



**California State Board of Pharmacy
Department of Consumer Affairs
Public Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: January 26-27, 2026

Location: OBSERVATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT IN PERSON:
California Department of Consumer Affairs
1625 N. Market Blvd., Hearing Room, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95834

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT FROM A
REMOTE LOCATION: Webex

Board Members

Present: Seung Oh, PharmD, Licensee Member, President
Renee Barker, PharmD, Licensee Member (via Webex)
Jeanette Dong, Public Member
Jeff Hughes, Public Member
Kartikya "KK" Jha, RPh, Licensee Member (via Webex)
Claudia Mercado, Public Member
Jason "Jay" Newell, MSW, Public Member
Ricardo Sanchez, Public Member (via Webex on 1/26)
Satinder Sandhu, PharmD, Licensee Member
Maria Serpa, PharmD, Licensee Member

Board Members

Not Present: Jessica Crowley, PharmD, Licensee Member, Vice President
Trevor Chandler, Public Member, Treasurer
Nicole Thibeau, PharmD, Licensee Member

Staff Present:

Anne Sodergren, Executive Officer
Julie Ansel, Deputy Executive Officer
Corinne Gartner, DCA Staff Counsel
Shelley Ganaway, DCA Staff Counsel
Jennifer Robbins, DCA Regulations Counsel (via Webex)
Julie McFall, Executive Specialist Manager

January 26, 2026

I. Call to Order, Establishment of Quorum, and General Announcements (Including Possible Notifications, Actions, and Disclosures Pursuant to Government Code section 11123.2(j))

President Oh called the Board meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

President Oh reminded all individuals present that the Board is a consumer protection agency charged with administering and enforcing Pharmacy Law. Where protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.

Roll call was taken. The following Board members were physically present in Sacramento: Jeanette Dong, Public Member; Jeff Hughes, Public Member; Claudia Mercado, Public Member; Jay Newell, MSW, Public Member; Satinder Sandhu, PharmD, Licensee Member; Maria Serpa, PharmD, Licensee Member; and Seung Oh, PharmD, Licensee Member. Renee Barker, PharmD, Licensee Member; and Kartikeya "KK" Jha, RPh, Licensee Member, participated via Webex. Dr. Barker and Mr. Jha each disclosed that no persons over 18 years old were present in the room with them as they participated in the meeting remotely via Webex. A quorum was established.

II. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda/Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Members of the public participating from Sacramento were provided the opportunity to comment. The Board heard a comment from a member of the public regarding an Ask Inspector telephone inquiry.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment. The Board heard comments expressing concerns about COVID-19 vaccines. Another commenter requested information on the timeframe the 2026 Pharmacy law book would be available.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members reminded the public that for legal reasons public comments should not provide the Board with substantive information regarding matters that are currently under or subject to investigation or involve a pending administrative or criminal action as that is considered ex parte communication.

III. Recognition and Celebration of Pharmacists Licensed in California for 40 Years

President Oh advised the Board's recognition of pharmacists licensed in California for over 40 years was posted on the Board's website and pharmacists were provided with a certificate when they reach this significant milestone. President Oh invited pharmacists licensed for 40 years or more to identify themselves and be recognized

by the Board. President Oh then thanked all pharmacists who worked in pharmacy serving the consumers of California.

IV. Discussion of and Possible Action to Approve Meeting Minutes

a. November 5-6, 2025 Board Meeting

President Oh referenced the draft minutes from the November 5-6, 2025 Board meeting. Members were provided an opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Motion: Approve the November 5-6, 2025 Board meeting minutes as presented in the meeting materials.

M/S: Dong/Sandhu

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Support: 9 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 4

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Not Present
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

Member Sanchez joined the meeting via Webex at 1:26 p.m.

b. December 3, 2025 Disciplinary Petition Committee Meeting

President Oh referenced the draft minutes from the December 3, 2025 Disciplinary Petition Committee meeting. Members were provided an opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Motion: Approve the December 3, 2025 Disciplinary Petition Committee meeting minutes as presented in the meeting materials.

M/S: Sandhu/Hughes

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Support: 9 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 1 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Abstain
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

V. Report by the California Department of Consumer Affairs

The Board heard a report from Lucia Saldivar on behalf of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

VI. Presentation by the California Department of Consumer Affairs: Introduction to Strategic Planning

President Oh noted that in September 2021, the Board finalized its five-year strategic

plan. As the Board prepares to undertake the next strategic planning cycle, Dr. Oh introduced Sarah Irani from the Department of Consumer Affairs who provided information on the purpose and process of strategic planning.

