

Medical Licensing Board of Indiana
Indiana Government Center - South Building
402 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Minutes from the Meeting of
August 28, 2025

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/16076409084>
Meeting ID: 160 7640 9084

John Strobel, M.D., President, called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m. and declared a quorum in accordance with IC 25-22.5-2-2, pursuant to public notice posted at the principal office for the Board, online at the board's website and on the state calendar at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time of the meeting.

Board Members Present:

John Strobel, MD
Kirk Masten, DO
Heidi Dunniway, MD
Michael Busk, MD
Victoria McCann, JD
Rebecca Mueller, MD

Board Members Absent:

Bharat Barai, MD

PLA Staff:

Christine Maslan, Board Director
Kiko Dixon, Assistant Board Director

Advisory Counsel:

Adam Harvey, JD

Court Reporter:

Accurate Reporting – Margie Addington

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Dunniway/Mueller 6-0-0.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes from July 24, 2025.
Dunniway/Mueller 5-0-0.
Strobel abstained

Administrative Hearings

Final Hearing

Johann D. Farley, M.D., 01060680A, Cause No.: 2025 03-MED-0010
CONTINUED

Summary Suspension

Aman K. Patel, D.O., 02006207A, Cause No.: 2025 02-MED-0009

DAG: Rebekah Hammond
Respondent: Did not appear
Witness: Brittany Ulrey, OAG investigator
Exhibit(s): State's Exhibit 1 – Maryland Board Order

A motion was made and seconded to EXTEND the summary suspension for an additional ninety (90) days.

Masten/McCann 6-0-0
Motion carries.

Cease and Desist

Claudia Hanau, UNLICENSED Cause No.: 2025 06-MED-0018
CONTINUED

Proposed Default

Linda Manus, UNLICENSED Cause No.: 2025 06-MED-0014

DAG: Alex James
Respondent: Did not appear
Witness: None
Exhibit(s): None

Entered into voluntary Cease and Desist agreement

A motion was made and seconded to ACCEPT Voluntary Cease and Desist Agreement.

Dunniway/Busk 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Personal Appearances

Initial Application

Zadoo Bendega, M.D.

Appeared in person

Completed medical school in 2008. Completed three years of residency training in internal medicine and infection disease. Currently licensed in AZ and NY.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license.

Dunniway/Busk 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Jessica Bun, PGT

Now PGY2 at Union Hospital.

Appeared with George Rich program director. Transferred from program in Ohio. With union Hospital program for the last month, exemplary performance so far.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license.

Mueller/Busk 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Grant Geiger, M.D.

Appeared in person with counsel, Courtney Endwright.

Previously appeared before board 5/22/25, application was Tabled at that time as he was in the process of appealing his dismissal from IU program.

Aug 2024 was on probation with PGT program. Placed on administrative leave in March 2025.
Dismissed from program.

Has job offer with Franciscan.
Dismissal appeals with IU have been exhausted.

Board believes he needs more training, needs to complete emergency medicine residency.

Board is tabling the application until he can come back and show he has exhausted all avenues of trying to complete his emergency medicine residency program

A motion was made and seconded to TABLE application.

Strobel/Masten 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Joseph Guarisco, M.D.

Appeared in person.

Received OWI in Louisiana, stated he had a substance abuse evaluation completed, we do not have this evaluation.

Regarding Failure to Disclose (FTD) he states licensing agent is completing applications and renewals for him, "she should have answered that question differently", did not take responsibility for the FTD.

Indiana plans, medical director, provides medical service all around the country. Apple and Amazon want to put data centers in Indiana, we would provide clinics for those centers. He oversees the PAs and NPs at the sites

Board would like to see LA substance abuse evaluation

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license. Pending receipt of a letter from Louisiana showing no action taken on license, the alcohol use disorder evaluation, AND two-hundred fifty dollar (\$250) citation for FTD.

Strobel/Masten 6-0-0
Motion carries.

Yang Song, M.D.

Failed to appear

Oscar Stokes, M.D.

Reason: U.S. OAG (Georgia) v.s. Stokes, CPEP, GA disciplinary action

Opened a pain management clinic, within a few months it was closed and he was indicted.

