

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 23, 2026**  
**8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**  
**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD**  
**2005 Evergreen Street**  
**Hearing Room #1150**  
**Sacramento, CA 95815**

**1. Call to Order by President**

Dr. Kidd called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Staff called the roll. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, PA-C, President  
Diego Inzunza, PA-C, Vice President  
Juan Armenta, Esq.  
Eric Bergersen, PA-C  
Philip DaVisio, DMSc, PA-C  
Bhavana Prakash, DMSc, PA-C  
Deborah Snow  
Veling Tsai, M.D.

Staff Present:

Jasmine Dhillon, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist  
Virginia Gerard, Probation Monitor  
Pearl Her, Administrative Analyst  
Jennifer Jimenez, Licensing Analyst  
Rozana Khan, Executive Officer  
Armando Melendez, Special Investigator  
Reza Pejuhesh, Attorney III  
Linda Serrano, Complaint Analyst  
Kristy Voong, Assistant Executive Officer (via video conference)

**3. Consider Approval of November 17, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes**

M/ Philip DaVisio S/ Diego Inzunza to:

Approve the November 17, 2025, meeting minutes.

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
Juan Armenta	X				
Eric Bergersen	X				
Philip DaVisio	X				
Diego Inzunza	X				
Vasco Deon Kidd	X				
Bhavana Prakash	X				
Deborah Snow	X				

44 No public comment.

45  
46 **4. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

47  
48 (Note: The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this  
49 public comment section that is not included on this agenda, except to decide  
50 whether to place the matter on the agenda for a future meeting. [Government Code  
51 sections 11125 and 11125.7(a).])

52  
53 No public comment.

54  
55 **5. President's Report**

56  
57 Dr. Kidd reported that on January 30, 2026, the U.S. Department of Education  
58 issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would narrow the federal definition of a  
59 professional student for determining annual loan limits under the Direct Loan  
60 Program.

61  
62 Historically, the professional student designation applied to programs requiring  
63 graduate level coursework, extensive clinical and practical training, and leading  
64 directly to licensure. The proposed rule replaces this function with a fixed list of 11  
65 disciplines; programs not listed would be treated as a standard graduate program,  
66 such as physician assistant (PA) programs, nursing programs, and other  
67 professional healthcare programs.

68  
69 This represents a significant policy shift with potential consequences for student  
70 funding, program enrollment, and workforce development. If finalized, PA students  
71 would be limited to \$20,500 per year in federal loans beginning July 2026, instead of  
72 the current \$50,000 annual limit.

73  
74 Dr. Kidd stated that with the limited funding, students may acquire loans with higher  
75 interest rates, delay enrollment, or reconsider entering the profession.

76  
77 Dr. Kidd reported that rural, economically disadvantaged, and underrepresented  
78 students would be highly affected at a time of persistent healthcare workforce  
79 shortages.

80  
81 Dr. Kidd reported that a new bill, known as the Professional Degree Access  
82 Restoration Act, was introduced to address this issue, but it has not yet advanced.  
83 The proposed bill is currently in the public comment period, and national PA  
84 organizations are actively mobilizing advocacy efforts.

85  
86 Public Comment:

87 Sonny Cline, President of California Academy of Physician Associates (CAPA)  
88 shared that CAPA is working diligently to advocate for this change. CAPA has  
89 provided resources to California PAs and students on submitting comments and  
90 petition letters.

91  
92 **6. Executive Officer's Report**

93  
94 Ms. Khan referred to members to Agenda Item 6 and reported the following.

96 The Board currently has two vacancies: one enforcement analyst position due to  
97 retirement and an office technician position due to a promotion. In January 2026,  
98 Angela Au accepted a promotional position with the Department of Motor Vehicles.  
99 Ms. Khan thanked Ms. Au for her time and dedication to the Board.

100  
101 Additionally, the Board received notification from the Governor's Office that Board  
102 Member Ed Perez resigned effective January 22, 2026.

103  
104 Ms. Khan reported the Board published the Winter edition of its biannual INSIDER  
105 newsletter.

106  
107 Ms. Khan reported that due to the current State budget deficits, the Board has  
108 paused participation in outreach activities.

109  
110 Dr. Kidd thanked Ed Perez for his service on the Board.

111  
112 Mr. Inzunza thanked Ed Perez for his public service.

113  
114 No public comment.

## 115 116 **7. Board Activity Reports**

### 117 118 A. Licensing

119  
120 Ms. Jimenez referred members to Agenda Item 7A and presented the following  
121 reports: Licensing Population by Type, Summary of Licensing Activity, Pending  
122 Application Workload, and Licensing Performance Measures.

123  
124 Dr. Kidd asked for clarification on whether there are 29,000 PAs in California. Ms.  
125 Jimenez confirmed there are 29,477 PAs in California.

