

**Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission  
June 26, 2025 - Minutes**

Convene: Hawkins DeFrance, Chair, called the meeting to order June 26, 2025, 9:03 a.m.

**Commission Members:**

Hawkins DeFrance, Chair  
Ann Wolken, Vice Chair  
Jerrie Allard  
Stephanie Bardin  
Teri Ferreira  
Patrick Gallaher  
Judy Guenther  
William Hayes  
Kenneth Kenyon (absent from 12:20pm-1:01pm)  
Matthew Ray  
Craig Ritchie  
Huey Yu

**Staff:**

Marlee O'Neill, Executive Director  
Kristopher Holiday, OHP Office Director  
Si Bui, Inspector Supervisor  
Christopher Gerard, AAG  
Rachel Sahi  
Taifa "Nomi" Peaks  
Joshua Munroe  
Haleigh Mauldin  
Julia Katz  
Irina Harris  
Madison Washington  
Amy L Robertson

**Commission Members Absent:**

Uyen Thorstensen

**1. Call to Order, Hawkins DeFrance, Chair**

**1.1. Meeting Agenda Approval – June 26, 2025**

**MOTION:** Craig Ritchie moved to approve June 26, 2025, business meeting agenda. Teri Ferreira, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

**1.2. Meeting Minutes Approval – May 22, 2025**

**MOTION:** Ann Wolken moved to amend and approve May 22, 2025, meeting minutes, Section 5.3 to replace the citation of WAC 246-945-360 with WAC 246-945-345. Craig Ritchie, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

**1.3. Special Meeting Minutes Approval – May 30, 2025**

**MOTION:** Ken Kenyon moved to approve May 30, 2025, special meeting minutes. Teri Ferreira, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

## **2. Consent Agenda**

### **2.1. Correspondence**

- 2.1.1.** National Precursor Log Exchange Monthly Dashboard – May
- 2.1.2.** Quarterly Credential Count

### **2.2. Ancillary Utilization Plans Approval**

- 2.2.1.** Angel Pharmacy
- 2.2.2.** Arow Pharmacy
- 2.2.3.** Good Pharmacy
- 2.2.4.** Long Beach Annex – multiple locations
- 2.2.5.** Providence Medical Group
- 2.2.6.** Swedish Medical Group Metropolitan Park East
- 2.2.7.** West Valley and East Valley Pharmacy
- 2.2.8.** Paramount Pharmacy

### **2.3. Pharmacy Technician Training Program Approval**

- 2.3.1.** Omak Pharmacy

**MOTION:** Teri Ferreira moved to approve the consent agenda except for 2.2.1. Angel Pharmacy; 2.2.3. Good Pharmacy; 2.2.5. Providence Medical Group; 2.2.6. Swedish Medical Group Metropolitan Park East; and 2.2.8. Paramount Pharmacy. Jerrie Allard, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

### **2.4. Regular Agenda Items Pulled from 2.1., 2.2., or 2.3. The commission discussed items removed from the consent agenda and placed them on the regular agenda for separate discussions.**

- 2.2.1.** Angel Pharmacy

**MOTION:** Teri Ferreira moved to approve item 2.2.1. Angel Pharmacy, contingent on revising the technician duty of “help patients fill out any necessary forms related to immunization” to “help patients fill out any necessary forms related to immunization for the pharmacist to review.” Ann Wolken, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

- 2.2.3.** Good Pharmacy

**MOTION:** William Hayes moved to approve item 2.2.3. Good Pharmacy, contingent upon changing the word “pharmacies” to “pharmacists” in Sections A9 and T13. Teri Ferreira, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

#### **2.2.5. Providence Medical Group**

**MOTION:** Ann Wolken moved to deny item 2.2.5. Providence Medical Group. Craig Ritchie, seconded. Motion carried, 11:1.

**MOTION:** William Hayes moved to direct staff to provide a larger overview of the statutory framework regarding HCEs and the utilization of ancillary personnel, including any rulemaking that might be needed, and to review the HCE self-inspection worksheet considering the commission’s decision today. Stephanie Bardin, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

#### **2.2.6. Swedish Medical Group Metropolitan Park East**

**MOTION:** Ann Wolken moved to deny item 2.2.6. Swedish Medical Group Metropolitan Park East. Craig Ritchie, seconded. Motion carried, 11:1.

**MOTION:** William Hayes moved to direct staff to provide a larger overview of the statutory framework regarding HCEs and the utilization of ancillary personnel, including any rulemaking that might be needed, and to review the HCE self-inspection worksheet considering the commission’s decision today. Stephanie Bardin, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

#### **2.2.8. Paramount Pharmacy**

**MOTION:** Hawkins DeFrance moved to deny item 2.2.8. Paramount Pharmacy and ask staff to continue working with the licensee to clarify the scope of practice for assistants regarding compounding. Craig Ritchie, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

**MOTION:** Hawkins DeFrance moved to amend his motion for item 2.2.8. Paramount Pharmacy, to also have the entity strike “matching one eligible for refill in the patient profile” from Section I.1. in the technician and assistant AUPs. Craig Ritchie, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

### **3. Presentations**

#### **3.1. National Association of Boards of Pharmacy on Verified Pharmacy Program**

Betty Jones, Compliance Senior Manager Accreditation and Inspection Programs and William Cover, Associate Executive Director, from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) provided an overview of NABP’s Verified Pharmacy Program.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **4.1. Update Incorporations by Reference**

Christopher Gerard, AAG, provided updates regarding incorporations by reference in chapter 246-945 WAC.