Completed CPEP course, had assessment in CO, completed Spex exam.

Has not practiced since 2019. Missouri license was issued March 2025.

Has Indiana job opportunity with St Catherine's in northern Indiana.

Board is not comfortable issuing license. Would like to see job history in Missouri or Georgia.

A motion was made and seconded to TABLE this application.

Strobel/Masten 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Alejandro Torres, PGT

Appeared in person with program director.

Started residency in initial program in Wisconsin, Janet Litz, program director of family residency program in WI stated he has been doing exceptional in program for the last year. Needs to do one month training at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital needs a PGT license here to do this rotation.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license.

Mueller/Masten 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Reinstatement Application

Sherri Geiger, R.D., 37001526A

Appeared in person

Became RD in 2003, worked at Johonson Memorial Hospital, then I took a break to have a child. Went back to work after my daughter's birth the job I have did not require a state license for the position, just needed to have my CDR. Now the position is requiring me to be licensed by the state.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE reinstatement of this license.

Strobel/Masten 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Lisa Daniel, M.D., 01059684A

Appeared in person with counsel Andrew Dettmer.

In practice since 2004. This is the only medical malpractice claim in all her years of practice

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE reinstatement of this license.

Masten/McCann 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Rocio Fuentes-Canales, M.D., 01080354A

Appeared in person with counsel, Laura Iosue

SD Medical malpractice case, there is no medical review panel.

Exhibits were submitted to the board Wednesday night after 7pm, were made available to the board Thursday morning, some exhibits were sent as Google Drive links and could not be accessed on our state computers, board was provided paper copies of these exhibits during the appearance.

Indiana plans - has been hired by Deaconess Hospital.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE reinstatement of this license.

Mueller/Strobel 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Richard Lango, M.D., 01074836A

Appeared in person

Neurologist in Washington state in a high-volume stroke center.

Has active license in Washington. Has previously worked at Parkview Hospital, attempting to go back to work there as a neuro hospitalist.

WA-position was from Oct 2024-March 2025, NPDB report Title IV Clinical Privilege Action, voluntary surrender of clinical privilege while under or to avoid investigation.

WA case is still open.

Applicant requested his reinstatement application be WITHDRAWN

Renewal Application – Positive Response

Olusegun Apata, M.D., 01064140A

Appeared in person with counsel Courtney Mills

Communication issues and physician boundary issues with nursing staff from 2020-2023.
Has completed CME classes regarding these issues.

NPDB Title IV Clinical Privileges Action at Methodist hospital, Gary, IN, Voluntarily surrender of clinical privilege while under investigation. His last day of work at this hospital was January 2025.

Currently working in private practice and has privileges at Pinnacle Health.

A motion was made and seconded to TABLE for Medical Executive Committee (MEC) documentation before October 31, 2025

Masten/Strobel 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Mohammed Asgar, M.D., 01068370A

CONTINUED

Brett Barnes, D.O., 02005906A

Appeared in person with counsel Mike Gaerte.

Currently employed at IU, in 2023 he was working at Eskenazi, there were concerns about his wellbeing. Spent time at Positive Sobriety Institute. Has a contract with ISMA PAP, is in compliance,

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this renewal

Masten/Mueller 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Robert Chamberlain, M.D., 01089721A

Appeared in person

Medical director for an insurance company, does claims reviews. Not clinically active, only does file reviews/administrative work.

Cyberstalking charges and has also violated restraining order against wife x 2.
Entered into diversion program in January 2024, charges were then dismissed and are waiting for the charges to be expunged.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this renewal

McCann/Mueller 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Dashrath Gautam, M.D., 01086498A

Appeared in person with counsel Mike Gaerte.

Went to PSI in October 2024 referred by ISMA PAP
Two+ years sober. Has contract with ISMA PAP.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this renewal

Masten/McCann 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Paul Passafiume, M.D., 01074922A

Appeared in person

Argument with then-wife during their divorce. Happened in KY, took a plea to save costs, etc.
No further contact with wife.

Board requests probable cause affidavit.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this renewal PENDING receipt of his
Probable Cause Affidavit.

