

AGENDA
Department of Business & Professional Regulation
Drug Wholesale Distributor Advisory Council

Conference Call Number: +1 213-458-8552
Conference Code: 133230332#

December 10, 2025
9:30 a.m.

Council Members:

Jeenu Philip, Chair, Board of Pharmacy
Maryann Nelson, Vice Chair, Prescription Drug Wholesalers
Jay Spellman, Prescription Drug Wholesalers
Dean Ellis, Secondary Prescription Drug Wholesalers
Diane Jones, Hospital Pharmacist
Ronald Weber, Medical Gas Wholesaler

DBPR Staff:

Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary
Emilie Oglesby, Deputy Secretary
Anthony Coniglio, Division Director
Evan Etheridge, Chief of Compliance
Priti Amin, Pharmaceutical Program Manager
Rebecca Burnett, Regulatory Supervisor
Lavontae Warren, Office Manager
Phoenicia Lasker, Administrative Assistant III
Anastasia Morrow, Chief Attorney

Call to Order: Jeenu Philip, Chair

TAB 1: Chair's Report – Jeenu Philip, Chair

I. 499.01211, F.S. – Drug Wholesale Distributor Advisory Council

TAB 2: Division Director's Report – Anthony Coniglio, Division Director

I. Rulemaking

- a. Rule 61N-1.0241 – Citation Program**
- b. Rule 61N-1.015 – Licensing, Application, Permitting**

II. Calendar Year End

- a. Inspection Totals**
- b. Application Totals**

III. Staffing

- a. Chief of Compliance Introduction**
- b. DDC-OGC Team**

IV. Public Records and Sunshine Law Presentation

V. Council Vacancies

VI. Council Election

TAB 3: Transcript

I. September 18, 2025, meeting transcript (information only)

TAB 4: Other Business

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1 DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

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2 DRUG WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR ADVISORY COUNCIL

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7 DATE: September 18, 2025

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9 TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 9:46 a.m.

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11 REPORTED BY: JULIE CULVER, Notary
12 Public in and for the
State of Florida at Large

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For the Record Reporting

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Remotely Via Microsoft Teams

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FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

1 COMMITTEE APPEARANCES:

2 CHAIRMAN JEENU PHILIP

3 MS. MARYANN NELSON

4 MR. JAY SPELLMAN

5 MR. DEAN ELLIS

6 MR. RONALD WEBER

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9 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER:

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2 MR. CONIGLIO: Okay. Good morning, everyone.

3 By my count, it is now 9.30 a.m., which is. The
4 scheduled time for this meeting.

5 Anisha, if you could, please take the roll.

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone.

7 Jeenu Philip?

8 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: Present.

9 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Maryann Nelson?

10 MS. NELSON: Present.

11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Jay Spellman?

12 MR. SPELLMAN: Present.

13 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Dean Ellis?

14 MR. ELLIS: Present.

15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Diane Jones?

16 MS. JONES: (NO RESPONSE.)

17 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And Ronald Weber?

18 MR. WEBER: Present.

19 MR. CONIGLIO: Okay. Well, by my count, we
20 have a quorum. I think before we get started in
21 earnest, we have a special guest on the call.

22 Secretary Griffin, do you want to make any
23 remarks?

24 MS. GRIFFIN: I'll just say I'm excited to
25 hear you all in action this morning and really

1 appreciate your service. So thank you. And
2 Anthony, looking forward to hearing you continue
3 to lead the meeting.

4 MR. CONIGLIO: All right. Sounds good. Mr.
5 Philip, could you please call the meeting to order
6 then?

7 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: Yeah, good morning,
8 everyone. Today is the September 18, 2025 meeting
9 of the DBPR Drug Wholesale Distributor Advisory
10 Council. For the Chair's report, I'll just review
11 the charge of the Council and then turn it over to
12 Mr. Coniglio for the division director's report.
13 So this is directly from Florida Statutes
14 499.01211. The Council should review this part
15 and the rules adopted to administer this part
16 annually, provide input to the Department
17 regarding all proposed rules to administer this
18 part, make recommendations to the Department to
19 improve the protection of the prescription drugs
20 and public health, make recommendations to improve
21 coordination with other states' regulatory
22 agencies and the federal government concerning the
23 wholesale distribution of drugs, and make
24 recommendations to minimize the impact of
25 regulation of the wholesale distribution industry

1 while ensuring protection of the public health.

