilitation meeting attendance to two per week with a minimum of 10 per month;

• To grant David Brian Levy, D.O.’s request for approval of the coursework offered at the 2014 International Conference on Emergency Medicine 2014, to fulfill the personal/professional ethics course requirements required prior to reinstatement;

• To grant Elizabeth B. Lottes, D.O.’s request for approval of Alan B. Levy, M.D., to serve as the new treating psychiatrist and monitoring physician;

• To grant Anna M. Marcinow, M.D.’s request for approval of Sethi J. Isaacs, M.D., to serve as the new monitoring physician;

• To grant Lawrence M. Rubens, M.D.’s request for approval of Ronald L. Miller, M.D., to serve as the monitoring physician; and determination of the frequency and number of charts to be reviewed at 10 charts per month;

• To grant David A. Tracy, M.D.’s request for discontinuance of the controlled substance log requirement; reduction in alcohol and drug rehabilitation meetings to two per week with a minimum of 10 per month; and reduction in personal appearances to every six months; and

• To grant Alvaro D. Waissbluth, M.D.’s request for reduction in appearances to every six months.

Mr. Giacalone seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:  
Dr. Bechtel - abstain  
Dr. Saferin - abstain  
Dr. Rothermel - aye (abstain in the matter of Dr. Dyer)  
Dr. Steinbergh - aye (abstain in the matters of Drs. Dyer and Lottes)  
Mr. Kenney - aye  
Dr. Ramprasad - aye  
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye (abstain in the matter of Dr. Kraenzler)
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

BETSY L. CORNELL, M.T.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that on April 9, 2014, the Board issued an Order that granted the restoration of Ms. Cornell’s massage therapy license and placed that license under a minimum 180 day suspension based on Ms. Cornell’s practice of massage therapy for approximately six years after the expiration of her license on August 31, 2007, which constituted the commission of an act that constitutes a felony.

The April 2014 Order further set out the conditions that Ms. Cornell must meet for the reinstatement of her massage therapy to include the following:

• Submission of a reinstatement application and fee
• Successful completion of a course in personal and professional ethics and written report, setting forth what she had learned, and how she will apply what was learned to her massage therapy practice

Dr. Ramprasad stated that Ms. Cornell has submitted the required documentation of her ability to resume massage therapy and is currently in compliance with the terms of the April 9, 2014 Board Order.

Dr. Steinbergh moved that the request for the reinstatement of the massage therapy license of Betsy L. Cornell, M.T., be approved, effective December 14, 2014, subject to the probationary terms and conditions as outlined in the April 9, 2014 Board Order for a minimum of two years. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

The Board recessed at 11:33 a.m. and returned at 1:08 p.m. Mr. Gonidakis was present when the meeting
OPERATIONS REPORT

Dr. Ramprasad welcomed the Board’s new Executive Director, Anthony J. Groeber, to the Medical Board. Dr. Ramprasad stated that Mr. Groeber had previously served as Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals. Dr. Ramprasad stated that the Board looks forward to working with Mr. Groeber.

Staffing Update: Mr. Groeber stated that Dr. Bechtel is regrettably resigning from the Board after years of excellent service. Also, Mr. Blanton, who served exceptionally as Interim Executive Director, is leaving the Board to pursue other opportunities. Mr. Groeber stated that the Board is also working to fill vacancies for the positions of Attorney 4, Chief of Investigations, and Investigations Supervisor for the South and Central Regions. The position of Certification License Examiner 2 has been filled with a start date of December 29, 2014.

Communications and Outreach: Mr. Groeber stated that the meetings, presentations, and publications by the Board staff over the previous month are outlined in the Operations Report and he would be happy to entertain questions. Mr. Groeber congratulated Dr. Steinbergh, who was honored with the Service Excellence Award from the medical staff at Mt. Carmel St. Ann’s Hospital on December 5, 2014.

Mr. Groeber stated that he has reached out to the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, the Ohio Board of Nursing, and the Ohio Dental Board to discuss opportunities to work collaboratively on items of mutual interest. Mr. Groeber noted that Steve Schierholt, Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, addressed the Policy Committee this morning.

Mr. Groeber stated that the Board sent letters to almost 1,000 prescribers who wrote more than 500 controlled substance prescriptions but are not yet registered with the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). Mr. Groeber stated that the goal is to make sure the prescribers understand the implications of OARRS registration.

Fiscal: Mr. Groeber stated that Attachment A of the Operations Report shows that October expenses outpaced revenue by about $30,000.00, but the Board has a net positive of $280,000.00 for the fiscal year to date.

E-Licensure: Mr. Groeber stated that the Medical Board is attempting to place itself in the forefront of the new E-Licensure system. Mr. Groeber stated that due to concerns that the current vendor will be able to develop and effectively implement a proper platform, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) is entertaining other opportunities. Another vendor has been identified which has already developed license platforms for the state of Kentucky. Mr. Groeber stated that there may also be an opportunity for the Medical Board to develop a compliance module for the same platform to align with the Board’s compliance operation. Mr. Groeber stated that he and the staff will continue to investigate these options.

Office Operations: Mr. Groeber stated that he has met with all the functional groups of the Medical Board organization and is encouraged by what he has seen. Mr. Groeber stated that he will develop some
operational process mapping and share it with the Board in the coming weeks. Mr. Groeber reviewed the portions of the Operations Report concerning Licensure, Complaints, Investigations, Enforcement, and the Hearing Unit.

Mr. Kenney noted the portion of the Operations Report pertaining to investigators and asked if a particular problem has prompted the consideration to purchase bullet-proof vests. Mr. Groeber replied that he has heard about incidents from some investigators that concern him. Mr. Groeber stated that the Board’s investigators are currently carrying firearms and he is concerned that they are in situations where someone could do them harm. For these reasons, Mr. Groeber felt it was important to explore the option of purchasing bullet-proof vests. Dr. Steinbergh agreed with Mr. Groeber and stated that, although she had opposed arming the Board’s investigators, she supports the use of bullet-proof vests for protection. Dr. Steinbergh opined that if the Board authorizes the purchase of bullet-proof vests, the investigators should be required to wear them. Mr. Groeber hopes to have a better idea of the costs and benefits of bullet-proof vests by the next Board meeting so the Board can make an informed decision.

Dr. Schachat asked if there have been any instances in which a Board investigator has actually taken their firearm out of the holster. Mr. Groeber stated that he will get the answer to that question and report back to the Board. Mr. Groeber stated that he was informed of one incident in which the firearm was not removed, but it perhaps should have been.

