

**NEW MEXICO MEDICAL BOARD
Interim Board Meeting
June 24, 2026**

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Video Conferencing: Karen Carson, MD, Chair
Eileen Barrett, MD
Jeannine Daniels, Public Member
Angela Medrano, Public Member
Laura Onorato, PA
Michael Richards, MD
Paul Roth, MD
Mark Unverzagt, MD
Tom Banner, Esq., Contract General Counsel
David Foster, Esq., Contract Attorney
Justine Fox-Young, Esq., Attorney on behalf of Charles Bennett, MD
Charles Bennett, MD
Martin Hickey, New Mexico Senator
Rachael McRoy, Veritext Court Reporter

Others Present: Bradley Scoggins, DO, Secretary Treasurer
Sondra Frank, Esq., Contract General Counsel
Monique Parks, Interim Executive Director
Elishia Lucero, Compliance Supervisor
Natalie Padilla, Compliance Coordinator
Marta Beltran Del Rio, Investigations Supervisor
Christiana Griego, Investigator
Farnad Darnell, Investigator
Laura Teamer, Investigator
Kristiana Sandoval, Paralegal
Philip Shields, MD, NMMB Medical Director
David Ring, Esq., Attorney on behalf of Rick Cardenas, MD
Rick Cardenas, MD
Joy Pitts, Public Attendee
Florian Birkmayer, Public Attendee

Excused: Kristin Reidy, DO

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Dr. Carson, after establishing the presence of a quorum, called the **June 24, 2026**, Interim Board Meeting of the New Mexico Medical Board to order at 4:04 p.m., roll call was completed.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION was made by Dr. Carson to approve the agenda for the **June 24, 2026**, Interim Board Meeting.

SECONDED: Dr. Scoggins. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made by Dr. Carson to table the approval of the meeting minutes from the **May 14-15, 2026**, Regular Board Meeting until the next scheduled Board Meeting. **SECONDED:** Ms. Daniels. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. NEW BUSINESS (Transcripts Attached)

A Rule Hearing took place on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026**, to add language to the following existing rules:

- 16.10.2.10 - Expedited Licensure
- 16.10.4.8 - Continuing Medical Education (CME)

MOTION was made by Dr. Scoggins to adopt the additional language to 16.10.2.10 NMAC, Expedited Licensure. **SECONDED:** Ms. Daniels. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION was made by Dr. Scoggins to adopt the additional language to 16.10.4.8 NMAC, Continuing Medical Education (CME). **SECONDED:** Dr. Barrett. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. ORAL ARGUMENT: For Licensing Requests and Actions, New Applicants/Reinstatements/Compliance

IMO- Charles Bennett, MD - Dr. Carson granted Dr. Bennett, his counsel, Justine Fox-Young and the Boards Prosecutor, Daniel Holmes, Esq. ten minutes of oral argument.

IMO- Rick Cardenas, MD - Dr. Carson granted Dr. Cardenas, his counsel, David Ring, Esq. and the Boards Prosecutor, David Foster, Esq. ten minutes of oral argument.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: For Discussion of Licensing Requests and Actions

MOTION: Dr. Carson moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (H) (1) of the Open Meetings Act, Sections 10-15-1 to 10-15-4, the New Mexico Medical Board may close portions of its meeting to discuss matters pertaining to a particular license, such as the issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license. All final actions concerning any particular license will be made in an open meeting.

SECONDED: Dr. Scoggins. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session. Dr. Carson stated for the record that the matters discussed in executive session were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure.

Charles Bennett, MD, Case No: 2026-009 - Motion for Entry of Default Order on NCA

MOTION was made by Dr. Carson that the Board deny the Motion for Entry of Default Order and Order that a hearing on the Notice of Contemplated Action be set without delay. **SECONDED:** Dr. Roth. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Rick Cardenas, MD Case No: 2025-003 - Decision and Order Following Evidentiary Hearing

MOTION was made by Dr. Carson to accept the Hearing Officer's Report. **SECONDED:** Dr. Scoggins. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr.

Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION was made by Dr. Carson to accept the Hearing Office's Findings of Facts and Conclusion of Law and Recommendation. **SECONDED:** Dr. Scoggins. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION was made by Dr. Carson that the Board issue a Reprimand to Dr. Cardenas, assess a fine for payment of costs and require a successful completion of a CPEP or equivalent medical record keeping course approved by the Board within six (6) months or the Board may take further action. **SECONDED:** Dr. Scoggins. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED. (Please see page 4 for updated vote)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Complaint Committee Reports

MOTION: Dr. Carson moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (H) (1) of the Open Meetings Act, Sections 10-15-1 to 10-15-4, the New Mexico Medical Board may close portions of its meeting to discuss matters pertaining to a particular license, such as the issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license. All final actions concerning any particular license will be made in an open meeting. **SECONDED:** Dr. Scoggins. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, Dr. Scoggins and Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session. Dr. Carson stated for the record that the matters discussed in executive session were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure.

6. COMPLAINT COMMITTEE ACTIONS RELATED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Committee EC

Case# NMMB-20260227 Recommendation was made by Dr. Scoggins to offer the licensee the chance to withdraw the licensure application while under investigation. If applicant does not accept the offer, a Notice of Contemplated Action will be issued based on, but not limited to, conduct unbecoming and an adverse licensure action in another state. **YES:** Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, and Dr. Roth. **RECUSED:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Scoggins. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy, Dr. Unverzagt. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Case# NMMB-20260176 Recommendation was made by Dr. Scoggins to offer the licensee the chance to withdraw the licensure application while under investigation. If applicant does not accept the offer, a Notice of Contemplated Action will be issued based on, but not limited to, conduct unbecoming and adverse licensure action in another state. **YES:** Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, and Dr. Roth. **RECUSED:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Scoggins. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy, Dr. Unverzagt. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Committee A

Recommendation was made by Ms. Medrano to close case **NMMB20240256** with no action. **YES:** Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **RECUSED:** Dr. Carson, Ms. Medrano. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy, Dr. Unverzagt. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Case# NMMB-20260177 Recommendation was made by Ms. Medrano to issue a Notice of Contemplated Action to deny licensure, based on, but not limited to, Ethics Violations and Sexual Misconduct with a patient or surrogates. **YES:** Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **RECUSED:** Dr. Carson, Ms. Medrano. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy, Dr. Unverzagt. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Case# NMMB-20260231 Recommendation was made by Ms. Medrano to close this case with issuance of a license and assessing \$150.00 administrative fee for non-disclosure of previous arrest and licensure action. The fee shall be assessed for each application question that was answered incorrectly: Question number (2) and Question number (4c). **YES:** Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **RECUSED:** Dr. Carson, Ms. Medrano. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Committee C

Recommendation was made by Dr. Unverzagt to close case **NMMB-20240235** with no action. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **RECUSED:** Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Case# NMMB-20240285 Recommendation was made by Dr. Unverzagt to close the case with issuance of an advisory letter reminding licensee about the duty to report updates to contact information and assess a \$150.00 administrative fee. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **RECUSED:** Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Case# NMMB-20260233 Recommendation was made by Dr. Unverzagt to close the case with issuance of an advisory letter, assessing a \$150.00 administrative fee for non-disclosure of arrest and issuance of a license. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **RECUSED:** Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Case# NMMB-20250480 Recommendation was made by Dr. Unverzagt to offer applicant the opportunity withdraw application for licensure while under investigation. If applicant does not accept the offer a Notice of Contemplated Action will be issued to deny licensure based on but not limited to incompetency to practice. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **RECUSED:** Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Case# NMMB-20260220 Recommendation was made by Dr. Unverzagt to offer applicant issuance of a license with a stipulated order requiring mandatory enrollment in HPWP. If applicant does not accept offer, a Notice of Contemplated Action to deny licensure will be issued based on, but not limited to, habitual excessive use of alcohol or substances. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **RECUSED:** Dr. Unverzagt. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Licensing Requests and Actions