4 MR. CONIGLIO: Thank you, Mr. Philip.

5 So for our first agenda item, I am happy to
6 announce we have our newest member on the call,
7 Mr. Jay Spellman. Mr. Spellman, I don't want to
8 put you on the spot, but if you'd like to make any
9 remarks, it would be appropriate to do so now.

10 MR. SPELLMAN: Good morning, everybody. I'm
11 very excited about joining the Council. Looking
12 forward to working with the team over the coming
13 years.

22 And this is one metric that we have far
23 exceeded pretty much any prior year. So in fiscal
24 year 2024 to 2025, this division completed 452
25 inspections. This is more inspections I believe

1 this division has ever completed, and it is double⁶
2 the average over the last decade. So our
3 compliance team is really working hard out there.

4 And I think it's all the more notable because
5 for most of that fiscal year, they're operating at
6 about 20, 25 percent vacancy rate. So the team
7 has really been putting in the hours to keep
8 Florida safe and to protect our drug supply chain.

9 Up next, we'll be discussing rulemaking. The
10 big rule on the horizon right now is Rule
11 61N-1.0241. And what this rule will do is it will
12 create a citation program, which will essentially
13 give the Department the authority to issue
14 citations rather than engage in full on
15 investigations and disciplinary proceedings.
16 These will be non-disciplinary citations, and
17 there will be a method and a process for the
18 person who's issued the citation to either remedy
19 whatever the violation was or to contest that
20 citation if, in fact, there was no violation.

21 This should really increase efficiencies for
22 our team. Right now, we don't have that power.
23 So if an inspector sees something wrong or a
24 violation, basically the only tool in our toolbox
25 is a full on investigation.

1 A full case they have to write up, which in 7
2 some instances can go on for hundreds of pages of
3 investigative materials. And so the idea here is
4 for minor violations, violations where the public
5 health and safety are not impacted, this would be
6 the appropriate way to do it, and it would be
7 faster essentially for everyone, for the licensee,
8 for the Department, for the inspector. And so
9 that's something we're looking forward to.

10 We just published the Notice of Rule
11 Development earlier this week. And I believe
12 we're on track so that at the end of this calendar
13 year we should have fully promulgated that rule
14 and have the team trained up and ready to use that
15 new tool in the toolbox.

16 The next big update we have is how we have
17 revamped our Controlled Substance Reporting
18 Oversight. So since the beginning of this fiscal
19 year, we have really stepped up those efforts.

20 And for anyone unfamiliar or kind of new to
21 this, Section 499-0121, Florida Statute, requires
22 that certain licensees, manufacturers, wholesale
23 distributors, repackagers, have to report
24 distributions and receipts of controlled
25 substances in the state of Florida. And they

1 provide those reports to the Department through
2 something called the Controlled Substance
3 Reporting System. We have been working
4 hand-in-hand with the Department's IT teams to
5 develop new tools that will allow us to analyze
6 those reports in a more efficient way.

7 So right now, what we have is on a monthly
8 basis, we have a dashboard that's been created
9 that shows us who's late, who hasn't reported at
10 all, who are the distributions to, and who has
11 received them, so we can compare. You know, if
12 Company A says, I made 500 transactions with
13 Company B, we can verify that Company B has also
14 reported there have been 500 transactions right
15 between them. Part of that is also we have beefed
16 up the inspections that our inspectors are doing
17 for those licensees in the Controlled Substance
18 Reporting System, so they are being expected in
19 each of those inspections to go ahead and
20 reconcile controlled substance reports that we
21 have received with records on hand at the facility
22 to make sure that we're receiving accurate
23 reports, or vice versa, that the records on hand
24 are accurate.