Dr. Ramprasad noted the portion of the Operations Report concerning the Hearing Unit and the intention to explore paying the Ohio Attorney General’s Office so that the Board would have the full-time services of an assistant attorney general (AAG) dedicated to the Board. Mr. Groeber stated that the Attorney General’s Office assigns AAG’s to represent the Board, but there is a program by which the Board can assume the costs of an AAG and have that person dedicated to the Board exclusive from other agencies. Mr. Groeber stated that he is exploring this option in order to have more control over that resource in terms of scheduling and docket management.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that the Board used to pay for dedicated AAG’s, but ended that about two years ago as a cost-savings measure. Dr. Ramprasad stated that the Attorney General’s Office has continued to send the same AAG’s and he has not seen any difference in the quality of the representation. Mr. Kenney agreed and stated that the AAG’s have been very effective. Mr. Groeber stated that he is exploring this option because having better control over the AAG’s activities will help in the overall effort to refine the structure and expectations of the Hearing Unit.

**Board of Pharmacy:** Mr. Groeber stated that the Board of Pharmacy has requested a meeting between some of the Board members of both boards to discuss matters of mutual interest. Mr. Groeber asked any Board members interested in participating in such a meeting to contact him. Mr. Groeber commented that this may result in ongoing meetings. Dr. Schachat opined that the Medical Board should have the same interaction with other healthcare boards, such as the Optometry Board and the Nursing Board. Mr. Groeber agreed and stated that he will reach out to the other healthcare regulatory boards.

**Board Retreat:** Mr. Groeber asked the Board to consider holding a Board retreat in March. Mr. Groeber stated that that will mark about 100-days into his tenure as Executive Director and would be a good time to
reflect on his experiences.

**Designating Associate Member of FSMB:** Dr. Ramprasad stated that each member Medical Board of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) may select a staff member to serve as an Associate Member of the FSMB. The Associate Member continues in that capacity until termination of his/her employment by or service to the member Medical Board, or upon designation of a new Associate Member by that Board. The Associate Member is eligible to serve on FSMB Committees and may serve as a voting delegate at the annual business meeting of the FSMB House of Delegates as an alternate if no other member of the Medical Board can do so. The Associate Member may also be appointed to serve on the FSMB Board of Directors in accordance with the FSMB Bylaws. Dr. Ramprasad stated that the State Medical Board of Ohio has traditionally named the Executive Director as the Associate Member to the FSMB.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to designate Anthony J. Groeber, Executive Director, as the State Medical Board of Ohio’s Associate Member to the Federation of State Medical Boards, and to find that Mr. Groeber’s appointment as the Associate Member to the Federation of State Medical Boards is in connection with his responsibilities as, and is related to his position as, Executive Director of the State Medical Board of Ohio. Dr. Saferin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

- Dr. Bechtel - aye
- Dr. Saferin - aye
- Dr. Rothermel - aye
- Dr. Steinbergh - aye
- Mr. Kenney - aye
- Dr. Ramprasad - aye
- Dr. Sethi - aye
- Dr. Soin - aye
- Dr. Schachat - aye
- Mr. Gonidakis - aye
- Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

**Travel Authorizations:** Dr. Ramprasad stated that Dr. Steinbergh has received an invitation to attend the annual American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) Summit Meeting as the Medical Board’s delegate. The meeting will be held January 9 and 10, 2015, in Los Angeles. Dr. Ramprasad stated that the projected travel expenses have been provided to the Board members.

Dr. Saferin moved to approve Dr. Steinbergh’s travel expenses for one night hotel accommodation, four days of travel per diem in accordance with state travel policy, and four days of Board member per diem for Dr. Steinbergh’s attendance at the 2015 AAOE Summit Meeting on January 9 and 10, 2015, in Los Angeles, California, and to find that Dr. Steinbergh’s attendance at the conference is in connection with her duties as, and is related to, her position as a member of the State Medical Board of Ohio. Mr. Giacalone seconded the motion. A vote was taken:
ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - abstain
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Gonidakis - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

Dr. Ramprasad stated that Mr. Groeber has been invited to attend the 21st Annual New Executive Orientation being held at the FSMB’s national office in Euless, Texas, on February 3, 2015.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve Mr. Groeber’s attendance at the FSMB New Executive Orientation program on February 3, 2015, in Euless, Texas, and to find that his participation in this program is in connection with his responsibilities as, and is related to, his position as Executive Director of the State Medical Board of Ohio. Dr. Bechtel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Gonidakis - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY

Dr. Ramprasad stated that Dr. Bechtel’s resignation from the Board will become effective December 13, 2014, and a new Secretary will be needed to complete his term as Secretary, which ends on December 31, 2014.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to elect Dr. Rothermel to serve as Secretary for the remainder of Dr. Bechtel’s
term, from December 13, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Dr. Saferin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - abstain
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Gonidakis - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

Dr. Ramprasad welcomed Dr. Rothermel to the Medical Board as the new Secretary.

APRECIATION FOR DR. BECHTEL

Dr. Ramprasad thanked Dr. Bechtel on behalf of the Board for his exemplary service as the Board’s Secretary since May 2014, after having served as the Board’s Supervising Member from June 2012 to May 2014. Dr. Ramprasad stated that in recognition of what Dr. Bechtel has accomplished, Mr. LaCross had a certificate to present to Dr. Bechtel on behalf of the Ohio House of Representatives.

On behalf of the Ohio House of Representatives, Speaker of the House William Batchelder, Representative Lynn Wachtmann, Chair of the House Health and Aging Committee, and Dr. Bechtel’s representative, Representative Margaret Ann Ruhl, Mr. LaCross presented Dr. Bechtel with a certificate of appreciation for his service to the State Medical Board of Ohio and to the citizens of Ohio.

In addition, Mr. Kenney presented to Dr. Bechtel a Proclamation from Governor John Kasich thanking Dr. Bechtel for his service. Mr. Kenney stated that the Board appreciates all of Dr. Bechtel’s work and his dedication to the Board’s mission.

Dr. Bechtel stated that it has been a tremendous honor to serve on the Medical Board. Dr. Bechtel stated that one of the special things about service as Supervising Member and Secretary is the opportunity to see how dedicated the staff is to serving the patients of Ohio. Dr. Bechtel stated that he feels fortunate to have been part of the Board’s family. The Board members and those present in the audience gave Dr. Bechtel a round of applause.

Dr. Saferin stated that he became the Board’s Supervising Member when Dr. Bechtel became Secretary. Dr. Saferin stated that he has been an honor and privilege to work with Dr. Bechtel, who is exceptionally bright and dedicated.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Steinbergh moved to elect Mr. Kenney as President, Mr. Gonidakis as Vice President, Dr. Rothermel as Secretary, and Dr. Saferin as Supervising Member, for the terms of January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015. Dr. Schachat seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - abstain
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - abstain
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Gonidakis - abstain
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

APPRECIATION FOR MR. BLANTON

On behalf of the Medical Board, Dr. Ramprasad thanked Mr. Blanton for his outstanding service as Interim Executive Director during a challenging time. Dr. Ramprasad wished Mr. Blanton success in his new role with the Ohio Attorney General’s office as Chief of Consumer Protection Services. The Board members and those present in the audience gave Mr. Blanton a round of applause.

