PA Compact Communications Committee Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2025

Name	Member Role	Voting Member	Attendance
Jean Fischer	WI alternate	x	x
Justin Hepner	VA delegate	x	x
Camille Luman	OK alternate	x	x
Rachel MacArthur	ME alternate	x	x
Mark Spangler	WV alternate	x	x
Brooke Yates	MT delegate	x	x
Chandni Bhatka	KS alternate	x	x
	Total voting members present		7/7
Marisa Courtney	Vice Chair PA Commission		x
Kathy Scarbalis	Ex-Officio – AAPA		x
Jerica Kent	OH board staff		x
Tim Terranova	Chair PA Commission		
Greg Thomas	ex-officio NCCPA		x
Name	**Non-Member Role**		**Attendance**
Nahale Kalfas	Interim Legal Counsel		x
Abigail Mortell	Interim Executive Director		x

VOTES		
Name	**Agenda**	**Minutes**
Jean Fischer		
Justin Hepner		
Camille Luman		2
Rachel MacArthur		1
Mark Spangler	1	
Brooke Yates	2	
Chandni Bhatka		
TOTALS	motion passes	motion passes

Welcome

Call to order/Roll Call

A. Mortell takes roll.

Jerica Stewart notifies the committee of name change to Jerica Kent, which is reflected in the attendance record above.

Welcome New Committee Members

- Chair Fischer welcomes new members; Chandni Bhakta (KS) and Brooke Yates (MT) introduce themselves to the committee.

Review and Adopt Agenda

- Committee reviewed the agenda; Chair Fischer called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

- **Motion**:
  - **Mark Spangler motioned to adopt the agenda.**
  - **Brooke Yates seconded the motion.**
  - **All in favor, Motion carried.**

Review Minutes from April 13 meeting

- Committee reviewed the minutes; Chair Fischer called for a motion to adopt the minutes.

- **Motion**:
  - **Rachel MacArthur motioned to adopt the minutes.**
  - **Camille Luman seconded the motion.**
  - **All in favor, Motion carried.**

Review PA Compact Timeline

- K. Scarbalis: There is a large gap between May 2025 and Early 2027, is there anything we could put between those two entries?
- N. Kalfas: You could create an entry labeled "ongoing" for commission committee meetings and data system development.
- G. Thomas agrees.
- G. Thomas: In September 2024 entry, change to past tense, "The Compact Commission *held* its inaugural meeting."
- N. Kalfas: For "Ongoing" entry, change to "commission *and* committee meetings" since full commission meetings will also occur. You could also list the names of each committee.
- K. Scarbalis: There may be more committees created in the future, so listing them individually would require editing this entry later.
- M. Spangler: May 2025 says the Executive Committee begins developing Data System RFP. There is a lot of work the Executive Committee will be doing in 2026 related to the RFP that could be fleshed out more in the timeline in its own entry. The RFP has been developed, now the committee is entertaining and assessing the bids to choose a third-party vendor before implementing a data system and beginning to issue practice privileges. Most people at a glance, if they saw language that reflected that process, would understand that in 2026 they're putting the framework in place to issue those compact privileges. That is the core component of what will be done in 2026.
- G. Thomas: The RFP has not been finalized yet and is still being developed. This additional detail on the website is good, but this timeline will remain a work in progress and does not necessarily need to include every action the commission will take.

- M. Spangler: Some clarifying language of what work will be done in 2026 would be helpful to PAs wondering about the status of the compact operationalization.
- N. Kalfas contacts Carl Sims to join the meeting to offer insight into this process and how to reflect it in the timeline. Also suggests adding an additional timeline entry labeled "Current – 2026" for data system development and implementation as proposed by M. Spangler.
- G. Thomas: "Ongoing" entry would only be for commission and committee meetings so there are not two references to the data system development.
- M. Spangler agrees.
- N. Kalfas: Add "rule and policy development" to "Ongoing" entry.
- Chair Fischer suggests reviewing this quarterly and adding to it if necessary.
- M. Spangler: In April 2025 the timeline refers to an RFI and in May 2025 it is referred to as an RFP, is that accurate?
- N. Kalfas confirms.
- Carl Sims joins the meeting.
- N. Kalfas asks that C. Sims review the timeline edits between "May 2025" and "Early 2027."
- C. Sims: Greater detail could be added to the types of rules being developed, e.g. the data system. Also, another entry could be added about states onboarding to the data system.
- N. Kalfas: Data system development and implementation seems to cover those specific aspects, but it depends on the level of detail the committee wants reflected in the timeline.
- K. Scarbalis: Leaving it broad and having a point of contact where people can ask questions may be better rather than providing more detail here. More information can be found in the FAQs.
- N. Kalfas: Include "onboarding of new Member States" to the "Ongoing" entry. In the future, hyperlinks to other resources on the website could also be added to the timeline to make it more user friendly.
- K. Scarbalis agrees with hyperlink suggestion.
- J. Kent: On the website, under the timeline, there is a "What's next?" section that needs to be updated to reflect where the commission currently is.
- N. Kalfas suggests removing that section completely since what is next is covered in the timeline.
- J. Kent: Is the commission planning to host any trainings and/or webinars as it gets closer to compact activation?
- N. Kalfas: Yes, those will be held closer to compact operationalization.
- Chair Fischer: Can a note be made to the commission to remember to add that information but not add to the website yet to prevent inquiries regarding trainings at this time?
- K. Scarbalis: Agrees it should be a note to the committee but not made publicly available.
- J. Kent: Clarifies the "what's next?" section could be utilized in the future to showcase webinar and training information.
- K. Scarbalis agrees with N. Kalfas that "what's next" section can be removed for now and put back in later.