Dr. Oh advised that based on the information provided and to ensure sufficient time to discuss strategic planning, the June Board meeting will begin at 9:00 on June 24 and June 25.

Board members were provided an opportunity to comment. Members discussed the timing of when the planning would begin and the mechanisms by which information would be gathered.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento were provided an opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided an opportunity to comment. A commenter requested information on whether the planning session would be open to the public and the location. President Oh noted it would be open to the public at the June Board meeting, which would be conducted both in person and on Webex.

The Board took a break from 1:53 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken. The following Board members were physically present in Sacramento: Jeanette Dong, Public Member; Jeff Hughes, Public Member; Claudia Mercado, Public Member; Jay Newell, MSW, Public Member; Satinder Sandhu, PharmD, Licensee Member; Maria Serpa, PharmD, Licensee Member; and Seung Oh, PharmD, Licensee Member. Renee Barker, PharmD, Licensee Member; Kartikeya “KK” Jha, RPh, Licensee Member; and Ricardo Sanchez, Public Member, participated via Webex.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action Related to Proposed Addition to California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Section 1707.4 Related to Central Fill Pharmacies, Including Review of Comments Received During the 45-Day Comment Period

President Oh recalled that in response to public comments requesting clarity on the Board's central fill pharmacy regulations, the Licensing Committee undertook a review of the regulations. This review included presentations from three entities and the Committee received significant public comment. Following that work, the Board voted to initiate a rulemaking to update its regulations. Dr. Oh noted that the 45-day comment period began October 17, 2025, and concluded December 1, 2025.

Dr. Oh noted the meeting materials included the proposed text released for the 45-day comment period, Board staff summarized comments with recommended comment responses, Board staff recommended modified text, and copies of the

actual comments received during the comment period. Dr. Oh further noted that the comments received appeared to indicate that stakeholders may be confusing the Board's central fill pharmacy model with a mail order pharmacy model and that Board staff recommended language to clarify this separate pharmacy model.

Dr. Oh noted that he had reviewed the staff recommended responses to comments as well as the proposed regulation language and believed the recommendations as presented were appropriate.

Members were provided an opportunity to comment. Members appreciated the efforts of the Licensing Committee, staff work, and stakeholder engagement. Members discussed changes to the proposed text, including also adding "central fill" and "originating" ahead of "pharmacy" in subsection (c)(5), and staff-proposed comment responses 10 and 11.

Motion: Accept the Board staff recommended comment responses and modified regulation text consistent with the Board's discussion for a 45-day comment period. Additionally, if no adverse comments are received during the 45-day comment period, authorize the executive officer to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking process and adopt the proposed language text at section 1707.4. Further, delegate to the executive officer the authority to make technical or nonsubstantive changes as may be required by the Control agencies to complete the rulemaking file.

M/S: Serpa/Sanchez

Members of the public participating in Sacramento were provided the opportunity to comment. The Board heard a comment from a representative of Walgreens who noted appreciation of the changes and requested the Board discuss further the ability for central fill pharmacies to be located out of state.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment. A commenter provided a personal historical recollection about central fill pharmacies and noted the importance of another regulation, at CCR section 1713.

Members were provided a final opportunity to comment. Members discussed electronic notifications and were advised that "electronic" can include text messages.

Support: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

VIII. Communication and Public Education Committee Report

Vice Chairperson Newell provided the report on the Communication and Public Education Committee’s meeting held on January 8, 2026. Mr. Newell thanked fellow Committee members Renee Barker, Claudia Mercado, Ricardo Sanchez, and Chairperson Thibeau.

a. Summary of Discussion of Education Materials on Buprenorphine

Mr. Newell recalled the Board heard a presentation at the February 2025 Board meeting about the challenges some patients experience when prescribed buprenorphine for treatment of opioid use disorder.

Mr. Newell explained the Board referred development of educational materials to the Committee. As noted during prior discussions on this topic, while buprenorphine is an opioid medication, because of its unique properties and intended use, pharmacists should consider such prescriptions differently when exercising their corresponding responsibility. As learned during the presentation and discussion during the meeting, doctors and health care advocates described instances where patients were denied prescriptions.

Mr. Newell noted that during the June 2025 Committee meeting, members reviewed the draft educational materials. The materials were sent back to staff to refine, and a revised version was presented at the January 8, 2026 meeting. Committee members noted support of the updated materials.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members noted the version in

Attachment 1 of the meeting materials was not the most updated version containing the expert's feedback. Staff confirmed that the most updated version will be the one that is moved forward.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

b. Summary of Discussion of Public Education Materials Related to the Federal Three-Day Rule

Mr. Newell noted Business and Professions Code section 750 requires each board that licenses a prescriber to develop informational and educational material regarding the Federal Three-Day Rule. The purpose of the law is to increase prescriber awareness of existing medication-assisted treatment pathways to serve patients with a substance use disorder.