APPRECIATION FOR DR. RAMPRASAD

Mr. Kenney presented an award to Dr. Ramprasad for his service as President in 2014. Mr. Kenney stated that Dr. Ramprasad works hard and is an exceptionally honest and fair person. The Board members and those present in the audience gave Dr. Ramprasad a round of applause.

RULES & POLICIES

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE 4731-7-01 AND 4731-9-01

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve Rules 4731-7-01 and 4731-9-01, Ohio Administrative Code, for filing with the Common Sense Initiatives Office. Dr. Saferin seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE 4731-1-02

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve the requested revision of paragraph (D) of Rule 4731-1-02, Ohio Administrative Code. Dr. Steinbergh further moved that the revised rule be filed with the Common Sense Initiatives Office. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES 4731-11-01 & 4731-11-12

Ms. Debolt stated that Rule 4731-11-01 concerns amendments to definitions related to controlled substances, while Rule 4731-11-12 is also known as the Opioid-Based Office Treatment (OBOT) Rule or the Suboxone Rule. Ms. Debolt stated that these rules have gone through the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) office and have been filed with the Joint Commission on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). Ms. Debolt explained that when a rule is filed with JCARR, they have jurisdiction over it for 65 days, during which time the Board must have a public hearing to gather public comments and input. The Board cannot adopt the rule until JCARR jurisdiction has ended. If the Board wishes to file a revised Rule based upon public comments, JCARR jurisdiction is extended by 30 days. However, a revised rule filed in December results in a new 65-day period of JCARR jurisdiction starting in January due to the end of the previous legislative session.

Ms. Debolt stated that public comments have been received on Rule 4731-11-12 that the Board should consider. Ms. Debolt opined that the public comments have merit, but felt that they can be addressed by way of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document or informational materials. Due to the perceived need for Rule 4731-11-12 to be implemented without unnecessary delay, Ms. Debolt recommended that the Board refrain from revising the rule and to officially adopt the rule at the January Board meeting. This will allow the Rule 4731-11-12 to go into effect at the end of January and leave the Board with the option of amending the rule at a later time based on the public comments, if it wishes to do so. Ms. Debolt stated that in the meantime, the concerns brought up by the public comments can be addressed by an FAQ document or informational materials.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to make no changes to proposed Rules 4731-11-01 and 4731-11-12. Dr. Saferin seconded the motion.

Dr. Rothermel asked how difficult it will be to amend Rule 4731-11-12 after the Board adopts it. Dr. Steinbergh stated that the process of amending the Rule can begin immediately after its adoption if the Board so desires. Ms. Debolt stated that any amendments will have to go through the entire rule-making process. Mr. Giacalone asked what changes to the Rule will be proposed. Ms. Debolt replied that the proposed amendments, as outlined in a memo provided to the Board members, will clarify that the Rule should be followed whenever there is a conflict between the Rule and protocols.

A vote was taken on Dr. Steinbergh’s motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.
FINAL PROBATIONARY APPEARANCES

MARYROSE P. BAUSCHKA, M.D.

Dr. Bauschka was appearing before the Board pursuant to her request for release from the terms of her October 10, 2012 Consent Agreement. Ms. Bickers reviewed Dr. Bauschka’s history with the Board.

Dr. Steinbergh asked Dr. Bauschka to describe her current recovery and practice. Dr. Bauschka stated that she is currently in a psychiatry residency program at the University of Utah as a second-year resident. In terms of recovery, Dr. Bauschka stated that she is doing very well and has been stable for years.

Dr. Steinbergh asked how Dr. Bauschka’s illness has affected her ability to be sensitive to patient needs in a psychiatry residency. Dr. Bauschka opined that her personal experience has helped her connect with patients and she is proud of that. Dr. Steinbergh asked if Dr. Bauschka is able to fulfill her on-call responsibilities and other duties of that nature. Dr. Bauschka answered that she has been fulfilling all of her responsibilities and has not missed a day of work.

Dr. Steinbergh wished Dr. Bauschka good luck and advised her to be sensitive to her own personal needs.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to release Dr. Bauschka from the terms of her October 10, 2012 Consent Agreement, effective immediately. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

PAUL E. DUNCAN, M.D.

Dr. Duncan was appearing before the Board pursuant to his request for release from the terms of his December 9, 2009 Consent Agreement. Ms. Bickers reviewed Dr. Duncan’s history with the Board.

In response to questions from Dr. Steinbergh, Dr. Duncan stated that he currently practices at an urgent care center up to 40 hours per week. Dr. Duncan stated that he has been at the same urgent care center for almost five years and he enjoys it very much.

Dr. Steinbergh asked Dr. Duncan to describe his recovery and his plans for the future. Dr. Duncan replied that he plans to continue his recovery activities because they have been working for him, including attending meetings, being in contact with his sponsor, and getting in contact with a God of his own understanding.

Dr. Ramprasad noted that Dr. Duncan is taking the medications Pristiq and Tegretol, and asked what the Tegretol is for. Dr. Duncan replied that the Tegretol is for treatment of his bipolar disorder. Dr. Ramprasad asked if Dr. Duncan is seeing a psychiatrist on a regular basis. Dr. Duncan replied that he continues to see the same psychiatrist regularly. Dr. Ramprasad asked about Dr. Duncan’s family support. Dr. Duncan stated that his sister and his brother live nearby, while another brother lives in Wisconsin and another sister lives in Florida. Dr. Duncan stated that he has a lot of support through his church and through Alcoholics Anonymous.
Dr. Soin asked if Dr. Duncan’s urgent care center contains any controlled substances which he has access to. Dr. Duncan answered that there are no controlled substances on-site and, as a matter of policy, the physicians at the urgent care do not prescribe controlled substances except in rare circumstances.

Mr. Giacalone read through Dr. Duncan’s history, including his use of cocaine, intermittent use of other illegal drugs like heroin, and snorting a family member’s OxyContin approximately 20 to 25 times in the time period 2000 to 2001. Dr. Duncan relapsed in 2004 when he prescribed Percocet to an employee’s husband and split it with him. Mr. Giacalone was pleased that Dr. Duncan seems to be moving in the right direction now, but strongly advised him not to appear before the Board on such matters again. Dr. Duncan stated that he does not expect to be given a third chance, as was explained to him by Mr. Albert when he was alive and serving as the Board’s Supervising member. Dr. Steinbergh commented that Mr. Albert is remembered fondly by many probationers whose lives he affected. Dr. Duncan stated that Mr. Albert would be proud of him today. Dr. Steinbergh agreed.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to release Dr. Duncan from the terms of his December 9, 2009 Consent Agreement, effective immediately. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

JOSEPH R. FREEMAN, D.O.

