

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

9600 Gateway Drive
Reno, NV 89521

Nick M. Spirtos, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Board President



Edward O. Cousineau, J.D.
Executive Director

*** * * MINUTES * * ***

OPEN SESSION BOARD MEETING

Held in the Conference Room at the Offices of the
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
9600 Gateway Drive, Reno, Nevada 89521

and Videoconferenced to

The Conference Room at the Offices of the
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
325 E. Warm Springs Road, Suite 225, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026 – 12:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Nick M. Spirtos, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., President
Bret W. Frey, M.D., Vice President
Ms. Maggie Arias-Petrel, Secretary-Treasurer
Ms. Pamela J. Beal
Irwin B. Simon, M.D., FACS
Jason B. Farnsworth, RRT, MBA
Hugh L. Bassewitz, M.D., FAAOS
Apeksha Desai, M.D., MBA
Ms. Kathleen A. Conaboy

Board Members Absent

Chowdhury H. Ahsan, M.D., Ph.D., FACC
Joseph Olivarez, P.A.-C

Staff/Others Present

Sarah A. Bradley, J.D., MBA, Deputy Executive Director
Donya Jenkins, Chief of Finance and Human Resources
Laurie L. Munson, Chief of Administration and Information Systems
Kory Linn, Chief of Licensing

Agenda Item 1

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Roll Call/Quorum

The meeting was called to order by President Nick M. Spirtos, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., at 12:01 p.m.

Ms. Bradley took roll call. Board members present were Nick M. Spirtos, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., Bret W. Frey, M.D., Ms. Pamela J. Beal, Irwin B. Simon, M.D., FACS, Jason B. Farnsworth, RRT, MBA, Hugh L. Bassewitz, M.D., FAAOS, Apeksha Desai, M.D., MBA, and Ms. Kathleen A. Conaboy. Board members absent were Chowdhury H. Ahsan, M.D., Ph.D., FACC, Joseph Olivarez, P.A.-C, and Ms. Maggie Arias-Petrel. Ms. Bradley announced there was a quorum.

Ms. Bradley stated that Ms. Amber E. Schreiber had withdrawn her application for the Genetic Counselor Advisory Council. Ms. Schreiber is a member of the Genetic Counselors Association of Nevada leadership team, so the Board will still be able to work with her, but not in this capacity.

Ms. Arias-Petrel joined the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Agenda Item 2

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Spirtos asked whether there was anyone in attendance who would like to present public comment. No public comment was received.

Agenda Item 3

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE GENETIC COUNSELING ADVISORY COUNCIL

- (a) Mark Eugene Nunes, M.D., FAAP, Physician Member Applicant
- (b) Shelby Brown Bindert, MS, CGC, Genetic Counselor Member Applicant
- (c) Tracey Gaebe-Schulz, MS, CGC, Genetic Counselor Member Applicant
- (d) Meg M. Hager, MS, MPH, CGC, Genetic Counselor Member Applicant
- (e) Ali Khalaf, MS, CGC, Genetic Counselor Member Applicant
- (f) Julia Prinzi, MS, CGC, Genetic Counselor Member Applicant
- (g) Amber E. Schreiber, MS, CGC, Genetic Counselor Member Applicant
- (h) Georgene Glass, Public Member Applicant
- (i) Dolores Hauck, Public Member Applicant
- (j) Carrie Ostrea, MBA, Public Member Applicant
- (k) Jenica Yurcic Westerman, Esq., Public Member Applicant
- (l) Alicia Dhalla, MSHRM, SPHR, SHRM-CP, Public Member Applicant

Ms. Bradley explained that the Board was required to appoint one physician member, one public member who is not a physician or a licensed genetic counselor, and three genetic counselor members to

the Genetic Counseling Advisory Council (GCAC). Mark Eugene Nunes, M.D., FAAP was the only physician applicant. She said he has a lot of experience, has come to all the meetings regarding genetic counselors, and has been very helpful.

Mr. Farnsworth stated Dr. Nunes appeared to be well-qualified to serve on the GCAC. He said his resume is incredibly impressive, and he would support Dr. Nunes in the physician-member role. Mr. Farnsworth moved that the Board appoint Dr. Nunes. Ms. Arias-Petrel seconded the motion.

Dr. Simon asked whether the Board was able to appoint more than one physician member to the GCAC because he believed that physicians also may be genetic counselors. Ms. Bradley read Section 5.9 from SB189 aloud. This Section specifies the required composition of the GCAC. Ms. Bradley indicated that SB189 states that GCAC must include one physician licensed in this State who has experience in the field of genetics and three members who hold a valid certification issued by the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABCG) and are actively engaged in the practice of genetic counseling. If a physician also had a certification issued by the ABGC and is actively engaged in the practice of genetic counseling, it is possible that they would be eligible to be appointed to the GCAC pursuant to Section 5.9(2)(b) of SB189. This Section also requires that one member be appointed to the GCAC who is a representative of the public.