25 Finally, what we've been doing is we are now

1 auditing our health care clinic establishments. 9

2 So what we are doing is we are confirming that the
3 practice area at those HCCEs matches the types of
4 prescription drugs they're buying. So in other
5 words, if someone works in behavioral health, it
6 might be unusual to see a lot of painkillers. If
7 someone does podiatry, it might be unusual to see
8 a lot of anxiety medications, things of that
9 nature. So all in all, that's how we've revamped
10 how we're handling controlled substance reporting
11 oversight.

12 The next big update we have that I think will
13 be very helpful for our licensees is the
14 Department Call Center Integration Project. This
15 is something we began back in February, and it's
16 something that's a long time coming. So
17 basically, ever since this division transitioned
18 from Department of Health in 2011 to DBPR, this
19 division handled all of its own phone calls, all
20 of its own outreach to the public. And over the
21 last five years, that has become increasingly
22 burdensome.

23 Our license base has increased by about
24 two-and-a-half times from 2019 to 2024. At this
25 point, the rate of growth has slowed a bit, but

1 you still have the overall increase. And what
2 we've been working with is our department's
3 Division of Service Operations and the call center
4 to train our team and their team to develop the
5 things on the back end with tech that will
6 essentially allow the call center to take calls
7 for DDC licensees.

8 Now, the way we've done it is we have not
9 just opened the floodgates. We are doing general
10 calls. How do I maintain a license? How do I
11 link a license on an account? How do I pay
12 something? As well as questions of lesser
13 complexity to questions related to health care
14 clinic establishments. Those will now be handled
15 by the call center.

16 If for some reason the call center cannot
17 handle them, they'll be escalated to the division
18 and we'll take care of it. And then, of course,
19 more complex questions, you have your non-resident
20 prescription drug manufacturers, your repackagers,
21 stuff like that, research questions, those will
22 come directly to the division so we can handle
23 them right away rather than kind of passing you
24 through a phone tree. But overall, I'm really
25 excited about that.

1 We were supposed to do final testing last
2 Friday. Unfortunately, there are some network
3 issues that have delayed it. So this Friday,
4 we'll be doing our final testing. If all goes
5 well, we will be rolling it out the coming Monday.
6 So that should be really helpful. It'll cut down
7 on wait times, and thus calls for licensees. And
8 it'll also help us manage kind of the increased
9 workload of the larger license base.

10 Another project we've been engaging in this
11 year to assist our licensees is to enhance the
12 division's web presence. And by that, I mean we
13 have been creating, wherever possible, online
14 applications and online demographic maintenance
15 applications. So, for instance, a change of a
16 name, change of a location, change of a mailing
17 address. To the extent possible, we have created
18 online versions of those so they can be processed.
19 Essentially, we can receive them immediately
20 versus going through the mail, through the
21 mailroom, through routing, all that stuff.

22 And what we've also done, understanding that
23 an online application you can't really print out
24 and review before you submit it, we are now
25 creating guides for licensees and potential

1 applicants to review. So we already have some 12
2 guides up there now that will tell you, here's how
3 you can change your location, here's how you can
4 change your name, stuff like that. But we're also
5 making guides for each and every license. This is
6 a pretty big project. We have 31 licenses. Right
7 now, we're on track to do about one guide a week.
8 And we're starting with our more populous license
9 types. But these guides will tell applicants what
10 they need to have on hand to complete their
11 application. It will also have step-by-step
12 screenshots of here's each stage in the online
13 application process. Essentially, here's what you
14 do to get to the next stage. So our hope is that
15 with those guides, it will be a little more
16 customer friendly, and it will cut down on
17 confusion and deficiencies that we receive when an
18 application actually does come in. I think that we
19 will be done with our most popular license types
20 by the end of this calendar year, and I think
21 we'll be completely done by spring of next year.