Dr. Freeman was appearing before the Board pursuant to his request for release from the terms of his November 12, 2009 Consent Agreement. Ms. Bickers reviewed Dr. Freeman’s history with the Board.

Dr. Ramprasad noted that Dr. Freeman suffered from depression and anxiety in addition to alcohol dependence. Dr. Freeman answered affirmatively and stated that the depression and anxiety preceded his alcohol dependence. When asked by Dr. Ramprasad, Dr. Freeman stated that his is currently on the medication sertraline. Dr. Ramprasad asked if Dr. Freeman is seeing a psychiatrist. Dr. Freeman replied that he had been required to see a psychiatrist as part of his Consent Agreement, but his psychiatrist has essentially released Dr. Freeman because he feels Dr. Freeman is doing fine. Dr. Freeman last saw his psychiatrist in September 2014. Dr. Ramprasad asked who prescribes Dr. Freeman’s sertraline. Dr. Freeman responded that his primary care physician has taken over prescribing sertraline. Dr. Ramprasad expressed concern that not seeing a psychiatrist on a regular basis could contribute to a relapse. Dr. Freeman stated that his anxiety and depression, which preceded his alcoholism, are well-controlled.

Dr. Ramprasad asked what Dr. Freeman is doing in terms of his practice. Dr. Freeman answered that he is practicing family medicine at Holzer Clinic part-time two-and-a-half days per week.

Dr. Steinbergh noted that Dr. Freeman seems to be very active in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), has a great understanding of the stressors that contribute to relapse, and understands the importance of attending AA meetings. Dr. Freeman stated that the AA meetings are his life. Dr. Freeman stated that an alcoholic is an alcoholic forever, but his plan is to be in recovery for the rest of his life and he can do that through AA.

Dr. Ramprasad expressed concern about Dr. Freeman’s criminal history and asked if it was related to alcohol. Dr. Freeman replied that it was related to alcohol. Dr. Ramprasad asked Dr. Freeman to explain
this history, particularly the Breaking and Entering and Using Weapons While Intoxicated. Dr. Freeman stated that those charges were dropped. Dr. Freeman then stated that he was found guilty of Aggravated Menacing and he has completed his probation for that.

Mr. Giacalone stated that, in fact, the charges against Dr. Freeman were not dropped, but they were plea bargained down to Aggravated Menacing. Mr. Giacalone expressed concern about the events in question which occurred while Dr. Freeman was intoxicated. Dr. Freeman replied that, while alcohol was part of it, there were never charges on the alcohol. Mr. Giacalone stated that, nonetheless, Dr. Freeman had been intoxicated and he had been charged with Felonious Assault, Carrying Concealed Weapons, Possessing Criminal Tools, Breaking and Entering, and Using Weapons While Intoxicated. Dr. Freeman stated that he had been found not guilty on those charges. Mr. Giacalone responded that, in fact, Dr. Freeman was not found not guilty; rather, he plea bargained down to Aggravated Menacing.

Mr. Giacalone stated that the charges against Dr. Freeman were serious and were tied to his alcoholism. Mr. Giacalone asked Dr. Freeman what will make the Board comfortable that something like that does not happen again. Dr. Freeman stated that for the last five years he has been in recovery and he has had no problems of any kind. Dr. Freeman stated that when you are in recovery, there are no problems as long as you stay in recovery.

Mr. Giacalone stated that it is important that Dr. Freeman not appear before the Board again for any type of substance abuse issues, especially for felonies of this magnitude.

**Dr. Steinbergh moved to release Dr. Freeman from the terms of his November 12, 2009 Consent Agreement, effective December 13, 2014. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion.** All members voted aye. The motion carried.

**MICHAEL J. HARPER, M.D.**

Dr. Harper was appearing before the Board pursuant to his request for release from the terms of his December 14, 2011 Consent Agreement. Ms. Bickers reviewed Dr. Harper’s history with the Board.

Dr. Steinbergh asked if Dr. Harper would share his experiences and what he has learned with the medical students in attendance at today’s meeting.

Dr. Harper stated that he had been in family practice for nearly ten years and had been married with three children. Dr. Harper stated that a physician can start believing they are a little better than the people they are treating and forget that they are as human also. Dr. Harper recounted how an unhappy home life and the fact that he allowed the physician/patient to become blurred led to his indiscretion. Dr. Harper stated that his life spun out of control and he lost his family, his money, and his retirement. Dr. Harper stated that physicians are just like everyone else and can fall prey to unhappiness. Dr. Harper advised the students to maintain balance in their lives and to keep patients separate from their personal lives.

Dr. Steinbergh asked what Dr. Harper is doing to protect himself in the office setting. Dr. Harper replied that whenever he does anything that would be considered intimate, such as gynecologic care, there is
always someone else in the room with him. Dr. Harper also informs new patients of what has happened with him and the Board so they are aware of his past and offers to help them see other physicians in the office if they are uncomfortable with it. Dr. Harper added that he discusses everything with his wife and that is a great help. Dr. Harper stated that his partners are supportive and are always watching for potential problems.

Dr. Steinbergh advised Dr. Harper to maintain proper barriers to protect himself. Dr. Harper agreed.

**Dr. Steinbergh moved to release Dr. Harper from the terms of his December 14, 2011 Consent Agreement, effective December 14, 2014.** Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. All members voted aye except Mr. Giacalone, who abstained. The motion carried.

BARBARA G. O’KEEFE MURRELL, M.D.

Dr. Murrell was appearing before the Board pursuant to her request for release from the terms of her December 9, 2009 Consent Agreement. Ms. Bickers reviewed Dr. Murrell’s history with the Board.

Dr. Steinbergh noted that Dr. Murrell had experienced a great deal of stress in relation to computerization and electronic medical records (EMR) and asked what that situation is currently. Dr. Murrell replied that she is adjusting and has experienced two transitions recently in her professional life. The first transition was from dictated office medical records to an EMR system. Dr. Murrell stated that she has been extremely frustrated with how the EMR portrays her patients, particularly the patients she has been seeing for 25 or 30 years. The second transition was when her practice was converted into a federally-qualified community health center which answers to the policy protocols of an administrative staff located in another city. Dr. Murrell stated that this transition has also been difficult on her patients; whereas Dr. Murrell’s patients used to call a receptionist who knows them in Dr. Murrell’s office, their calls now go to the administrative staff in Zanesville. However, Dr. Murrell stated that it is a good employment situation for her. Dr. Murrell stated that she has modified her practice and she works three days per week. Dr. Murrell added that she also responds to stress differently thanks to what she has learned in the program.