126  
127 Mr. DaVisio commented that the report shows approximately 8,000 to 9,000 licenses  
128 are not active due to delinquent and cancelled statuses.

129  
130 Ms. Voong clarified that although there is a total of 29,477 licenses, only 20,015  
131 individuals are authorized to practice in California.

132  
133 Mr. DaVisio asked whether the number of cancelled licenses will ever decrease, or if  
134 it continues to increase as licenses go into delinquent status and then cancel. Ms.  
135 Jimenez stated that the number of cancelled licenses will continue to increase, as  
136 individuals with this status must reapply as new applicants.

### 137 138 B. Complaints

139  
140 Ms. Serrano referred members to Agenda Item 7B and presented the following  
141 reports: Complaint Statistics and Complaints Received by Type and Source.

142  
143 Mr. Armenta asked whether the Board receives the same number of complaints  
144 every year. Ms. Serrano stated that the complaints have steadily increased each  
145 year.

146

147 Mr. Armenta asked whether complaints are classified based on severity. Ms.  
148 Serrano stated that complaints are classified by type and source and are prioritized  
149 based on the level of egregiousness, such as cases involving patient death.

150  
151 Mr. Armenta asked whether the Board receives malpractice settlements. Ms.  
152 Serrano stated the Board is notified of all malpractice settlements over \$30,000.

153  
154 Mr. Armenta asked whether the Board tracks civil lawsuits. Ms. Serrano stated that it  
155 does not.

156  
157 C. Discipline

158  
159 Ms. Serrano referred members to Agenda Item 7C and presented the following  
160 report: Discipline Statistics.

161  
162 Dr. Tsai noted that the average age of pending cases has decreased significantly  
163 and asked if there is a contributing factor. Ms. Serrano stated that teamwork and  
164 staff focus on timeframes may be contributing factors.

165  
166 D. Probation

167  
168 Ms. Gerard referred members to Agenda Item 7D and presented the following  
169 report: Probation Activity.

170  
171 E. Diversion

172  
173 Ms. Gerard referred members to Agenda Item 7E and presented the following report:  
174 Diversion Program Activity.

175  
176 No public comment.

177  
178 **8. Department of Consumer Affairs – Director’s Update (DCA Staff) – May**  
179 **Include Updates Pertaining to the Department’s Administrative Services,**  
180 **Human Resources, Enforcement, Information Technology,**  
181 **Communications and Outreach, as well as Legislative, Regulatory and**  
182 **Policy Matters**

183  
184 Judie Bucciarelli, Board and Bureau Relations thanked Ed Perez for his service and  
185 dedication to protect California consumers.

186  
187 Ms. Bucciarelli reported that Chief Deputy Director Christine Lally has been named  
188 the Acting Director of DCA. She will lead DCA in this position until a director is  
189 formally appointed by the Governor’s Office.

190  
191 Ms. Bucciarelli reported that last year, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order  
192 allowing a one-year postponement of license renewal fees for those impacted by the  
193 Los Angeles Fires. DCA has begun sending notices to licensees who chose this  
194 postponement option, reminding them to pay their renewal fees.

195  
196 Additionally, last year, Governor Newsom released his proposed 2025-26 State  
197 Budget, which included a proposal to split DCA’s oversight agency – the Business,  
198 Consumer Services, and Housing Agency – into two new state agencies: the

199 California Housing and Homelessness Agency and the Business and Consumer  
200 Services Agency. After public hearings and review by the Little Hoover Commission  
201 and the Legislature, the reorganization plan was enacted on July 5, 2025, and will  
202 become operative on July 1, 2026.

203  
204 Additional updates included board business and travel, Form 700 filing requirements  
205 by April 1, and various upcoming trainings.

206  
207 No public comment.

## 208 209 **9. Budget Committee Update**

210  
211 Andrew Trute, DCA Budget Analyst, referred members to Agenda Item 9 and  
212 presented the expenditure projection report.

213  
214 Mr. Trute reported an estimated \$1.5 million in personal services, and \$2.5 million in  
215 operating expenses and equipment, for a total of approximately \$4 million, resulting  
216 in a surplus of about \$2,000 or under 1%. Mr. Trute emphasized that the Budget  
217 Office will continue to monitor the expenditure.

218  
219 For the revenue projections, the Board has an end-of-year projection of \$3.5 million  
220 against estimated revenue of \$3.4 million. Mr. Trute stated there are no concerns  
221 with revenues.

222  
223 Mr. Trute reported that the fund condition report provides a four-year view of the  
224 Board's fund. For the prior year 2024-25, the Board had an adjusted beginning  
225 balance of \$4 million, collected approximately \$3.3 million in revenue, and incurred  
226 expenditures of \$3.6 million, resulting in a fund balance of about \$3.5 million or 10.2  
227 months in reserve.

