

California Board of Naturopathic Medicine

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2025

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Dara Thompson, ND, President
Minna Yoon, ND, Vice President
Andy Yam, MPP, Secretary
Bruce Davidson, PhD
Diparshi Mukherjee, DO

MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Vera Singleton, ND – Absent with cause
Setareh Tais, ND – Absent with cause

STAFF PRESENT:

Rebecca Mitchell, Executive Officer (EO)
Yuping Lin, Program Legal Counsel, Legal Affairs Div., DCA
Navdeep (Deepi) Miller, Regulations Counsel, Legal Affairs Div., DCA
Ann Fisher, Moderator, SOLID Unit, DCA
Susan Kilcrease, Legislative Analyst, on behalf of Board/Bureau Relations, DCA
Raquel Oden, Program Analyst, Co-Moderator, CBNM
Florencia Francisco, Consumer Protection Svc. Analyst, CBNM

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:

Yeaphana LaMarr, Principal Consultant, Sen. Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee

Agenda Item 1

Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

Dara Thompson, N.D., President, California Board of Naturopathic Medicine (CBNM or Board) called the meeting of the CBNM to order on September 17, 2025, at 9:09 a.m. A quorum was present, and due notice was provided to all interested parties.

Agenda Item 2

Public Comment

The Board invited public comments on items not included in the agenda. No public comments were received at any of the meeting locations.

Agenda Item 3

Discussion and Possible Action on Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Updates

a. Executive Office

Susan Kilcrease, Legislative Analyst was present on behalf of the Board and Bureau Relations Office, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), and provided a leadership update to the Board.

Ms. Kilcrease informed the Board of the upcoming reorganization of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, which will be divided into two separate agencies. She emphasized that DCA will continue to keep stakeholders informed throughout the transition and noted that the reorganization is not expected to result in significant changes to DCA's day-to-day operations.

She also reported that, pursuant to a Governor's Executive Order, state employees were initially mandated to return to the office a minimum of four days per week. However, following negotiations with labor unions, the Executive Order has been suspended for one year.

Additionally, Ms. Kilcrease advised that due to ongoing budget constraints, all out-of-state travel is restricted to essential, mission-critical purposes. Any travel requests must be submitted to the DCA Budget Office at least eight weeks in advance for approval.

Lastly, she reported that the Annual Report for all DCA programs has been completed as required by the Legislature. The reports have been submitted, and DCA's Director extended appreciation to all Board staff for their efforts in completing this important task.

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

Agenda Item 4

Review and Possible Approval of August 20, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

EO Mitchell provided the Board members with a draft copy of the August 20, 2025, Board meeting minutes. The Board had an opportunity to review the minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The Board members approved the August 20, 2025, minutes as submitted.

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

Motion – Yoon / Second – Yam, to approve the 08/20/2025 board meeting minutes as submitted. Roll call vote taken; motion carried 5-0-0. (YES – Thompson, Yoon, Mukherjee, Yam, Davidson / NO – none / Abstentions – none).

Agenda Item 5 Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on 2025 Legislation Impacting the Board, the Department of Consumer Affairs, and/or the Naturopathic Doctors Profession

Rebecca Mitchell, Executive Officer, presented current information on several bills that were tabled during the August 20, 2025, meeting due to time constraints. Board members had expressed interest in revisiting these items to provide formal positions of support or opposition.

a. AB 667 (Solache) Professions and Vocations: License examinations: interpreters.

Requires each board within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), other than boards that license health care professionals, to allow an applicant to use an interpreter when taking the written and oral portions of a licenser examination if the applicant cannot read, speak, or write in English. Requires each board to notify applicants that they may use an interpreter on its website in English, Spanish, Farsi, Hindi, Chinese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Arabic. Requires annual review and reporting of the language preference of each board's applicant's language preferences.

9/11/2025: This bill has been ordered to inactive file at the request of Sen. Durazo.

b. AB 742 (Elhawary) Department of Consumer Affairs: licensing: applicants who are descendants of slaves.

AB 742 requires each board within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to expedite the applications for applicants seeking licensure who are descendants of American slaves, once a certification process is established by the to-be created Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery (Bureau). AB 742 specifies its provisions are operative only upon enactment of Senate Bill 518 (Weber Pierson, 2025), which would establish the Bureau.

9/10/2025: Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling. *(SB 518 Assembly amendments concurred in. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling)*

c. SB 470 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.

This bill extends the January 1, 2026, repeal date for certain provisions in the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene) until January 1, 2030, authorizing and specifying conditions under which a state body may hold a meeting by teleconference, as specified.