Dr. Steinbergh asked Dr. Murrell about her recovery and her plans moving forward. Dr. Murrell stated that she is very involved with her home group, where she has a sponsor and currently serves as treasurer. Dr. Murrell stated that she is committed to the process of her recovery and acknowledged that she must continue to be involved in order to maintain her sobriety. Dr. Murrell stated that her mother, who had been an alcoholic in recovery for 30 years when she died, is a role model to her.

**Dr. Steinbergh moved to release Dr. Murrell from the terms of her December 9, 2009 Consent Agreement, effective immediately.** Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

MYRON L. SHANK, M.D.

Dr. Shank was appearing before the Board pursuant to his request for release from the terms of the Board’s Order of December 14, 2011. Ms. Bickers reviewed Dr. Shank’s history with the Board.
Mr. Giacalone asked Dr. Shank to elaborate on the circumstances that brought him to the attention of the Board. Dr. Shank replied that he was cited by the Board due to allegations that were made against him. Mr. Giacalone asked Dr. Shank several questions regarding whether Dr. Shank believed the allegations against him were unfounded or unjustified. Dr. Shank replied to these questions by saying that he has been compliant with the Board’s ruling. Dr. Shank stated his belief that physicians are obligated to follow the laws of the United States, the laws of Ohio, the rules and regulations of the State Medical Board of Ohio, the guidelines of nationally-recognized organizations, and the medical and scientific literature. Dr. Shank stated that this has always been and continues to be his goal.

Mr. Giacalone asked if the allegations against Dr. Shank involved prescribing of narcotics and opiates. Dr. Shank acknowledged that that was the nature of the allegations. Mr. Giacalone asked again if Dr. Shank felt the allegations were unfounded. Dr. Shank reiterated that he will follow the law, the rules of the State Medical Board of Ohio, nationally-recognized organizations, and the medical and scientific literature. Dr. Shank stated that if the Board feels that he needs to change something, he will comply with the Board’s authority.

Dr. Soin asked if Dr. Shank feels that he came before the Board because he had deviated from the minimal standards of care. Dr. Shank answered that the Board feels that he did and he will follow the Board’s recommendations. Dr. Soin reiterated that he is asking for Dr. Shank’s opinion. Dr. Shank stated that he has always contentiously followed standards, guidelines, and rules. Dr. Shank stated that he did not knowingly or deliberately deviate from the rules.

Dr. Steinbergh noted that Dr. Shank has completed the courses on controlled substance prescribing, professional ethics, and medical record-keeping which he had been required to take as part of his Board Order. Dr. Steinbergh expressed concern about the 11-page report that Dr. Shank wrote regarding these courses. Specifically, Dr. Steinbergh found the report to be rather defiant. Dr. Steinbergh stated that although Dr. Shank says today that he will follow the rules, it is clear that Dr. Shank does not agree with the rules. Dr. Steinbergh stated that members of the Board are concerned about whether Dr. Shank will actually comply with the rules.

Dr. Steinbergh asked if Dr. Shank understands what brought him before the Board in 2011. Dr. Shank replied that he understands what the Board did in 2011. Dr. Steinbergh stated that Dr. Shank came before the Board due to concerns about the minimal standards of care. Dr. Steinbergh continued that, despite the fact that Dr. Shank has completed the required courses, his statement does nothing to suggest that Dr. Shank understands or will apply what he learned to his practice.

Dr. Steinbergh asked Dr. Shank to describe his current practice. Dr. Shank replied that he is employed by Freeda J. Flynn, M.D., doing primary care and endocrinology/diabetes & metabolism in St. Clairsville, an underserved part of Ohio. When Dr. Steinbergh asked if Dr. Flynn is Dr. Shank’s provisionally-approved monitoring physician, Ms. Bickers stated that Dr. Shank’s provisionally-approved monitoring physician is Renato F. Dela Cruz, M.D. Responding to further questioning, Dr. Shank stated that he and Dr. Flynn are the only physicians practicing in the office and Dr. Dela Cruz, an internal medicine specialist, covers for the practice.
Mr. Giacalone quoted a portion of Dr. Shank’s report: “Although I acknowledge the ethical concerns raised, in the absence of actual evidence of abuse or substantive misuse, by the use of these modalities, my interpretation continues to be that the State Medical Board of Ohio requires an adversarial approach to chronic pain patients treated for pain with prescription medications.” Dr. Shank acknowledged that he believes that is the standard in Ohio and that the State Medical Board of Ohio requires physicians to treat chronic pain patients with suspicion at all times.

Mr. Giacalone opined that several quotes attributed to Dr. Shank in Board documentation in 2011 are illuminating, including “I need records from Dr. [redacted], even if she is a quack” and “The pharmacists are absolute idiots. Calling them morons would be flattery … If they cannot handle that, they need to do something they can handle, like clean toilets.” Dr. Shank stated that he no longer makes such comments. Mr. Giacalone expressed concern that Dr. Shank takes no ownership of or expresses any remorse for these past comments.

Mr. Giacalone stated that because the Board has very little in the way of monitoring history for Dr. Shank since he only resumed practicing recently, he intends to make a motion to deny Dr. Shank’s release from the terms of his Board Order at this time. Ms. Bickers stated that if Dr. Shank is continued under the terms of his Board Order, he will be scheduled for his next appearance with the Secretary and Supervising Member based on reports from the monitoring physician and Dr. Shank will not appear before the Board again until the Secretary and Supervising Member support release.

Mr. Giacalone moved to continue Dr. Shank under the terms of his December 14, 2011 Board Order. Dr. Steinbergh seconded the motion.

Dr. Ramprasad commented that he had the same concerns that were expressed by Mr. Giacalone and Dr. Steinbergh. Dr. Shank stated that he is not being defiant to the Board. Dr. Ramprasad stated that he is concerned that Dr. Shank does not understand the basic principles of managing patients for their safety.

Dr. Shank stated that he believes passionately that he has, in fact, complied with the rules and guidelines. Dr. Shank stated that he will continue to the best of his knowledge and ability to provide the very best quality care to all his patients and comply with the Board. Dr. Shank reiterated that he is not being defiant to the Board and he hopes to earn the Board’s confidence in his abilities and his care.

Responding to Dr. Shank’s questions, Dr. Steinbergh stated that under the terms of Dr. Shank’s Board Order, his monitoring physician will submit reports to the Board that will give assurance that Dr. Shank’s practice is in compliance with the minimal standards of care. Dr. Steinbergh stated that it is unfortunate that Dr. Shank was unable to obtain employment practicing medicine until November 3, 2014, and therefore is not able to provide documentation of a long period of monitored practice at this time.