228  
229 For the current fiscal year 2025-26, the Board has a beginning balance of \$3.5  
230 million and projects approximately \$3.5 million in revenue and \$4.2 million in total  
231 expenditures. The current fund balance is about \$2.9 million, or 8.1 months in  
232 reserve.

233  
234 Mr. Trute stated that the 2026-27 and 2027-28 budget year projections are based on  
235 the Governor's Budget, except for income from surplus, which is formula driven. He  
236 noted that the fund condition is a snapshot in time and reflects only the data  
237 available at the time of its preparation.

238  
239 Mr. Trute reported that months in reserve are projected to decline in the out years,  
240 as revenues remain relatively constant while expenditures increase annually by  
241 approximately 3%.

242  
243 Dr. Kidd expressed his appreciation for the presentation and commented that the  
244 Board's budget is healthy, with strong months in reserve.

245  
246 Dr. Kidd thanked Ms. Khan and staff for maintaining the Board fiscally responsible.

247  
248 No public comment.

249  
250

251 **10. Report on Medical Board of California Activities**

252  
253 Dr. Tsai provided an update from the Medical Board of California (MBC), which met  
254 on December 4-5, 2025. He reported that the meeting included highlights such as  
255 updates to the BreEZe online complaint form and license renewals.

256  
257 Dr. Tsai reported that MBC received 9,707 complaints last year, of which 2,600 were  
258 submitted inappropriately and redirected to other agencies. Approximately 6,000  
259 complaints were filed online, and of those, 1,100 were referred for investigation.

260  
261 Dr. Tsai reported that Assembly Bill (AB) 3119 was enacted in 2024. The bill  
262 requires MBC, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the Board of Registered  
263 Nursing and the Physician Assistant Board to consider including in their continuing  
264 education requirements, a course on infection-associated chronic conditions,  
265 including, but not limited to, long COVID.

266  
267 No public comment.

268  
269 **11. Presentation by Sondra M. DePalma, Vice President, Reimbursements and**  
270 **Professional Practice, American Academy of Physician Associates —**  
271 **Overview of the Physician Assistant (PA) profession nationally, PA training**  
272 **modernization trends, medical malpractice payment reports, and a status**  
273 **update on California’s application to the Rural Health Transformation**  
274 **Program**

275  
276 Dr. Kidd introduced Dr. DePalma and thanked her for taking the time to present to  
277 the Board. Dr. Kidd shared that the Board is not an advocacy board, but rather a  
278 public protection agency, and that all information presented would be viewed  
279 through a public protection lens.

280  
281 Dr. DePalma stated she was asked to speak about the safety of PA provided care  
282 but also wished to provide a high-level overview of PAs, including their training,  
283 education, certification and licensure. Some key points included:

- 284  
285 ○ There are 190,000 PAs providing care across all specialties, with 500 million  
286 patient interactions annually in the United States.  
287  
288 ○ PA education and certification are highly regulated, ensuring rigorous training  
289 similar to that of physicians.  
290  
291 ○ Recent studies show that PA-provided care yields health outcomes equivalent  
292 to physician care, with no significant differences in quality.  
293  
294 ○ Modernization of PA practice laws can improve access to care without  
295 compromising patient safety or quality.  
296  
297 ○ Many states are moving toward less restrictive practice environments,  
298 enhancing workforce efficiency and healthcare access.  
299

300 Dr. DePalma reported that California’s current practice environment is considered  
301 moderate based on AAPA rankings because the state has three of the four key  
302 foundational elements. She stated that if California removed the ratio requirement

303 between PAs and physicians with whom they collaborate or used the term  
304 “collaboration” to describe the working relationship, the state would move to an  
305 advanced ranking. Dr. DePalma further stated that California could achieve an  
306 optimal ranking by removing the legal tether between a PA and physician.

307  
308 Mr. Armenta commented that the reports appeared to present policy arguments and  
309 asked why the Board, rather than the Legislature, was being addressed. Dr.  
310 DePalma stated that she was asked to provide an update on the PA practice  
311 environment and how it factors into the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program.

312  
313 Mr. Armenta asked who invited Dr. DePalma to present. Dr. Kidd stated that he  
314 invited Dr. DePalma to present.

315  
316 Dr. DePalma reported that all 50 states received funding under the RHT. Half of the  
317 funding was distributed equally among all states, while the remaining half was  
318 distributed based on factors such as ruralness, capacity factors, and workforce  
319 practice environment.

320  
321 Ms. Prakash thanked Dr. DePalma for the comprehensive overview of the PA  
322 practice and information about the RHT Program.