#### **4.2. Pharmacy Closures Follow-up**

Marlee O'Neill provided an update regarding the impacts of Rite Aid's bankruptcy filing and the tasks the commission and department have undertaken.

**MOTION:** Teri Ferreira moved to direct staff to issue two joint statements with other prescribing boards related to the Rite-Aid closures: one for patients and one for providers. Stephanie Bardin, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

### **5. New Business**

#### **5.1. Review of Current Policies and Procedures**

**MOTION:** Craig Ritchie moved to rescind Policy Statement Number P005: Enforcement of AIDS Education and Training Rules and remove the document from the commission's website. Huey Yu, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

### **6. Panel Review – Study Plan (Panel B)**

**MOTION:** William Hayes moved to delegate the study plan review to Panel B (Hawkins DeFrance, Craig Ritchie, Stephanie Bardin, and Matthew Ray). Ken Kenyon, seconded. Approved 12:0.

#### **6.1 PHRM.PH.61193128**

**MOTION:** Hawkins DeFrance moved to approve the study plan. Craig Ritchie, seconded. Approved 4:0.

#### **6.2 PHRM.PH.60664816**

**MOTION:** Hawkins DeFrance moved to approve the study plan. Craig Ritchie, seconded. Approved 4:0.

### **7. Leadership Elections**

**MOTION:** Huey Yu moved to approve Hawkins DeFrance's nomination for re-appointment as Chair for the Washington State Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission effective July 1, 2025. Patrick Gallaher, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

**MOTION:** Patrick Gallaher moved to approve Ann Wolken's nomination for re-appointment as Vice Chair for the Washington State Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission effective July 1, 2025. Huey Yu, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

## **8. Strategic Plan**

### **8.1. Implementation Plan Update**

Marlee O'Neill reviewed progress on the strategic plan implementation plan, discussed the performance measures section of the Joint Operating Agreement, and shared several proposed amendments to the commission's bylaws which the commission will vote on at the August business meeting.

## **9. Rulemaking and Uniform Facility Enforcement Framework (UFEF) for Pharmacy**

### **9.1. PUBLIC HEARING**

The commission held a public hearing on the rulemaking to propose adding WAC 246-945-007 to implement a uniform process for fining pharmaceutical firms in response to statutory changes made by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5271 (chapter 121, Laws of 2024).

The public rules hearing began at 1:00 p.m. and closed at 1:03 p.m. Written public comments were received during the public comment period. No oral comments were received during the public hearing.

### **9.2. Approval of Comment Responses and Authorization to File CR-103 (UFEF for Pharmacy)**

The commission discussed the comments received in writing during the public comment period and approved responses to those comments. There were no comments received during the public hearing for the Commission to respond to.

**MOTION:** Teri Ferreira moved to approve the responses to the received comments, adopt WAC 246-945-007 with minor edits, and authorize staff to file a CR-103P. Craig Ritchie, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

## **10. Rules and Legislation Updates**

### **10.1. Rules Tracker Update**

Joshua Munroe provided an update on the rules tracker.

### **10.2. Review Legislative Ideas**

**MOTION:** Jerrie Allard moved to direct staff to continue moving forward with the draft legislative priorities for the 2027 legislative session with the following changes: (1) addition of a specific license type for sterile compounding; (2) repeal of RCW 70.115.050; and (3) changing the wording of "remove requirement to submit ancillary utilization plans (AUPs) to the commission prior to utilizing ancillary personnel" to "remove requirement to submit ancillary utilization plans (AUPs) to the commission

but to have policies and procedures in place for the utilization of ancillary personnel.” Ann Wolken, seconded. Motion carried, 10:0.

### **10.3. Rules Workshop: Utilization of Pharmacy Ancillary Personnel**

Haleigh Mauldin provided a status update on the draft rule language.

**MOTION:** Ann Wolken moved to delete, “no more than a forty-eight-hour supply of drugs may be included in the patient medication cassettes” from WAC 246-945-317. Ken Kenyon, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

**MOTION:** Matthew Ray moved to delete the definition of “final accuracy verification” from WAC 246-945-001, to remove (3)(a) from WAC 246-945-316, to add a requirement that a pharmacist must be physically present when a technician is performing final product verification, and to have staff bring the draft to a future business meeting. Jerrie Allard, seconded. Motion carried, 8:4.

## **11. Rulemaking for Incorporation by Reference of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)**

### **11.1. PUBLIC HEARING**

The commission held a public hearing on the rulemaking to propose adding WAC 246- 945-003 to incorporate by reference federal statutory language in the DSCSA in response to 2023 updates by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to the DSCSA.