Newsletter

- Chair's Corner

- Chair Fischer: Beginning with “Chair’s Corner,” does the committee need to review what Chair Terranova has written?
- N. Kalfas: Chair Terranova is certainly open to suggestion if there are any notes or concerns. The committee does not need to revise it.
- Committee has no revisions for “Chair’s Corner.”

- Legislative Update
  - Chair Fischer: It could be helpful to have a summary statement of the number of states with passed legislation and pending legislation, so readers do not have to count on the table.
  - N. Kalfas agrees a summary is helpful.
- Committee Synopsis
  - Chair Fischer: Does anyone have any comments or additions for the committee reports?
  - N. Kalfas: These are very basic updates that are inclusive of the major points for each committee.
- Returning to Legislative Update
  - B. Yates: Is there a way to add the states who have had legislation that did not pass?
  - N. Kalfas: The compact map could be linked since it has passed and pending legislation.
  - C. Sims: Yes, the compact map includes links to legislation that is passed and pending and also links to legislation that was filed but is no longer under consideration. Those states are labeled inactive but retain the hyperlink to their 2025 legislation.
- Returning to Committee Synopsis
  - Chair Fischer: Committee reports can be listed by alphabetical order for consistency.
  - K. Scarbalis: Executive Committee should be first, then the rest in alphabetical order.
- FAQ Corner
  - Chair Fischer: Each newsletter could highlight a common FAQ and include a link to the full FAQ page. Should an existing FAQ be taken from the website?
  - N. Kalfas: You could choose the most common FAQ at this time. Who receives inquiries sent to the compact email, and what is the most common question?
  - A. Mortell: I receive those emails. The most common question is when can practitioners apply for a compact privilege, or people assuming the commission is already distributing them and asking what the process is to apply for one.
  - J. Hepner: How will people receive or access this newsletter?
  - A. Mortell: The method for distributing the letter can be discussed and decided on by the committee. It could take the form of an email with the newsletter appearing in the body or as a flyer attachment. People wanting to receive the newsletter would need to sign up through a portal on the website that we set up. The committee could also decide to post each newsletter on the website, so when people search online the information can be picked up by search engines that would direct people to the website.

- Timeline
    - G. Thomas: Will the timeline in the newsletter be the same as the timeline the committee edited and updated for the website?
    - A. Mortell: Yes, the newsletter timeline will be updated to reflect the changes made today.

Review Website FAQs

- Chair Fischer: There is an FAQ on the website for "When can I apply for a compact privilege?" and the answer will need to be changed to Early 2027.
- G. Thomas: In the answer to "Why is there a need for the compact," change Physician Assistants to PAs for consistency.
- A. Mortell: C. Luman suggested edits for "Why is there a need for a PA Compact?" for committee review:
    - Existing language: "State licensure policies and processes may vary in complexity and can result in duplicative and time-consuming efforts by a PA wishing to engage in multistate practice. These barriers to licensure may negatively impact PA mobility and health care access.
      The PA Compact reduces the burdens for multistate practice by accounting for and reflecting the uniformity of PA licensure laws through a streamlined process."
    - Suggested edits: "The PA Compact is an agreement between participating states to improve access to Physician Assistant services. Eligible PAs can qualify to practice in multiple participating states via one PA Compact website.
      The PA Compact reduces the burdens for multistate practice by accounting for and reflecting the uniformity of PA licensure laws through a streamlined process."
- On "Why is there a need for a PA Compact?" edits from C. Luman:
    - Chair Fischer: Likes the addition but does not feel a need to delete the existing language. The suggestions provide additional explanation.
    - C. Luman: Looking at these questions and answers, are they for PAs or legislators to read?
    - Chair Fischer: They are for anyone who is interested and looking for information on the compact.
- B. Yates: PAs with multiple state licenses have asked how this will affect them going forward.
    - Chair Fischer: That could be a new FAQ. Requests A. Mortell draft new language to be added to FAQ list.
    - N. Kalfas: Practitioners can elect at the next renewal to not renew their additional licenses and renew via the compact pathway instead.
    - C. Bhakta: It could be helpful to leave the answer in general terms until the details of the process have been finalized by committee rule.