Dr. Steinbergh reiterated that the statement Dr. Shank submitted to the Board regarding his required courses was not reassuring. Dr. Shank stated that he did not feel that the instructors of the courses were what they were representing themselves to be. Dr. Steinbergh commented that for all the years she has served on the Board and read reviews of these courses by disciplined physicians, she has never seen a
review like Dr. Shank’s. Dr. Steinbergh stated that as a member of the Medical Board, she has the ability and the responsibility to read and interpret statements to get a sense of whether a probationer is an appropriate physician moving forward.

Mr. Gonidakis exited the meeting at this time.

Dr. Shank stated that he did not feel the courses were appropriate for the purposes for which they were intended. Dr. Shank opined that the courses were very deficient and fell short of the Board’s goals and his goals.

A vote was taken on Mr. Giacalone’s motion:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROLL CALL:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bechtel</td>
<td>abstain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Saferin</td>
<td>abstain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Rothermel</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Steinbergh</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Kenney</td>
<td>aye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ramprasad</td>
<td>aye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Sethi</td>
<td>aye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Soin</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Schachat</td>
<td>aye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Giacalone</td>
<td>aye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The motion carried.

SHANNON DIMETRA WEIKERT, M.T.

Ms. Weikert was appearing before the Board pursuant to her request for release from the terms of the Board’s Order of September 8, 2010. Ms. Bickers reviewed Ms. Weikert’s history with the Board.

Dr. Steinbergh asked Ms. Weikert to describe what she has learned during her probationary period and what it means to her as she moves forward with her massage therapy career. Ms. Weikert responded that she is required by her employer to take annual ethics courses. Ms. Weikert stated that ethics are very important in massage therapy and she is very strict with her ethics and code of conduct. Ms. Weikert stated that the mistake she made when she was 19 years old was an example of a young college student making a mistake. Ms. Weikert stated that she is trying to get past that mistake and taking the ethics courses helped.

Dr. Steinbergh asked how Ms. Weikert is doing in her job. Ms. Weikert replied that she enjoys her job very much and has been there almost four years now.

**Dr. Steinbergh moved to release Ms. Weikert from the terms of the Board’s Order of September 8, 2010, effective immediately. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion.** All members voted aye. The motion carried.
RATIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

Dr. Steinbergh moved to remove the matter of Shannon Lee Swanson, D.O., from the table. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

SHANNON LEE SWANSON, D.O. – ADDENDUM TO THE CONSENT AGREEMENT

Dr. Steinbergh moved to ratify the Proposed Addendum to the Consent Agreement with Dr. Swanson. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL: Dr. Bechtel - abstain
Dr. Saferin - abstain
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion to ratify carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 3:05 p.m. and resumed at 3:17 p.m.

REPORTS BY ASSIGNED COMMITTEES

LICENSURE COMMITTEE

LICENSURE APPLICATION REVIEWS

MICHELLE GAIL PAVEL, L.M.T.

Dr. Saferin moved to approve Ms. Pavel’s application for restoration of her license to practice massage therapy in Ohio, pending successful completion of the MBLEX examination. Dr. Steinbergh seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL: Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Saferin stated that Dr. Rowes is applying for medical license in OH. Dr. Rowes has not engaged in clinical practice since December 2006. Dr. Rowes holds a non-time limited certificate issued in 1982 from the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO). Since 2006, Dr. Rowes has been employed in administrative roles.

The Committee has recommended tabling this matter so that more information can be requested from Dr. Rowes. Specifically, the Committee wishes to know if Dr. Rowes is interested in practicing ophthalmology again or if he is going to practice administrative medicine. This information will help the Committee determine if Dr. Rowes should be issued a license limited to administrative medicine or, if Dr. Rowes intends to practice ophthalmology, what education or evaluation should be required to ensure competency in that field.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion of whether Dr. Rowes would have the ability to sit for the ABO recertification examination or if he could submit evidence of participation in Maintenance of Licensure or some other form of continuous process. Dr. Schachat opined that it is reasonable to ask what Dr. Rowes intends to do; in the meantime, the staff will have the opportunity to check with the ABO to see what educational or examination options would be available.

**Dr. Steinbergh moved to table this topic. Dr. Steinbergh seconded the motion.** All members voted aye. The motion carried.

**JENNIFER WHITE, M.D.**

Dr. Saferin stated that Dr. White is applying for a medical license in Ohio. Dr. White has not been engaged in clinical practice since 2012 and is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). The Committee recommends approving Dr. White’s application as presented.

**Dr. Saferin moved to approve Dr. White’s application for licensure as presented. Dr. Bechtel seconded the motion.**

Dr. Steinbergh stated that when she initially reviewed this matter, she favored granting Dr. White’s application only after successful completion of the Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) or specialty board recertification. Dr. Saferin stated that the Committee considered the fact that Dr. White has maintained her continuing medical education (CME), was already board-certified, and was only eight months outside of the two-year window for having last practiced medicine. For these reasons, the
Committee felt comfortable licensing Dr. White. Dr. Rothermel added that Dr. White will be due to sit for ABIM recertification soon, most likely within the next two years.

A vote was taken on Dr. Saferin’s motion:

ROLL CALL:
Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

WAIVER REQUEST FOR USMLE TEN-YEAR RULE

BRITT CONROY, M.D., PH.D., J.D.

Dr. Saferin stated that Dr. Conroy has requested a waiver for ten-year rule on basis of Section 4731-6-14(C)(3)(b)(ii), Ohio Administrative Code. Dr. Conroy is over the ten-year limit by 32 months. Dr. Conroy matriculated into Case Western Reserve University as a dual degree student (joint MD and PhD) in 1999, completed medical degree in May 2011, and has successfully completed a three-year residency in family medicine. Dr Conroy is currently a PGY4 at University Hospitals Case Medical Center specializing in preventive medicine. The Committee recommends approve Dr. Conroy’s request.

Dr. Saferin moved to approve the good-cause exception of the ten-year rule as outlined in Section 4731-6-14(C)(3)(b)(ii), Ohio Administrative Code, and accept Dr. Conroy’s examination sequence so that she can be granted a license. Dr. Steinbergh seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:
Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye
The motion carried.

DRAFT CERTIFICATE OF CONCEDED EMINENCE RENEWAL APPLICATION

Dr. Saferin moved to approve the draft Certificate of Conceded Eminence Renewal Application. Dr. Bechtel seconded the motion.