Mr. Newell further noted the Department of Consumer Affairs provided materials for distribution by all healing arts boards by December 31, 2025. Staff posted the material on the website and sent out a subscriber alert to licensees, meeting the statutory deadline. Mr. Newell noted Committee members reviewed the notice and agreed the information provided was appropriate and that the requirement to disseminate the notice on an annual basis provides a helpful reminder to licensees about the federal rule.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

c. Summary of Discussion of Master Calendar of Public Education Campaigns

Mr. Newell noted the Committee has several strategic objectives related to its goal area of the Board's strategic plan and that to ensure such objectives are met, staff developed a master calendar to include dates and tasks for the 2026 year. During the January Committee meeting, members reviewed the calendar and suggested it be updated to include presentations that Board staff provide to schools. Subsequent to the meeting, the calendar was updated to reflect the months that staff typically provide outreach to California schools including an offer for presentations. Additionally, staff created a consolidated link of recently signed legislation as another resource for licensees, which is posted on the Board's website.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members noted some further corrections that may need to be made to the master calendar.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided

the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

d. Summary of Discussion of Notice on How to File a Complaint

Mr. Newell recalled that Assembly Bill 1503 established a requirement for a chain community pharmacy to post, in a prominent place for pharmacy personnel, a notice that provides information on how to file a complaint with the Board. Dr. Newell noted this is a notice for pharmacy personnel, not consumers.

Mr. Newell explained that the draft notice provides information about how to file a complaint and also provides a reminder regarding the Board's dedicated email address to receive notifications regarding conditions that may present harm, as defined in the law. The notice also includes a QR code that takes the user to the Board's website where they can find the complaint form and an FAQ on the complaint process. A second QR code takes the user to the webpage with relevant pharmacy laws.

Dr. Newell noted the notice is a sample that pharmacies can use, however, the pharmacy can choose to develop their own notice instead. The legal requirement to post a notice took effect January 1, 2026.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members discussed the similarity to other required posters and noted this was a sample notice. Members discussed also adding the Board of Pharmacy logo, a disclaimer that the document was a sample, and a link to the new law that includes the requirement to post a notice.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

e. Summary of Discussion of Update on Communication and Public Education Activities by Staff

1. The Script

The Board released an issue of *The Script* newsletter in November 2025. Additionally, a Special Edition newsletter on AB 1503 was released on January 12, 2026, with a corrected version issued January 15, 2026, to correct an editorial oversight. The newsletter can be found on the Board's website.

2. Staff Outreach

Staff provided outreach through several presentations and trainings as indicated in the meeting materials.

3. News Media Inquiries

The meeting materials included a list of news media inquiries.

4. Social Media

Staff met with the DCA communications team and discussed options on how to increase the Board's presence to stakeholders. During the meeting, members received information about possible recommendations to increase the Board's social media presence and considered potential impacts associated with expanding the use of social media. The Committee also discussed reaching out to DCA for education and to learn more about missed opportunities when not using social media, AI, the security risks such as bots and scams, the importance of Public Records Act requests and record retention in the comment sections of a post, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and identity fraud risk.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members noted that staff had planned to reach out to the California Department of Technology to arrange a presentation; however, this has not yet occurred.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

IX. Closed Session Matters

Open session concluded at approximately 2:47 p.m. The Board entered closed session at approximately 3:00 p.m. Closed session ended at 4:09 p.m.

X. Reconvene in Open Session to Recess for the Day

The Board reconvened into open session to recess for the day at 4:10 p.m.

January 27, 2026

President Oh called the Board meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Dr. Oh reminded individuals participating in the meeting via Webex that consistent with the Board's policy and with implementation of the Board's new learning management system, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians attending the meeting via Webex may be awarded up to six hours of CE. Dr. Oh referred individuals to the information on the agenda for additional information. Individuals seeking CE were required to register through the Board's learning management system.

Dr. Oh reminded all individuals present that the Board is a consumer protection agency charged with administering and enforcing Pharmacy Law. Where protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.