Strobel/McCann 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Steven Sandstrom, M.D., 01065870A

Appeared in person

NPDB Title IV Voluntary surrender of clinical privileges while under or to avoid investigation.
Surrendered EEG privileges. All happened in WI.

Accused of "over reading" on EEG interpretations. This happened in WI. Completed residency at IU.
Keeps IN license for employment opportunities,

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this renewal AND refer to the OAG to
monitor WI renewal outcome

Strobel/Masten 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

John Swaim, M.D., 01020197A

Appeared in person with counsel Mike Gaerte

Wrote controlled substance prescription for his daughter who has a verifiable condition. DEA
investigated and he surrendered his DEA license. Indiana CSR was suspended as matter of
administrated course.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this renewal

Masten/Dunniway 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Samir Wahib, D.O., 02005731A

Appeared in person with counsel, Matt Schappa and Brian Jent.
Michelle Franklin, CEO of Sullivan County Community Hospital, employer representative also appeared.

Dr. Wahib is the only OBGYN in Sullivan County. Has received a waiver from the OIG to work with Medicare patients only at Sullivan County Community Hospital.

Plead guilty to federal anti-kickback laws.
Currently OH, MI, PA, and NY physician licenses are suspended.

Renewal on probation for no less than one (1) year, can only practice at Sullivan County Community Hospital, after one year the board will review progress towards reinstating OH, MI, and PA licenses.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE renewal on PROBATION with terms and conditions due to extraordinary circumstances.

McCann/Mueller 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Goodrich, Suzanne, M.D., 01073162A

Appeared in person

Voluntary withdraw of membership and clinical privileges from IU Health effective 1.8.24 due to not achieving board certification in infections disease. Spends up to nine (9) months per year in Africa working, has test anxiety. Is now scheduled to sit for her boards. Will reup

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this renewal
Masten/Dunniway 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Renewal Application – Failure to Disclose (Waiver):

Parth Patel, M.D., 01092582A

Appeared in person

Was let go from Lutheran Hospital in January 2024, is now working at Parkview Hospital.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and new employer and assess a \$250 citation for failure to abide by waiver requirements.

Strobel/Masten 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Renewal Application – Failure to Disclose

Richard Biggerstaff, M.D., 01028929A

Failed to disclose \$150k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Strobel/Masten 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Dunniway abstained

John Brown, M.D., 01022973A

Failed to disclose \$28k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Dunniway/Mastin 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Andrea DeLeo, D.O., 02002174A

Failed to disclose \$150k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Masten/Strobel 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Swapna Eisenger, M.D., 01078079A

Failed to disclose \$150k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Strobel/McCann 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Jonathan Frances, D.O., 02002470A

Failed to disclose \$47k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Masten/Strobel 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Carol Garrean, M.D., 01070447A

Failed to disclose \$60k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Strobel/Busk 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Jean Godfrey, M.D., 01047500A

Failed to disclose \$117k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal with no citation.

Strobel/Dunniway 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Harold Hibbs, M.D., 01074935A

Failed to appear, asked that the board make a decision without his appearance.

Ohio medical license suspended, relinquished Wyoming medical license

A motion was made and seconded to DENY renewal and refer to the Office of the Attorney General.

Strobel/Masten 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Eric Horn, M.D., 01063290A

Failed to disclose \$300k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Dunniway/Mueller 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Robert McCready, M.D., 01035525A

Appeared with counsel

Failed to disclose \$256k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Masten/Dunniway 6-0-0.
Motion carries.

Jyotsana Patel, M.D., 01045817A

Failed to disclose \$800k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Masten/Mueller 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Sara Stephenson, M.D., 02003453A

Appeared with counsel, Brian Park

Failed to disclose \$300k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Strobel/Masten 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

Lauren Yeazell, M.D., 01079164A

Failed to disclose \$125k medical malpractice on 2025 renewal.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE license renewal and impose a two-hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) citation.

Dunniway/Masten 6-0-0.

Motion carries.

DISCUSSION

Joseph DeJoan, 01046269A

Located mostly at East Chicago location.

Board approves as practice monitor Larry Ramunno, MD the Chief Medical Officer of HealthLinc and practice mentor Carl Toren, MD.

Strobel/Dunniway 6-0-0

Motion carries.

Adjournment 2:39 p.m.