9/08/2025: This bill is in Senate. Ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling.

d. SB 641 (Ashby) Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Real Estate: states of emergency: waivers and exemptions.

This bill authorizes licensing boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and the Department of Real Estate (DRE) and to waive certain licensure and fee-related laws and regulations for licensees impacted by a declared emergency or disaster.

Additionally, this bill prohibits unsolicited below-fair-market-value purchase offers for property located in a disaster area and imposes fines and penalties on a real estate licensee or any person who engages in such behavior. Finally, this bill establishes contractor requirements for debris removal during a declared emergency or disaster.

09/16/2025: This bill is ordered to Engrossing and Enrolling.

e. AB 447 (Gonzalez) Emergency room patient prescriptions: dispensing unused portions upon discharge.

This bill authorizes a prescriber to dispense unused medication acquired by a hospital pharmacy to an emergency room patient upon the discharge of that patient if the medication was ordered for and administered to the emergency room patient, according to specified conditions.

9/02/2025: Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.

f. AB 489 (Bonta) Health care professions: deceptive terms or letters: artificial intelligence.

AB 489 prohibits artificial intelligence (AI) and generative AI (GenAI) systems, programs, devices, or similar technology from misrepresenting themselves as licensed or certified healthcare professionals and provides that developers and deployers of these systems are subject to the regulatory authority of state healthcare licensing boards and enforcement agencies.

9/08/2025: Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

Since all bills were either sent to Inactive File or Engrossing and Enrolling, there were no bills to take action on at this time.

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

Agenda Item 6

Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on 2026 Sunset Review Report

The Board engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the development of the Draft Sunset Review Report. Members emphasized the importance of incorporating historical context to provide a well-rounded perspective, while ensuring that the content remains relevant to current practices in naturopathic medicine.

A key point of discussion was the inclusion of comparative training information among naturopathic, allopathic (MD), and osteopathic (DO) medical professions. Board members agreed that such comparisons would enhance the report's clarity and support its policy recommendations.

The Board also reviewed and discussed amendments to various documents, including the correction of names and formatting inconsistencies. During this portion of the meeting, President Thompson confirmed that she has served two full terms since her initial appointment in 2015.

Board Member Bruce Davidson raised questions regarding the interpretation of licensing program data, particularly in relation to application spikes observed during periods of legislative activity. In response, EO Mitchell indicated plans to update the licensing data and incorporate historical context to better explain these trends.

The Board discussed the potential value of conducting a new survey to gather data on reasons for license renewal or non-renewal, highlighting the importance of ongoing data collection to inform future policy decisions.

Additional topics included the need to add Previous and New Issues in the Draft Report. This included the need for a Fictitious Name Permit Program, for greater transparency in reporting company ownership and internal officer information, as well as the importance of title protection to address unlicensed practice and enhance public safety.

Board members also acknowledged the fiscal challenges associated with a limited licensee population, which impacts the Board's ability to manage operational costs effectively. Ongoing efforts to revise continuing education requirements and expand the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors were also noted.

Finally, the Board recognized the influence of title protection laws for other healthcare professions in neighboring states and their potential impact on

California's regulatory environment. Board Members believe the having parity with neighboring states could keep naturopathic medical businesses and practices from leaving the state. EO Mitchell advised the Board that she would continue working on the draft report and work with the Sunset Review Report and Data Governance Committee to ensure clarity between data tables and the corresponding narratives. The draft will be brought back to the full Board at the October 8, 2025, meeting.

No member questions or public comments were made during this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7 Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Dates

Items added for upcoming meeting:

- Surveys for licensee population to gather data of why licensees allow CA license to lapse (Yoon)
- Sunset Review Report – Draft
- IV Therapy Advisory Rulemaking (Thompson)

The next meetings will be scheduled for the following:

- Quarter 4 2025 – Wed., Oct 8, 2025 (Full meeting but will review draft Sunset Review report again) 9am – 5 pm
- Special Meeting (Finalize Sunset Report): 11/19/2025, 9am – 5pm
- Special Meeting (Approve Sunset Report Production before Print): 12/03/2025, 9am – 5 pm
- Quarter 1 2026 (Jan-Mar): Will send a Doodle Poll out for this meeting
- Quarter 2 2026 (Apr-Jun): Will send a Doodle Poll out for this meeting
- Quarter 3 2026 (Jul-Sept): Will send a Doodle Poll out for this meeting
- Quarter 4 2026 (Oct-Dec): Will send a Doodle Poll out for this meeting

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

Agenda Item 8 Adjournment

There being no further business or public comment, President Thompson adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.