Roll call was taken. The following Board members were physically present in

Sacramento: Jeanette Dong, Public Member; Jeff Hughes, Public Member; Claudia Mercado, Public Member; Jay Newell, MSW, Public Member; Ricardo Sanchez, Public Member; Satinder Sandhu, PharmD, Licensee Member; Maria Serpa, PharmD, Licensee Member; and Seung Oh, PharmD, Licensee Member. Renee Barker, PharmD, Licensee Member; and Kartikeya "KK" Jha, RPh, Licensee Member; participated via Webex. Mr. Jha and Dr. Barker each disclosed that no persons over 18 years old were present in the room with them as they participated in the meeting remotely via Webex. A quorum was established.

Dr. Oh reminded members participating via Webex to keep their cameras on throughout the open portion of the meeting. Dr. Oh requested members announce the reason for their nonappearance if they needed to turn their camera off temporarily due to internet connectivity issues.

XI. Enforcement and Compounding Committee Report

Chairperson Serpa provided the report on the Enforcement and Compounding Committee's meeting on January 7, 2026. Dr. Serpa thanked fellow Committee members Vice Chairperson Renee Barker, Jeff Hughes, Seung Oh, Ricardo Sanchez, and Nicole Thibeau.

- a. Summary of Discussion Regarding and Possible Action to Amend Business and Professions Code (BPC) Sections 4034, 4129, 4129.1, 4129.2 and 4303.1, Related to Outsourcing Facilities

Dr. Serpa recalled that members noted during the November Board meeting that there may be opportunity to consider technical changes to the statutory provisions governing outsourcing. During the January Committee meeting, staff provided draft statutory amendments to specified sections of outsourcing law. Staff recommended amendments to better align the referenced BPC sections with the federal definition of "outsourcing facility" and to harmonize the provisions with other related BPC language.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Motion: Authorize staff to work with the Legislature to secure statutory changes consistent with the proposal presented to the Board.

M/S: Oh/Barker

Members of the public participating in Sacramento were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment. A commenter suggested that the Board should consider a further amendment to require outsourcing facilities to give notice to patients of a potential closure that could result in interruption in patient care.

Members were provided an opportunity to comment. Members agreed with the commenter and will add an agenda item for the Committee to discuss at a later time.

Support: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

b. Summary of Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Listening Session on CCR, Title 16, Section 1707.2 Related to Duty to Consult

Dr. Serpa reported the Committee was interested in gathering further information to assist in its evaluation of the Board's current consultation requirements and to better understand barriers that may limit pharmacist-provided consultation. The Committee believed additional feedback from licensees and the general public is essential before considering any potential regulatory changes. Dr. Serpa emphasized that the Committee and the Board are in the early stages of discussing patient consultation and the duty to consult.

During the January Committee meeting, the Committee discussed holding a listening session and considered potential questions to include. Dr. Serpa noted the complete set of listening session questions was available in the meeting materials and further noted she believed it appropriate to hold one listening session for licensees and a

separate listening session for patients and consumers, with questions tailored to each group.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members discussed holding multiple sessions as well as conducting sessions using various models (e.g., Webex) to expand the reach. Members also suggested including associations that represent diverse populations.

Motion: Delegate to the Chair of the Enforcement and Compounding Committee to work with staff to conduct listening session(s) on the duty to consult. Authorize the Chair to modify listening session questions according to the intended audience.

M/S: Sandhu/Sanchez

Members of the public participating in Sacramento were provided the opportunity to comment. A member of CPhA noted support for the motion and offered assistance with stakeholders and agreed with different modalities of sessions.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment. A commenter suggested including representatives from Medi-Cal or Medicaid as well as pharmacy schools in California.

Support: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

- c. Summary of Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Frequently Asked Questions Related to the Board's Regulations on Compounded Drug Preparations

Dr. Serpa advised background information was provided in the meeting materials. Staff proposed new FAQs related to the Board's recently approved compounding regulations that took effect October 1, 2025. Dr. Serpa noted Attachment 2 included a copy of the proposed FAQs.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members noted appreciation for the Committee's work and noted the further edits made following the Committee meeting were excellent and the content would be helpful for the public.

Committee Motion: Recommend approval of the proposed FAQs related to the Board's compounding regulations that took effect on October 1, 2025, consistent with the Committee's discussion and refer the proposed FAQs to the Board for approval.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Support: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

- d. Summary of Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Updates to the Community Pharmacy Self-Assessment/ Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy Self-Assessment

Dr. Serpa advised background information was provided in the meeting materials

and Attachment 3 included a copy of the proposed Community Pharmacy Self-Assessment/Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy self-assessment. She noted the Board updated the contents of the form to reflect new laws and regulations as well as revised the format of the form for ease of use by the regulated public.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members agreed the updates were excellent and the form more user friendly. Members also discussed changes that might need to be made to the website, since outdated forms are still posted there. Staff will work with counsel to make necessary updates.