Dr. Ramprasad asked if the Licensure Committee discussed requiring specialty board certification as part of the Conceded Eminence renewal process. Mr. Miller stated that the Committee discussed that briefly. Mr. Miller stated that the statute grants the Board the ability to determine additional requirements for renewal, but it would probably have to go through the rule-making process to establish those requirements. Currently, renewal of the Certificate of Conceded Eminence requires the same continuing medical education (CME) credits as other licensed physicians and demonstration of continued scholarly achievements.

A vote was taken on Dr. Saferin’s motion:

ROLL CALL: 
Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Rampasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT/SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE REPORT

SPECIAL SERVICES APPLICATION REVIEWS

DERMATOLOGY & AESTHETIC CARE

SHAVE BIOPSY

Dr. Sethi stated that the Committee recommends approval of this application, with the amendment that the physician assistant will not perform the procedure on the face. Dr. Sethi also stated that the physician assistant will observe the physician in performing 20 procedures and the physician will observe the physician assistant performing 20 procedures. The physician will determine the need for the procedure and will see the patient following the procedure to check on possible complications.
Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve the recommendations of the Physician Assistant/Scope of Practice Committee. Dr. Bechtel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:
Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

SKIN TAG REMOVAL

Dr. Sethi stated that the Committee recommends approval of this application. Dr. Steinbergh asked for Dr. Bechtel’s opinion on whether the physician assistant should be able to perform this procedure on the face. Dr. Bechtel opined that that would be acceptable.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve the recommendations of the Physician Assistant/Scope of Practice Committee. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:
Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

PUNCH EXCISION BIOPSY

Dr. Sethi stated that the Committee requested that this application be amended so that the physician must see the patient following the procedure and that the physician assistant will not perform the procedure on the face. Dr. Steinbergh added that the physician assistant will observe 20 procedures performed by the physician and the physician will observe 20 procedures performed by the physician assistant.
Dr. Bechtel commented that with punch biopsies, as well as shave biopsies, there is significant risk of scarring and a high level of expertise is required. Therefore, Dr. Bechtel felt it was reasonable to restrict physician assistants from performing them on the face.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve the recommendations of the Physician Assistant/Scope of Practice Committee. Dr. Sethi seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:  
- Dr. Bechtel - aye  
- Dr. Saferin - aye  
- Dr. Rothermel - aye  
- Dr. Steinbergh - aye  
- Mr. Kenney - aye  
- Dr. Ramprasad - aye  
- Dr. Sethi - aye  
- Dr. Soin - aye  
- Dr. Schachat - aye  
- Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

CLAVUS REMOVAL

Dr. Sethi stated that the Committee recommends approval of this application, but also recommended that a referral be made to a specialist, such as a podiatrist or an orthopedist, rather than removing the clavus every month. Dr. Sethi stated that a specialist could determine what is causing the clavus and perhaps correct some of the underlying mechanics.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve the recommendations of the Physician Assistant/Scope of Practice Committee. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:  
- Dr. Bechtel - aye  
- Dr. Saferin - aye  
- Dr. Rothermel - aye  
- Dr. Steinbergh - aye  
- Mr. Kenney - aye  
- Dr. Ramprasad - aye  
- Dr. Sethi - aye  
- Dr. Soin - aye  
- Dr. Schachat - aye  
- Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.
INTRALESIONAL INJECTIONS

Dr. Sethi stated that the Committee recommends approval of this application, with the amendment that the physician assistant not perform the procedure on the face. Dr. Steinbergh added that the physician assistant will observe the physician performing 20 procedures and the physician will observe the physician assistant performing 20 procedures. In addition, the physician will determine the need for the procedure and will see the patient following the procedure.

Dr. Bechtel opined that it is reasonable to restrict physician assistants from performing this procedure on the face because if done too deeply or if too high a strength is utilized, the patient can develop a sunken-in eutropic area which can last four to six months.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve the recommendations of the Physician Assistant/Scope of Practice Committee. Dr. Sethi seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE TO PRESCRIBE APPLICATION REVIEW

GREGORY BEE, P.A.

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve Mr. Bee’s application for a provisional certificate to prescribe, based upon meeting the requirements of Section 4730.46(B)(2), Ohio Revised Code. Dr. Saferin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Bechtel - aye
Dr. Saferin - aye
Dr. Rothermel - aye
Dr. Steinbergh - aye
Mr. Kenney - aye
Dr. Ramprasad - aye
Dr. Sethi - aye
Dr. Soin - aye
Dr. Schachat - aye
Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Dr. Soin stated that Steven Schierholt, Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, addressed the Committee this morning. Mr. Schierholt and the Committee had a very good discussion and will work together going forward, particularly on the subject of pain management.

Dr. Soin invited Ms. Anderson to discuss the rules which were discussed by the Committee

UPDATES ON LEGISLATIVE DRAFT FOR REVISIONS TO THE ONE-BITE REPORTING EXEMPTION

Ms. Anderson stated that the Committee is still waiting for language from the Legislative Services Commission (LSC) on the one-bite reporting exemption. When the language is received, Ms. Anderson will distribute it among the Committee members.

UPDATES ON REVISION TO 4731-11-09, PRESCRIBING TO PATIENTS NOT SEEN

Ms. Anderson stated that a draft of this proposed revision will be presented to the Policy Committee in January 2015 which incorporated comments that have been received from various groups.

UPDATES ON REVISION TO 4731-11-11, OARRS RULE

Ms. Anderson stated that the Board needs to update the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) Rule with respect to House Bill 341, which establishes new OARRS provisions that will become effective in January 2015. Specifically, the Rule needs to be amended to reflect that the Medical Board can only promulgate OARRS-related rules that concern non-opioids and non-benzodiazepines. A draft of proposed amendments has been distributed among members of the Policy Committee and a more finalized version will be presented to the Board.

UPDATES TO BOARD POSITION STATEMENTS

Ms. Anderson stated that part of the process of updating the Board’s website is reviewing the publications posted there to determine if they are current or need to be updated. Ms. Anderson asked the Board to approve the proposed updates to the Board’s statements on Licensee Responsibility for Statements on Reimbursement or Billing Documents, Podiatric Advertising, Release of Vision Prescriptions, and Prohibition on Prescribing Controlled Substances to Self and Family.

Dr. Bechtel moved to approve the proposed changes to the Board’s positions statements on Licensee Responsibility for Statements on Reimbursement or Billing Documents, Podiatric Advertising,
Release of Vision Prescriptions, and Prohibition on Prescribing Controlled Substances to Self and Family. Dr. Rothermel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:  
Dr. Bechtel - aye  
Dr. Saferin - aye  
Dr. Rothermel - aye  
Dr. Steinbergh - aye  
Mr. Kenney - aye  
Dr. Ramprasad - aye  
Dr. Sethi - aye  
Dr. Soin - aye  
Dr. Schachat - aye  
Mr. Giacalone - aye  

The motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

House Bill 341: Mr. LaCross stated that recent amendments to House Bill 3341 include definitions of opioids and benzodiazepines, a provision that physicians who hold an Ohio medical license but do not practice in Ohio are not required to register for the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), a revision concerning free-standing emergency facilities, and a provision that OARRS reports can be placed into medical records.

