

Medical Licensing Board of Indiana

**Indiana Government Center - South Building
402 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**Minutes from the Meeting of
August 27, 2026**

<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
Bharat Barai, MD – stepped away to take a call at 10:30a

Board Members Absent

Victoria McCann, JD
Rebecca Mueller, MD

PLA Staff

Christine Maslan, Board Director
Kiko Dixon, Assistant Board Director

Advisory Counsel

Leif Johnson, JD

Court Reporter:

Accurate Reporting – Margie Addington

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda.
Dunniway/Busk 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to TABLE the minutes from July 23, 2026.

Administrative Hearings

Proposed Settlement Agreement

Joel Jones, M.D., 01091399A Cause No.: 2026 06-MED-0027

DAG: Ryan Eldridge
Respondent: Did no appear
Witness:
Exhibit(s):

A motion was made and seconded to ACCEPT the Proposed Settlement Agreement which issued a Letter of Reprimand.

Barai/Masten 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Administrative Complaints

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

Re: Administrative Complaint & Summary Suspension Renewal

DAG: Alex James
Respondent: Appeared virtually via Zoom without counsel
Witness:
Exhibit(s):

March 2026 Summary suspension extended. Not currently practicing in Indiana, but still fully licensed. Had the incidents that occurred in Maryland happened in Indiana it would be cause for revocation.

Not the time or place to relitigate the Maryland charges.

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

Barai/Masten 5-0-0

Motion carries.

A motion was made and seconded to SUSPEND Indiana license indefinitely until Maryland license is reinstated

Barai/Dunniway 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Petitions for Summary Suspension

Benjamin Randel, M.D., 01078246A Cause No.: 2026 08-MED-0033

Re: Voluntary Summary Suspension Agreement

DAG: Rebekah Hammond
Respondent: Did not appear
Witness:
Exhibit(s):

A motion was made and seconded to ACCEPT the Voluntary Summary Suspension Agreement.

Masten/Barai 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Summary Suspension Renewals

Abdelmessiah Guirguis, M.D., 01065798ACause No.: 2026 02-MED-0007

DAG: Katy Kramer and Carah Rochester

Respondent: Did not appear

Witness:

Exhibit(s):

A motion was made and seconded to ACCEPT the 90-day summary suspension renewal.

Dunniway/Barai 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Probation Withdrawal

Darin Harden, M.D., 01045219ACause No.: 2014 MLB 0007

DAG: Rebekah Hammond

Respondent: Appeared in person with counsel, Anthony R. Ridolfo

Witness: Dr. Harden

Exhibit(s): Petitioner's Exhibit A – Findings of Fact. Conclusions of Law and Order dated 4.14.2014
Petitioner's Exhibit B – Receipt of \$500 fine paid to PLA
Petitioner's Exhibit C – Third Amended Agreed Order from KY
Petitioner's Exhibit D – Continuing Education certificates
Petitioner's Exhibit E – Order Terminating Third Amended Agreed Order from KY
Petitioner's Exhibit F – Continuing Education proof
Petitioner's Exhibit G – Letter of Reference from Rosenberg Reyes, M.D.
Petitioner's Exhibit H – Letter from Martha E. Brown, M.D. regarding three-day CME
Petitioner's Exhibit I – Email to the Indiana OAG's office regarding \$5 health records fee

A motion was made and seconded to GRANT probation withdrawal request.

Barai/Dunniway 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Notice of Proposed Dismissal

David Nebbeling, D.O., 02003625ACause No.: 2026 03-MED-0010

DAG: None

Respondent: Failed to appear

Witness:

Exhibit(s):

A motion was made and seconded to GRANT Motion to Dismiss

Masten/Dunniway 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Personal Appearances

Initial

Lonnie R. Douglas Jr., M.D.

Reason: Previous Federal and KY Litigation Matters

Was on criminal probation in KY, has now been resolved. KY license was also on probation, also resolved now.

In 2021 was in a child support dispute with former wife. Had evaluation in Colorado for alcoholism.

KY suspended license when he did not enroll in KYPHP. Then he got his records and found "false information" included in them. Went through judicial review process in KY, board decision was reversed.

Position in Indiana is at a surgery center in southern Indiana.
Hospital privileges are pending.

Application will be abandoned in October

Joshua Foster, R.D.

Dietitian. All cases have now been expunged from the record

Referred to IPRP assessment.

A motion was made and seconded to TABLE application until after IPRP assessment/report.
Strobel/Masten 4-0-0.
Motion carries.

Chinelo Onochie, M.D.

Reason: ACCM Accreditation not approved until 2019, no current license applications

LORs received.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license.
Strobel/Dunniway 4-0-0.
Motion carries.

Kiran Pandit, M.D.

Appeared in person with counsel, Brian Good.

In Colorado privileges were revoked due to sexual harassment accusation. CO medical board investigated and no action was taken. Voluntarily enrolled in boundaries class. Currently working in Colorado. New rehab hospital opening in Indiana, which is reason for applying for licensure in Indiana, would be the medical director.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license.
Dunniway/Masten 4-0-0.
Motion carries.

Krishna Samba, M.D.

Exceeded attempts on Step 3 of USMLE – applied via reciprocity, no waiver needed.
Practicing in Ohio since 2017.
Planning to transition to locums work which is why he is applying for licensure in Indiana. No job currently lined up in Indiana.

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

Strobel/Busk 4-0-0.
Motion carries.

Omair Shakil, M.D.

Appeared in person with counsel, Brian Good.
Other states have previously reviewed license application due to existing sleep disorder. Currently board eligible, not board certified yet.

Has accepted a position with Deaconess.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license.
Dunniway/Strobel 4-0-0.
Motion carries.

Waiver Requests

Ashraf El-Hinnawi, M.D.

Reason: No U.S. ACGME-PGT; Dr. Dunniway recommends personal appearance.

No U.S. ACGME-PGT – There is no ACGME approved transplant training program.
Has Ohio medical license, licensed in Florida. Spent time working in Dubai. Returned to states and worked at hospital in IL since 2025.
Has five-year employment agreement.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license via waiver.
Dunniway/Masten 4-0-0.
Motion carries.

Samet Gulkas, M.D.

Reason: Request for Personal Appearance

Appeared in person with representative from prospective Indiana employer

No ACGME accredited training. Ophthalmology does not have ACGME approved training.
Completed one (1) year ACGME fellowship training in Massachusetts. Completed another year of fellowship that was not accredited.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license via waiver.
Strobel/Dunniway 4-0-0.
Motion carries.

Rokana Taftaf, M.D.

Reason: Exceeds USMLE Exam Regulations

Appeared in person with representative from prospective Indiana employer.

Took ten (10 years) and six (6) days to pass all steps of the USMLE.

Born in US, moved to Syria. Completed medical school in Syria. Completed Masters and Ph.D. Passed Step 3 on first attempt.
Has four (4) year employment contract.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license via waiver.
Strobel/Busk4-0-0.

Motion carries.

Adjournment 11:19 a.m.