Committee Motion: Recommend approval of the newly developed and updated Community Pharmacy Self-Assessment/Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy Self-Assessment form consistent with the Committee’s discussion and refer the draft form to the Board for approval.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment. A commenter strongly supported the use of the new format and suggested it would be helpful for the Board to produce a “today’s law as amended” to highlight changes.

Members were provided a final opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Support: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

e. Summary of Discussion of Enforcement Statistics

Dr. Serpa noted the meeting materials included a summary of enforcement statistics for the first three months of fiscal year 2025/26. The Board had initiated 1,857 complaints and closed 1,505 investigations. As of December 31, 2025, the Board had 1,883 field investigations pending. Dr. Serpa further noted the materials provide a breakdown of the average timeframe for the various stages of the field investigation process.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members discussed trends and noted the annual report provided more detail.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento were provided the opportunity to comment. A representative of CPhA noted that the RiteAid closures have had an impact on pharmacies as have recent changes in Medicare rules, and suggested the Board give grace conducting investigations due to those changes.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

XII. Licensing Committee Report

Chair Seung Oh provided a report on the Licensing Committee's meeting held on January 8, 2026. Dr. Oh thanked fellow Committee members Satinder Sandhu, Renee Barker, Jessi Crowley, KK Jha, and Claudia Mercado.

a. Summary of Presentations and Discussion of Proposal to Establish Definitions for Pharmacies Based on Business Model

Dr. Oh noted that during the January meeting, the Committee continued its consideration of a proposal to establish definitions for various pharmacy business models and received presentations on three pharmacy models: outpatient infusion centers, home health services, and skilled nursing facilities. Dr. Oh indicated the meeting materials contain background information, including the proposed definitions being considered by the Committee, and encouraged members to view the presentations on the Board's website.

Dr. Oh further noted the Committee was not offering recommendations at this time, as the Committee believes additional consideration and development are warranted.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members acknowledged that this is a complex topic, suggested that the definitions needed more refinement, and discussed that the Board's goal is to remove barriers, not add further complication.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento were provided the opportunity to comment. A representative of CPhA noted agreement with on member's observation that the definitions define services being provided rather than type of provider or type of pharmacy. A representative of Walgreens noted appreciation of the discussion, cautioned the Board against creating too many categories, and suggested the Board create general frameworks.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment. A commenter agreed that trying to establish definitions is complicated and suggested using national definitions to lessen confusion between state and federal law.

Members were provided a final opportunity to comment. Members discussed the reasoning behind focusing the current discussion on community pharmacies rather than hospital pharmacies, and that the intent is not to "pigeonhole" licensees but rather create a framework that permits exemptions from specified rules and regulations for certain pharmacies in cases where, in practice, the rule or regulation does not align with the pharmacy's business model.

b. Summary of Discussion of Pharmacy Practice Experience Requirements Pursuant to BPC Section 4209, Including Possible Action to Approve (1) a Draft Policy Statement and (2) Draft Statutory Amendments to BPC Section 4114, Regarding Pharmacist to Intern Pharmacist Ratio

Dr. Oh indicated the meeting materials included information on the updated ACPE standards that all accredited pharmacy school programs must satisfy, which includes completion of Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience. Dr. Oh noted the Board received comments suggesting that the Board should reestablish a requirement for an intern to complete internship hours outside of the practice experience gained as part of their pharmacy education.

Dr. Oh recalled during the November 2025 Board meeting, members noted the value in interns gaining experience outside of the experiential training received as part of their pharmacy education and discussed some of the challenges students may experience in trying to secure outside employment due to limited availability of intern positions. Members also considered if there was a way to incentivize employers to create additional intern positions.

Dr. Oh noted during the January Committee meeting, members reviewed a draft policy statement intended to be used to convey the Board's support for interns gaining experience outside of the experiential training earned through pharmacy education and the Committee agreed with the draft policy statement. Dr. Oh further noted that in addition, Committee members considered if the current pharmacist to intern pharmacist ratio established in BPC section 4114 could also create a barrier to establishing intern pharmacist positions, and concluded that changes to section 4114 were also appropriate.

Dr. Oh advised that Attachment 1 of the meeting materials included both the draft policy statement and statutory proposal, noting the amendment being proposed to section 4114 would remove the pharmacist to intern pharmacist ratio, so that it is inferred, but not expressly stated, that the PIC is responsible for determining the ratio.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members noted support for removing the ratio of interns and discussed that this was just one of several barriers for interns.

