

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
Physician Assistant Advisory Committee
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
Via Zoom**

OPEN AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

**PRESENT VIA
ZOOM:**

Kara R. Cossis, PA-C, Chair, Robert Roca, M.D., Janaki Champa Kuruppu, M.D., Deborah Dunn, MBA, PA-C, Wendy Riekers, PA-C, Theresa Lewis, Consumer Member

**STAFF PRESENT
VIA ZOOM:**

Felicia Wright, Allied Health Manager, David Finkler, Esq., Board Counsel, Michael Tran, Health Policy Analyst, Rhonda Deanes, Allied Health Lead PA Analyst, John “Jack” Shock, Allied Health Analyst, Breana Ragin, Allied Health Analyst, Shawneka Freeman, Allied Health Analyst Associate, Margaret Jury, Allied Health Lead Analyst

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

ABSENT:

John Klune, M.D., MBA, FACS

STAFF ABSENT:

Christine Farrelly, Executive Director, Ellen Douglas Smith, Deputy Director

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Cossis called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Ms. Riekers and seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Committee unanimously approved the March 4, 2026, Open Meeting Minutes.

LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS, AND POLICY UPDATES

Mr. Tran informed the Committee that the 2026 Legislative Session ended on April 13, 2026. The Maryland General Assembly passed SB 326 and HB 377, the Physician Assistants and Midwives - Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners (Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2026), which is on the Governor’s desk awaiting his signature.

BOARD COUNSEL

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Ms. Cossis informed the Committee that at its March 25, 2026, meeting, the Board approved all of the recommendations the Committee made at its March 4, 2026, meeting regarding addendums for advanced duties and the approval of the physician assistant course required for physician assistants performing Non-Fluoroscopic extremity X-ray procedures using a mini C-arm or similar low-level radiation machine.

Ms. Cossis reminded the Committee that her second term on the PAAC ends on June 30, 2026, and that they will need to elect a new Chairperson at the June 3, 2026, meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stephanie Danielle Schaefer, PA-C/ Jason Michael West, D.O., request to perform:

- *Conduct Diagnostic Assessments*
- *Psychopharmacological Interventions*
- *Behavioral Interventions*
- *Evaluation and Basic Pharmacological Treatment of Patients w/ Psychiatric Disorders in a Psychiatric setting*
- *Advanced Psychopharmacologic Treatment*
- *Behavioral Therapy of Psychiatric Disorders*
- *Supportive Psychotherapy*

On a motion by Dr. Roca and seconded by Ms. Dunn, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend its approval of this addendum to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Addendums for Advanced Duties

Juhi Rajendra Lalwani, PA-C/ Shubir Sofat, M.D., request to perform:

- *Exercise Stress Tests*

On a motion by Dr. Kuruppu and seconded by Ms. Riekers, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend its approval of this addendum to the Board.

Allied Health Committee Members Reminder

Ms. Wright reminded the Committee members to submit their completed Financial Disclosure Statement by April 30, 2026. She also reminded them that all Committee members must complete and submit a Termination Disclosure Statement at the end of their term.

CONVENE TO CLOSE

Pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article section 3-305(b)(1), on a motion made by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Dr. Kuruppu, the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee members present unanimously voted to close its meeting on April 15, 2026, at 4:17 p.m. via Zoom for the purpose of discussing the appointment of new committee members.

Submitted by:

Signature on File

Rhonda Deanes, Lead PA Analyst