The public rules hearing began at 2:00 p.m. and closed at 2:03 p.m. No comments were received during the public comment period and no oral comments during the public hearing.

### **11.2. Approval of Comment Responses and Authorization to File CR-103 (Incorporation by Reference of the DSCSA)**

No public comments received.

**MOTION:** Craig Ritchie moved to adopt WAC 246-945-003 and authorized staff to file a CR-103P. Huey Yu, seconded. Motion carried, 11:0.

## **12. Open Forum**

No public comments.

## **13. Commission Member Reports**

### **13.1. Open Discussion Related to Items or Issues Relevant to Commission Business/Pharmacy Practice**

Teri Ferreira commented on the several vacant commission member seats and that several members have completed their terms but have been continuing to serve for quite some time. Staff will convey this to the department.

Hawkins DeFrance reminded staff and commissioners that the next business meeting is August 14, 2025, at the Department of Labor and Industries.

## 14. Staff Reports

### 14.1. Executive Director – Marlee O’Neill

- The department, along with all state agencies, has been undergoing a budget reduction exercise. This has resulted in staffing changes. Specifically, June 30 is the last day for two of our credentialing team members.
- Marlee met with the Washington State Board of Nursing, Washington Medical Commission, Washington State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery to discuss issuing a joint statement about GLP-1s for providers and patients. Marlee asked if this was something the commission was interested in staff pursuing.

**MOTION:** Ann Wolken moved to direct staff to work with other boards and commissions on a joint letter in reference to GLP-1s. William Hayes, seconded. Motion carried, 12:0.

- Staff secured subscriptions to USP for commission members.
- The Personnel Credentialing Team has a new email address: [pqacpersonnelapplication@doh.wa.gov](mailto:pqacpersonnelapplication@doh.wa.gov). Our website is up to date.
- Marlee and Taifa “Nomi” Peaks virtually attended the FDA's Intergovernmental Working Meeting on Drug Compounding.

### 14.2. Pharmacist Supervisor – Si Bui

- As the commission is aware, pharmacy break-ins and robberies continue to be an area of concern. Requested licensees evaluate and address any unique security risk in their pharmacies as ensuring secure drug storage will allow pharmacies to continue providing care to the communities.
- The commission's inspectors are in direct contact with parties involved in the pharmacy closures and changes of ownership and are prepared to complete these inspections in a timely manner to ensure patient safety.

### 14.3. Assistant Attorney General – Christopher Gerard

- No updates provided.

## 15. Summary of Meeting Action Items

- **1.2 Meeting Minutes Approval** – Staff will finalize and post the minutes on the commission’s website.



- **1.3 Special Meeting Minutes Approval** – Staff will finalize and post the minutes on the commission’s website.
- **2. Consent Agenda** – For the approvals, staff will convey the decision to the applicants and the Office of Customer Service. For 2.2.8, staff will work with the applicant as directed by the commission and bring the AUP back to the commission at a future business meeting. For the contingent approvals, staff will work with the applicants to make the edits the commission requested. For 2.2.5 and 2.2.6, staff will convey the denial to the entities and will move the matters to the Office of Investigative and Legal Services (OILS) for further processing.
- **4.1 Update Incorporations by Reference** – Chris and colleagues will bring any suggested updates to the commission at a future business meeting once their review is complete.
- **4.2 Pharmacy Closures Follow-Up** - Staff, in partnership with the Washington State Board of Nursing, Washington Medical Commission, Washington State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, and the Board of Naturopathy will develop two joint statements about Rite Aid closures: one for patients and one for providers.
- **5.1 Review of Current Policies and Procedures** – Staff will rescind policy statement P005: Enforcement of AIDS Education and Training Rules with the Office of the Code Revisor and will remove that document from the commission's website.
- **6.1 and 6.2 Panel Review – Study Plan (Panel B)** - Staff will convey the approvals to the students and Office of Customer Service.
- **8.1 Implementation Plan Update** – Staff will bring the amendments to the bylaws back to the commission at the August business meeting for a vote. At a future business meeting, staff will bring back thoughts and proposals on the performance measures section of the JOA.
- **9.1 Rulemaking and Uniform Facility Enforcement Framework (UFEF) for Pharmacy** – Staff will file the CR-103P for WAC 246-945-007 which will include adoption of minor edits approved today and the approved responses to the comments received.
- **10.2 Review Legislative Ideas** – Staff will work with the department to draft a concept paper for the legislative ideas approved today.
- **10.3 Rules Workshop: Utilization of Pharmacy Ancillary Personnel** – Staff will revise the rules and bring to a future business meeting.
- **11.1 Rulemaking for Incorporation by Reference of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)** – Staff will file the CR-103P for WAC 246-945-003 as presented today.
- **14. Staff Reports** – Staff will work with the other prescribing boards and commissions on a joint letter related to GLP-1s.

**3:43 p.m.** Business Meeting Adjourned