A vote was taken on the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Beal stated she had reviewed the resumes and curriculum vitae of the genetic counselor applicants and they all have excellent credentials and outstanding experience. She pointed out there were two that work for the same organization, one in Las Vegas and one in Reno. She said she really appreciated the diverse experience the applicants brought in different areas of genetic counseling and would like to see this diverse experience represented on the GCAC.

Dr. Spirtos said Ms. Julia Prinzi has a background in cardiology, Ms. Shelby Brown Bindert works with high-risk obstetrics, and Mr. Ali Khalaf works at Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada. Ms. Beal added that Ms. Brown Bindert works in Reno, and Ms. Tracey Gaebe-Schulz, who also works with high-risk obstetrics, is in Las Vegas. Ms. Bradley added that Ms. Meg Hager works in the laboratory and her resume states that she provides genetic counseling services via telehealth.

Dr. Simon said that, although all five of the applicants have excellent credentials, he thinks it would serve our population well to have someone who is involved in oncology, someone who is involved in high-risk pregnancy, and someone who works in another area on the GCAC because it will provide a broader spectrum of genetic counselor experience on the GCAC.

Dr. Simon moved that the Board appoint Ms. Shelby Brown Bindert in Reno for her expertise in high-risk pregnancy genetics, Mr. Ali Khalaf in Las Vegas for his expertise in oncologic genetics, and Ms. Julia Prinzi in Las Vegas for her expertise in cardiac genetics. Dr. Desai seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Simon asked how long the GCAC members' terms were. Ms. Bradley explained the initial term is for two years, and the members may be reappointed to the GCAC after their terms end. Dr. Simon asked if there was a way to stagger the appointments, so they would not all expire simultaneously. Ms. Bradley indicated that SB189 did not specifically address that issue.

Dr. Spirtos said he wanted to encourage those genetic counselor applicants who had applied to be a member of the GCAC but were not selected for appointment to reapply to join the GCAC in two years.

Dr. Spirtos read the names of the applicants for the public-member position on the GCAC.

Ms. Beal said she would like to see Ms. Georgene Glass appointed as the public member applicant. Ms. Conaboy said that Ms. Glass stood out to her as well, not only for her experience but also for her professional work in the community.

Mr. Farnsworth said Ms. Alicia Dhalla's resume stood out to him. Her professional work experience is exemplary, she is doing some very interesting things in the community, and he thinks she would be a good fit for the GCAC.

Dr. Spirtos said that both Ms. Glass' and Ms. Dhalla's applications appeared to be stellar, and it was a difficult decision to choose between the applicants.

Ms. Beal moved that the Board appoint Ms. Georgene Glass as the public member of the GCAC. Ms. Conaboy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Spirtos again said that he wanted to encourage those who had applied to be a member of the GCAC but were not selected for appointment in this meeting to reapply to join the GCAC in two years.

Dr. Spirtos then asked whether the Board had the ability to appoint additional members to the GCAC. Ms. Bradley stated that NRS 630.075 allows the Board to appoint non-voting advisory members to the Board to advise the Board, but she did not believe that would allow the Board to appoint non-voting advisory members to the GCAC because it is a separate entity. The Board could amend its regulations in the future to add a non-voting, advisory member to the GCAC, if that is something that the Board would like to do.

She added that the GCAC will meet a minimum of twice a year, and she is hoping that the first GCAC meeting will be held prior to the Board's June meeting so that we will have an update regarding the GCAC to provide at that meeting.

Agenda Item 4

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Spirtos asked whether there was anyone in attendance who would like to present public comment.

Mark Eugene Nunes, M.D., FAAP, said he endorsed the Board's appointments to the GCAC. He said he thinks the Board found a very good balance, but he wanted to point out that Ms. Meg Hager, the genetic counselor working in a laboratory setting, does have prenatal experience. He said that the largest number of licensed genetic counselors in the State will likely come from industry. These genetic counselors work in laboratories and help interpret test results and write reports. They are performing genetic counseling services directly to patients, as well, because they often also call patients and families to provide them with their results. He said telehealth is important for the State of Nevada and a lot of the work being done by genetic counselors in the State will be via telehealth. He said he really liked the idea of adding a non-voting, advisory member to the GCAC, and he thinks that Ms. Hager would make an excellent advisory member, bringing an important perspective to the GCAC.

Agenda Item 5
ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Bassewitz moved that the Board adjourn. Mr. Farnsworth seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

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