- Chair Fischer: The answer to the FAQ can include the explanation provided by N. Kalfas with a disclaimer that the process is to be determined by rules promulgated by the commission.

- Returning to "Why is there a need for a PA Compact?" edits by C. Luman.
  - K. Scarbalis: Does not agree with deleting the existing language in the answer, as what is deleted is true and helpful for someone to know.
  - N. Kalfas: The existing language could be softened.
  - K. Scarbalis: Existing language could be changed to say the licensure compact is made to improve licensure portability.
  - C. Luman: The committee can choose not to delete the existing language. What was written seemed more pointed towards legislators rather than PAs, and the added language helps explain to them why it would be helpful.
  - M. Spangler: Agrees with C. Luman that the question should be answered in a positive way of improving access to licensure. The language currently reads subjectively regarding the complexity of current licensure pathways and likelihood of creating duplicative steps for practitioners applying for licenses. The suggested edits read more objectively.
  - Chair Fischer: Favors keeping the suggested language and changing the existing language to be more positive but keep the information therein.
  - C. Bhakta: The answer could include language about fast-tracking licensure.
  - N. Kalfas: The language would need to refer to fast-tracking mobility of practitioners since the compact does not grant licensure but authorizes PAs to practice using a compact privilege.
  - M. Spangler: Suggests "increases the timely portability of a license in each participating state."
  - N. Kalfas: Since PAs aren't given licenses through the compact, "license" would need to be changed.
  - A. Mortell suggests "increases the timely portability of authorization to practice in each participating state."
  - M. Spangler and N. Kalfas agree with change.
  - N. Kalfas: what was decided regarding the deleted language?
  - K. Scarbalis: People need to know that policies and processes are different between states. Disagrees with removing that information but agrees that last sentence, "These barriers to licensure may negatively impact PA mobility and health care access," is unnecessary.
  - B. Yates: There may need to be an additional FAQ on the difference between a license and compact privilege.
  - C. Luman: Both suggested and existing language should be included in the answer to "Why is there a need for a PA Compact?" Also, there is currently a "What is a compact privilege?" FAQ.

- B. Yate: The current answer to "what is a compact privilege?" is not very clear.
- C. Luman provided edits to that question for the committee to consider.
- Chair Fischer directs the committee to complete edits on "Why is there a need for a PA Compact?" first before turning to "What is a compact privilege question?"
- Chair Fischer: The committee agrees on "State licensure policies and processes may vary in complexity by state." Do we want to add "and can result in time-consuming and duplicative efforts"?
- K. Scarbalis: Yes because that relates back to the requirements for each state, and people will realize they do not need to do continuing education for each compact privilege.
- J. Kent: Agrees with M. Spangler that "and can result in time-consuming and duplicative efforts" is subjective from the perspective of the state board.
- Chair Fischer suggests removing "time-consuming."
- J. Kent: People may not know that the process for obtaining a compact privilege is different from licensure, so it would be helpful to explain in another question.
- M. Spangler: Including "timely portability" helps convey the goal of the compact in a positive manner.
- N. Kalfas: Positive language could include "compacts can streamline licensure processes and drive uniformity," while not saying that existing processes are not already streamlined and uniform.
- M. Spangler: Several states also have universal licensure laws enacted, and the compact may not be faster than a universal licensure process.
- N. Kalfas in favor of pointing out the differences between what universal licensure laws can give you versus what the compact can.
- A. Mortell: Has the committee resolved to remove the existing sentence about "State policies and processes…"?
- Chair Fischer: No, the sentence will remain with "time-consuming" removed.
- G. Thomas: Remove "may" in "State policies and processes *may* vary," as state licensure policies **do** vary.
- A. Mortell suggests removing "in complexity" and just having "State policies and processes vary and can…" to not comment on the way in which they vary.
- M. Spangler agrees.
- K. Scarbalis: Suggests changing to "streamlines the timely portability…" instead of "increases the timely…"

Next Steps

- The committee will meet again in September to finish its review of the website FAQs and decide on logistical details for distributing the newsletter.

Schedule Future Meetings

- A scheduling poll will be sent out to determine the date and time of the September meeting.

Delegate Questions and Public Comments

- None.

Adjourn

- Hearing no further business or discussion, Chair Fischer adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m. ET with no member opposition.