323  
324 Dr. Kidd thanked Dr. DePalma for her presentation and for providing the Board a  
325 panoramic view of developments affecting the PA profession across the country. Dr.  
326 Kidd also stated that the Board is permitted to hear testimony to educate members  
327 on a wide variety of issues related to the profession.

328  
329 Mr. Armenta stated that policy matters should not be the Board’s focus and  
330 reiterated his prior position that the Board’s primary focus must be on public  
331 protection. He commented that the presentation appeared to support policy changes  
332 that should instead be addressed by the Legislature.

333  
334 Public comment:

335 Mr. Cline expressed his appreciation for the Board’s attention and support. He  
336 added that when individuals are held solely responsible for their decision making,  
337 they make better decisions because they are accountable for them.

338  
339 **12. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action to Consider Changes to**  
340 **Previously Proposed Text and Reauthorization of a Regular Rulemaking to**  
341 **Amend 16 CCR Sections 1399.514, 1399.615 and 1399.619 – License**  
342 **Renewal and Continuing Medical Education Required**

343  
344 Ms. Dhillon stated that this agenda item is deferred as staff is working on possible  
345 updates to the online BreEZe application with DCA’s Office of Information Services.

346  
347 No public comment.

348  
349 **13. Regulations – Update on Pending Regulatory Packages**

350  
351 1. 16 CCR 1399.514, 1399.615 – SB 697: License Renewal and Continuing Medical  
352 Education Required

353

354 The Legislature has included amendments to BPC section 3523 in AB 1501 and the  
355 bill has been chaptered, with an effective date of January 1, 2026. Staff is working  
356 with Regulations Counsel on the proposed text for Board approval at the next Board  
357 meeting.

358  
359 2. 16 CCR 1399.506, 1399.507, 1399.511, 1399.530, 1399.535, 1399.536,  
360 1399.538, 1399.539, 1399.546 and 1399.556 – SB 697: Application, Exam Scores,  
361 Addresses, and Records

362  
363 This package is on the Board’s website for public comments, however, there was an  
364 error in posting and mailing, the Board is consulting with the Office of Administrative  
365 Law (OAL) to determine how long the public comment period will be extended.

366  
367 3. 16 CCR 1399.515 – AB 2461: Retired Status Updates and Returned Fingerprint  
368 Requirement

369  
370 The Board reviewed and adopted proposed revised regulatory language to continue  
371 the rulemaking process at the November 17, 2025, meeting. Staff is working on  
372 finalizing the initial documents with Regulations Counsel and will be filing the Notice  
373 with OAL in the coming months.

374  
375 4. 16 CCR 1399.523 – SB 1441: Implement Uniform Standards Related to  
376 Substance Abusing Licensees and Update of Disciplinary Guidelines

377  
378 Staff is working on the proposed language for Board approval this calendar year.

379  
380 5. 16 CCR 1399.501, 1399.503, 1399.514, 1399.515, 1399.520, 1399.536,  
381 1399.546, 1399.547, 1399.550, 1399.612 and 1399.616 - Section 100 Technical  
382 Clean-Up and Statutory Fee Changes

383  
384 This regulatory package was filed with the Secretary of State on January 8, 2026,  
385 and became effective upon filing.

386  
387 No public comment.

388  
389 **14. Report by the Physician Assistant Training, Accreditation and Workforce**  
390 **Development Committee**

391  
392 Dr. Kidd referred members to Agenda Item 14 and presented the Physician  
393 Assistant Training, Accreditation and Workforce Development Committee Report.

394  
395 Dr. Kidd reported that there are currently 321 nationally accredited PA training  
396 programs in the United States, with 20 located in California. He noted that none of  
397 the California programs are on probation, six programs hold provisional  
398 accreditation, and four programs are in development. Geographically, 15 programs  
399 are located in Southern California, four in the Bay Area, and one in the Central  
400 Valley.

401  
402 Dr. Kidd also reported that the annual enrollment capacity across California’s 20 PA  
403 programs is approaching 1,100 students, with an average of 53 students per  
404 program.

405

406 No public comment.

407

408 **15. Report by the Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee**

409

410 Ms. Dhillon stated that February 20, 2026, was the last day to introduce bills in the  
411 Legislature, and several bills were submitted last week. Because meeting materials  
412 must be posted on the Board's website at least 10 days before the meeting, she will  
413 need additional time to analyze those bills and will present them for discussion at the  
414 next Board meeting.

415

416 No public comment.

417

418 **16. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

419

420 No public comment.

421

422 **17. CLOSED SESSION**

423

424 Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), the Board will Convene to  
425 Deliberate on Disciplinary Actions and Decisions to be Reached in Administrative  
426 Procedure Act Proceedings

427

428 **18. Adjournment**

429

430 With no further business, the opening meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

431

432 Minutes do not reflect the order in which agenda items were presented at the Board  
433 meeting.

434

435