Dr. Saferin noted concern regarding some exceptions in House Bill 341. Specifically, OARRS need not be checked if the patient is undergoing surgery or is receiving only a seven-day supply of medication. Dr. Saferin opined that these exemptions are not conducive to protecting the public. Dr. Saferin noted that if a surgeon checks OARRS on a surgical patient, he or she may discover that the patient is already receiving pain medications from another doctor and therefore post-surgical pain medications would not be necessary.

Dr. Soin stated that there had been concerns about making the regulation too onerous and impeding patient care by requiring too many checks in acute situations. Dr. Soin noted that if a seven-day prescription for pain medication is refilled continuously and passes the three-month threshold, then the physician is mandated to check OARRS.

House Bill 412: Mr. LaCross stated that House Bill 412 would broaden the physician assistants’ scope of practice, as well as eliminate the Provisional Certificate to Prescribe. Amendments to the bill would remove the requirement of Board approval of supervision agreements, but will also grant the Board authority to audit supervision agreements to ensure that it is being followed properly. The bill allows for a $1,000.00 civil fine on the physician assistant for violating the supervision agreement, as well as possible disciplinary action against the supervising physician. Mr. LaCross stated that this provision will facilitate practice because it will require less paperwork from the practice.

Dr. Steinbergh asked if there has been discussion of the audit or investigatory process related to
enforcement of supervision agreements. Mr. LaCross replied that discussions of that nature have begun internally and noted that Mr. Groeber wishes to take an aggressive stance and utilize the Board’s investigators in the field in order to garner better relationships. Dr. Steinbergh agreed that an aggressive stance will be important.

Dr. Rothermel asked for elaboration on the physician assistants’ scope of practice under this legislation. Mr. LaCross replied that essentially, physician assistants will be able to do whatever is within the everyday scope of practice of their supervising physician. Ms. Debolt stated that in a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility, the facility’s policies will determine what a physician assistant can do. Dr. Steinbergh stated that it will be a credentialing issue and, practically speaking, no facility will credential a physician assistant to perform surgery, for example.

Mr. LaCross also stated that physician assistants will also be able to delegate authority to administer medications to advanced practice nurses, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses.

**House Bill 531:** Mr. LaCross stated that this bill, which would grant fining authority to the Board, was passed out of the House of Representatives on a 92-0 vote. However, time ran out for the Senate to address it in this legislative session. Mr. LaCross stated that the language will be submitted to the Governor’s budget as an option, but he will also work in the next session to get it passed by the Senate and then by the House again.

**House Bill 519:** Mr. LaCross stated that this bill would change some of the renewal dates for podiatric licensure and some other minor changes. Dr. Saferin commented that the changes do not affect the podiatrists’ scope of practice.

**House Bill 378:** Mr. LaCross stated that this bill, on which the Medical Board and the Board of Pharmacy worked together, would require a terminal distributor license from the Board of Pharmacy for distributing, holding, or ordering Suboxone. The bill includes a 72-hour exemption, so physicians would not be able to provide more than 72 hours of Suboxone to patients without a terminal distributor license. Dr. Soin noted that most large practices already have a terminal distributor license, so this legislation will mostly affect sole proprietors. Dr. Soin stated that he supports this legislation.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Loe stated that the October Fiscal Report did not contain anything noteworthy, but she would be happy to answer any questions about it. The Board’s operating fund is currently at approximately $4,500,000.00.

**BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION**

Ms. Loe stated that draft revisions to the Board’s policy on Board member compensation have been approved by the Finance Committee. The draft revisions are an effort to ensure that the Board members are accurately compensated for each hour they spend on Board business, including but not limited to agenda review, travel, special meetings, and telephone conferences.
Dr. Saferin moved to approve the draft revisions to the Board member compensation policy. Dr. Bechtel seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:

- Dr. Bechtel - aye
- Dr. Saferin - aye
- Dr. Rothermel - aye
- Dr. Steinbergh - aye
- Mr. Kenney - aye
- Dr. Ramprasad - aye
- Dr. Sethi - aye
- Dr. Soin - aye
- Dr. Schachat - aye
- Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

FINING AUTHORITY UPDATE

Mr. Kenney stated that the fining authority legislation was not approved in the Senate prior to the end of the legislative session, as reported by Mr. LaCross. Mr. Kenney stated that no one seems to disapprove of the measure and he and the staff will continue to work to get it through the legislature.

EXPEDITED PROCESSES

Mr. Kenney stated that the Committee discussed ways that the expedited licensure process can be completed within a four-week timeframe. Mr. Kenney stated that it will require a great deal of work and communication to ensure that an applicant’s materials are received and processed in four weeks. Mr. Kenney stated that once this is accomplished, the Committee and the Board can discuss the charges associated with expedited licensure.

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Ramprasad stated that on November 5, 2014, the Compliance Committee met with Courtney D. Bonner, D.O.; Courtney D. Borruso, D.O.; James M. DeSantis, M.D.; Raymond C. Gruenther, M.D.; Noor U. Hassan, M.D.; and Randall G. Whitlock, Jr., P.A., and moved to continue them under the terms of their respective Board actions. The Compliance Committee also accepted Compliance staff’s report of conferences on October 6th and 7th, and further approved the draft minutes from the October 8, 2014 Compliance Committee.

BOARD-APPROVED TREATMENT PROVIDER APPLICATIONS

Dr. Steinbergh moved to approve the Renewal Application from Bethesda Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program and the Application from Brighton Center for Recovery for Certificates of
Good Standing as a Treatment Provider. Dr. Saferin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

ROLL CALL:
- Dr. Bechtel - aye
- Dr. Saferin - aye
- Dr. Rothermel - aye
- Dr. Steinbergh - aye
- Mr. Kenney - aye
- Dr. Ramprasad - aye
- Dr. Sethi - aye
- Dr. Soin - aye
- Dr. Schachat - aye
- Mr. Giacalone - aye

The motion carried.

Thereupon, at 4:20 p.m., the December 10, 2014 session of the State Medical Board of Ohio was adjourned by Dr. Ramprasad.

We hereby attest that these are the true and accurate approved minutes of the State Medical Board of Ohio meeting on December 10, 2014, as approved on January 14, 2015.

Donald R. Kenney, Sr., President

Kim G. Rothermel, M.D., Secretary

(SEAL)