Motion: Approve the draft policy statement as presented.
Sponsor legislation to amend Business and Professions Code section 4114 consistent with the Board's discussion.

M/S: Sanchez/Sandhu

Members of the public participating in Sacramento were provided the opportunity to comment. The Board heard comments in support of the amendment. One commenter requested the Board continue to find ways to incentivize high quality preceptors, such as by offering continuing education credits or other possible incentives.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment. The Board heard a comment in support of the amendment.

Having heard public comment, members continued to discuss the current ratio requirement.

Support: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

The Board took a break from 10:19 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

Roll call was taken. The following Board members were physically present in Sacramento: Jeanette Dong, Public Member; Jeff Hughes, Public Member; Claudia Mercado, Public Member; Jay Newell, MSW, Public Member; Ricardo Sanchez, Public Member; Satinder Sandhu, PharmD, Licensee Member; Maria Serpa, PharmD, Licensee Member; and Seung Oh, PharmD, Licensee Member. Kartikeya “KK” Jha, RPh, Licensee Member and Renee Barker, PharmD, Licensee Member participated via Webex.

c. Summary of Discussion on Changes in Pharmacy Law Included in Assembly Bill 1503 (Berman, Chapter 196, Statutes of 2025) Including Updates on Implementation Activities

Dr. Oh reminded members that Governor Newsom signed the Board’s sunset measure, Assembly Bill 1503, on October 1, 2025, and that with this action, significant changes to Pharmacy Law became effective January 1, 2026.

Dr. Oh noted the meeting materials reflected implementation activities undertaken since the November Board meeting, reminding members that since the Licensing Committee’s January meeting, the Board released a special edition newsletter that specifically addressed the changes made in AB 1503. In addition, the Board posted the statutory changes for 2026 on its website and the Board’s webinar describing legal changes for 2026 would be available by the end of January.

New BPC Section 4001.5, Related to the Pharmacy Technician Advisory Committee (PTAC)

Dr. Oh advised that Satinder Sandhu has been appointed to serve as the Board member on the advisory committee. Dr. Oh was hopeful the application process would be available in advance of the April Board meeting.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members discussed where the application would be posted on the Board's website and how its availability would be publicized.

Amended BPC Sections 4016.5, 4210, and 4233, Related to Advanced Pharmacist Practitioners (Formerly Known as Advanced Practice Pharmacists)

Dr. Oh noted implementation activities related to the retitling of Advance Practice Pharmacist to Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner were underway and that section 100 regulation materials were prepared and were undergoing review by DCA prior to submission to the Office of Administrative Law. Updates to identified applications and instructions have also been made and posted to the website.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Amended BPC Section 4036, Pharmacist Defined

Dr. Oh noted the statutory amendment clarified that pharmacists are not restricted to practicing only within the four walls of a licensed pharmacy and recalled that the Board voted to initiate a rulemaking to establish parameters for remote processing in the community pharmacy setting. Staff prepared the rulemaking materials and the rulemaking file was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for publication. Dr. Oh further noted the 45-day comment period would begin later in January and the Board should be positioned to consider comments during the March 2026 Board meeting.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

New BPC Sections 4040.6 and 4102, Related to Self-Assessment Process

Dr. Oh advised the Board is pursuing a section 100 regulation change and staff prepared materials, which are currently undergoing review by DCA prior to filing with the Office of Administrative Law.

Amended BPC Sections 4051 and 4052, Related to Standard of Care

Dr. Oh noted that the Board's policy statement related to standard of care has been posted on the Board's website and conforming changes were made to the Board Member Procedure Manual. Board trainings related to HIV PEP and PrEP as well as naloxone were removed as the trainings were no longer required.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Amended BPC Sections 4081 and 4105, Related to Pharmacy Records

Dr. Oh noted that the draft FAQs regarding digitizing records were not yet available and was hopeful staff would have a draft ready for review and consideration at the next Board meeting.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Amended BPC Section 4111, Related to Ownership Prohibitions

Dr. Oh advised the pharmacy license application and instructions were updated and available on the Board's website.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Amended BPC Sections 4112, 4113, and 4113.1, Related to Nonresident Pharmacies

Dr. Oh highlighted that many of the relevant provisions related to nonresident pharmacies do not become effective until July 1, 2026, and noted that additional dates for the CPJE were added. In addition, outreach to nonresident pharmacies regarding changes had occurred through the Board's Subscriber Alert System as well as via email, and additional reminder communications would be sent as Board staff monitored implementation.