MOTION was made by Dr. Carson to revise the final vote for Dr. Cardenas to remove the language pertaining to “costs” in the original vote. The final motion and vote were made to read as follows:

MOTION was made by Dr. Carson that the Board issue a Reprimand for conduct contrary to the Medical Practice Act, imposition a fine of \$3,000.00 for each violation of the Medical Practice Act and require a successful completion of a CPEP or equivalent medical record keeping course approved by the Board within six (6) months or the Board may take further action. **SECONDED:** Dr. Barrett. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy, Dr. Unverzagt. **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. Reports- [Portions may be closed**]

Executive Director

Interim Executive Director, Monique Parks informed the Board that there are currently only two vacant positions within NMMB and shared that the rest of the open positions have been filled and that the

Investigations department is fully staffed. Mrs. Parks also mentioned that there are upcoming meetings scheduled between the Investigations department and the Board members to go over current information pertaining to organization of investigation cases.

Board Chair

Board Chair, Dr. Carson shared with the Board that there will be some upcoming meetings scheduled soon with multiple Senators to go over recent ideas and information. Dr. Carson also informed the Board that an additional question was recently added to the licensing application regarding the Medical Review Commission Panel and stated that there were quite a few licensees who are willing to participate in the panel. Dr. Carson let the Board know that there will be a lot of questions rising regarding malpractice and the Board's reporting on malpractice in the upcoming legislative session and asked the Board to provide any ideas that they might have regarding reporting. Dr. Carson concluded her report by asking the Board to review the possibility of the NMMB utilizing what is called a Public Letter of Concern. She shared with the Board that the utilization of this document would require a statutory change and that the letter would be reportable to NPDB but as a non-disciplinary report. The letter would serve as an in-between an Advisory Letter and a Reprimand. She informed the Board that several other states utilize this type of document and asked the Board to consider its use. Several Board members agreed that it could be a valuable tool for the NMMB, provided it is applied consistently.

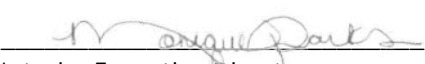
Medical Director

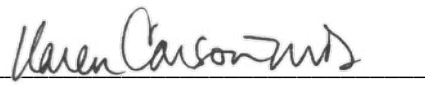
NMMB Medical Director, Philip Sheilds spoke to the Board about malpractice reports from the NPDB and mentioned that he believes that there will need to be a clear policy to state that the reports from the NPDB will not be used solely to initiate an investigation or reprimand for a licensee but that they would be used in a broader sense of looking at the entirety of a licensee's practice history. He noted to the Board that he provided a policy for the Board's review and shared a proposed algorithm with the Board for approval. Dr. Sheilds also mentioned that a large problem with NPDB reports on malpractice is timeliness as there are some instances that cases are being finalized years later in some cases. He further stated that the purpose of this policy is to assure the public as well as licensees that this will not initiate investigation cases to be opened but more to explain how NMMB will be utilizing the reports. Dr. Sheilds then stood for questions and comments from the Board and addressed updates, edits and changes to the policy provided.

MOTION was made by Dr. Carson to approve the NPDB Policy – Review of Malpractice Reports to the National Practitioners Data Bank with the changes discussed. **SECONDED:** Ms. Daniels. **YES:** Dr. Carson, Dr. Barrett, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Medrano, PA Onorato, Dr. Richards, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Scoggins. **EXCUSED:** Dr. Reidy, Dr. Unverzagt. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business before the Board, Dr. Carson adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

SUBMITTED BY:  DATE: 8/6/2026
Monique Parks, Interim Executive Director

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 8/6/2026
Karen Carson, M.D., Chair

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 8/6/2026