Dr. Oh further noted that the Board's policy statement related to the role of the PIC was posted.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Amended BPC Section 4113, Related to Pharmacist-in-charge, Staffing

Dr. Oh reiterated the Board's policy statement related to the role of the PIC had been posted and the FAQs related to staffing had been updated and posted

on the Board's website.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Amended BPC Section 4113.6, Related to Chain Community Pharmacy

Dr. Oh advised the sample notice recommended by the Communication and Public Education Committee had been discussed earlier.

Amended BPC Section 4115, Related to Pharmacy Technicians

Dr. Oh noted that FAQs had been updated and posted to reflect the clarifying changes made for specially trained pharmacy technicians.

Amended BPC Section 4200.5, Related to Retired Pharmacist License

Dr. Oh advised the retired pharmacist license application had been updated to incorporate the new pathway to restore a retired pharmacist license.

New BPC Section 4317.6, Related to Mail Order Pharmacy

Dr. Oh noted there were no updates related to implementation of the new fine authority for mail order pharmacies.

Amended BPC Section 4400, Related to Fees

Dr. Oh noted that staff had developed processes to waive fees for a new pharmacy that opens and provides in-person patient care services in medically underserved areas.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

- d. Summary of Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Statutory Proposal to Establish Provisions for a Retired Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner License and Clarify Provisions Regarding Cancellation of an Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner License

Dr. Oh advised the Committee considered a statutory proposal to establish provisions for a retired advanced pharmacist practitioner license that would also clarify provisions related to cancellation of such a license and was hopeful the Board will be positioned to sponsor legislation this year.

Dr. Oh noted Attachment 2 of the meeting materials included the draft proposal, which would add new section 4212 to establish provisions for an advanced pharmacist practitioner to request a retired license under specified conditions, including that the license had not been revoked. The approach mirrors the recently implemented retired pharmacist license provisions, and the proposal also amends section 4402 to clarify that an advanced pharmacist practitioner license is cancelled when the underlying pharmacist license is canceled or not renewed, or when a retired pharmacist license is issued, unless a retired advanced pharmacist practitioner license is also issued. Dr. Oh advised the Committee was in agreement with the proposal.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Motion: Sponsor a legislative change to amend Business and Professions Code sections 4402 and 4400 and add section 4212 as presented.

M/S: Sanchez/Jha

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Support: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

e. Summary of Discussion of Licensing Statistics

Dr. Oh noted licensing statistics for the first six months of the fiscal year were included in the meeting materials. Dr. Oh further noted that a few of the licensing programs were within the Board's performance targets; however, others exceed the 30-day target. Dr. Oh reminded members the processing time noted in the meeting materials represents the oldest application of each type and noted the average processing time was lower. Dr. Oh thanked the licensing staff for working so diligently to process applications.

In the first six months of the fiscal year the Board had issued 5,243 individual licenses and 358 permanent site licenses with an additional 682 temporary site licenses. Dr. Oh believed these numbers demonstrate how busy the Board's licensing staff remain.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

XIII. Organizational Development Committee Report

a. Budget Report

President Oh advised that the meeting materials included budget information for the new fiscal year that began on July 1, 2025. The Board's authorized expenditures are anticipated to be about \$35.6 million this year.

Dr. Oh noted the Board's fund condition was expected to decrease slightly at the end of the current fiscal year. According to the report provided by the DCA, the Board's fund currently has 8.2 months in reserve. Dr. Oh reminded members that under the provisions of BPC section 4400(p), the Board shall seek to maintain a reserve equal to approximately one year's operating expenditures and staff is working with the Department to evaluate the Board's fund condition and the costs to deliver various services.

Dr. Oh further noted that recent budget information revealed that the Board would realize increases in several areas of operations and such increases in expenditures along with the decreases in revenue stemming in part from pharmacy closures may require the Board to consider an increase in some fees.

b. Board Member Attendance and Mail Vote Information

Dr. Oh advised that Attachments 2 and 3 included Board member attendance and mail vote information.

c. Personnel Update

Dr. Oh advised that the Board had five vacant staff positions and that recruitments were ongoing

d. Future Board and Committee Meeting Date

Dr. Oh advised that Attachment 4 included meeting dates for the remainder of 2026 and noted a change in the date for the fall Licensing Committee meeting.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

e. Discussion of Proposed Technical and Nonsubstantive Statutory Changes Affecting the Practice of Pharmacy

Dr. Oh advised that each year, the Board has the opportunity to submit technical and nonsubstantive statutory changes for possible inclusion in an omnibus measure. Earlier in today's meeting, the Board approved such changes related to outsourcing facilities. In addition, staff recommended several other changes in specified sections of the Business and Professions Code. Dr. Oh noted that the proposed changes were included in Attachment 5 of the meeting materials.

Dr. Oh noted that he had reviewed the proposed changes and agreed it was appropriate for the Board to seek inclusion of the amendments in an omnibus measure.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Motion: Authorize staff to work with the Legislature to secure statutory changes as presented and delegate to the President to work with staff to determine if further nonsubstantive changes may be necessary.

M/S: Serpa/Mercado

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Support: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

f. Discussion of Recommended Updates to the Board Member Procedure Manual

Dr. Oh advised that in response to changes in the law and to reflect new policy statements approved by the Board, staff identified numerous changes to the Board Member Procedure Manual.

Dr. Oh noted the meeting materials highlighted the recommended changes, which included updates to the frequency of meetings section and a new section addressing the Pharmacy Technician Advisory Committee, as well as updated policy statements.

Dr. Oh noted agreement with archiving outdated policy statements in an appendix and adding the Board's policy statement related to intern experience.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Motion: Approve the updated Board Member Procedure Manual consistent with the Board's discussion.

M/S: Barker/Mercado

Members of the public participating in Sacramento and via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment; however, no comments were made.

Support: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

Board Member	Vote
Barker	Support
Chandler	Not Present
Crowley	Not Present
Dong	Support
Hughes	Support
Jha	Support
Mercado	Support
Newell	Support
Oh	Support
Sanchez	Support
Sandhu	Support
Serpa	Support
Thibeau	Not Present

XIV. Executive Officer Report

Ms. Sodergren reported the biannual report for the CPJE and NAPLEX was included in the meeting materials and covered information on CPJE examinations administered between April 1 and September 30.

The written report also included information on the Board's first semi-annual medication error report from ISMP. Ms. Sodergren reminded members that mandatory reporting of medication errors did not begin until September 1, 2025. Ms. Sodergren highlighted that the data indicated opportunities for improved compliance with pharmacy registration and error reporting requirements. She further advised that staff would continue to prioritize compliance efforts through ongoing education and outreach initiatives and recommended the Board consider as part of its strategic planning referral to a Committee for review of reports on an annual basis.

Ms. Sodergren reported that in October of 2025 the Board received a petition requesting the adoption or amendment of a regulation to clarify the Board's PIC regulation and on January 5 the Board received a formal withdrawal of the petition; therefore, the Board cancelled the hearing.

Also included in the materials was a brief report on the Joint Forum on Controlled Substances and Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, which occurred in December 2025 and included collaboration with other boards. The intent of the forum was to leverage insights gained through breakout sessions to identify tangible actions that could be implemented to facilitate improved collaboration among healthcare providers.

Ms. Sodergren advised the status of various regulation packages was also included in the meeting materials and reminded members that the status of some of the regulations had changed since the materials were published. Ms. Sodergren noted that a more detailed report would be discussed during the Legislation and Regulation Committee meeting scheduled for April 16, 2026.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment. Members discussed the medication error report, noting that California is the first state to require reporting of outpatient medication errors. Members discussed ways to report errors and noted the definition of a medication error can be found in Business and Profession Code section 4113.1(d). Members discussed dashboard enhancements. Members requested trending data on CPJE and NAPLEX passing rates for new pharmacists entering the practice and discussed challenges to passing.

Members of the public participating in Sacramento were provided the opportunity to comment. A representative from CPhA noted appreciation for the work staff have done and suggested adding specific categories of medication errors to CAMER and providing more communication to the public regarding the registration requirement.

Members of the public participating via Webex were provided the opportunity to comment. The Board received a public comment expressing appreciation to all who cohosted the December Joint Forum and acknowledged the valuable information shared during the event. The commenter also conveyed anticipation for participating in future forums as well as the forthcoming strategic planning efforts. A medication safety officer suggested there was some confusion in the registration requirement in CAMER for health system pharmacies that may have an eligible license type, but may not meet the definition of community pharmacy dispensing and suggested the Board revisit the definition. A commenter questioned what ACPE's role was in accreditation for accelerated programs.

Members were provided another opportunity to comment after hearing public comments. Members discussed the main goal of the Joint Forum and what entities were required to sign up for medication error reporting.

Dr. Oh congratulated Mark Johnston on his upcoming retirement from CVS Health.

XV. Closed Session Matters

The Board did not meet in closed session.

XVI. Reconvene in Open Session to Adjourn the Meeting

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.