22 Okay. So that brings us to staffing. We are
23 at a very healthy staffing number right now. We
24 have three vacancies, but those will be filled
25 shortly. In fact, we have an inspector starting

1 next Friday, so that's good. The other big
2 announcement we have is just after our last
3 meeting, we had our new chief of compliance start,
4 Evan Etheridge. The plan was actually to have him
5 introduce himself and say a little bit about
6 himself today. However, he and his wife had their
7 first child a few weeks ahead of schedule, so
8 we're very happy for him, and he is out on
9 paternity leave through the month. But Evan
10 actually began his career at DBPR as a prosecutor
11 with the construction board, and since then he's
12 worked at a number of state agencies, Department
13 of Corrections, DMS, where he handled statewide
14 procurements, bid protests, things of that nature,
15 and especially at corrections. I know he also
16 dealt with compliance with DEP, regulatory
17 matters, environmental protection, stuff like
18 that. We're all really happy to work with him.
19 He's been a huge help, especially with the
20 controlled substance reporting project that we've
21 had, and so we're happy to have him on board.

22 That brings us to our vacancies. So I know I
23 can sound like a broken record at every meeting.
24 I think I talk about this, but we have quite a few
25 vacancies on the Council. We really rely on the

1 Council and the listeners, on people in the
2 industry, to give us applicants who they think
3 would be interested in a good fit. We have six
4 vacant positions total, but across those six
5 vacant positions, there are essentially four that
6 can be filled at this time, and the statute,
7 499.01211, is fairly prescriptive, so I'm going to
8 read out what the requirements are for each
9 applicant, and additionally, if you don't have it
10 memorized, that's totally fine. Feel free to
11 reach out to myself or Phoenicia after the call,
12 and we can see if the person you have in mind
13 would fit into one of those.

21 So if you know anyone who would be interested
22 in serving on the Council and who meets one or
23 more of those criteria, you can direct them to the
24 Division's webpage. We have resources on how to
25 apply, or you can direct them directly to

1 Phoenicia or myself, and we'll make sure they get 15
2 whatever resources they need for their application
3 and so we can review that application. This
4 concludes the agenda items.

5 I will say one thing before -- two things
6 before I turn over the floor again. Next meeting,
7 we will be doing our annual elections for chair
8 and vice chair, and we will also be doing a
9 training on public records and government in the
10 sunshine, especially for our newer members. So I
11 would ask, please, if you're a newer member, try
12 to make yourself available for that meeting. I
13 think it would be very valuable information to
14 have. We're working with the attorneys over at
15 OGC to put that together for you all for December.
16 Probably be roughly around this time in December,
17 but, of course, we'll work around everyone's
18 schedule to make sure we get as many members as
19 possible.

20 And otherwise, that's all I really had. So
21 at this point, I'll turn it over to the chair.

22 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: Thank you, Mr. Coniglio.
23 Yeah, I think the only thing I will add, you know,
24 I serve on the Board of Pharmacy here in Florida,
25 and so we rolled out a similar citation program

1 many years ago. And I think we found it very
2 helpful to reduce the, you know -- I think what we
3 have identified as a lot of, like,
4 administrative-type issues that can be resolved,
5 you know, without going through a full
6 disciplinary process. And it helps to take
7 corrective action without, you know -- without
8 creating just overly burdensome administrative
9 discipline. So I think that's worked out well,
10 you know. And I think -- I'm hoping, obviously,
11 that this same citation program and the rule
12 associated with it helps to do the same thing.

22 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: Yeah, great. I guess, I'll
23 open it up to the members. If there are any
24 comments on any of the items that Mr. Coniglio
25 brought up, or if there's any new business items

1 they'd like to bring up.

2 (NO RESPONSE.)

3 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: Hearing none, I guess, I
4 will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

5 MR. ELLIS: All right. Mr. Chairman, this is
6 Dean Ellis.

7 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: Yes, Mr. Ellis?

8 MR. ELLIS: I vote to adjourn today.

9 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: All right. Can I get a
10 second?

11 MR. NELSON: Seconded.

12 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: All right. Motion by Mr.
13 Ellis, second by Ms. Nelson. All in favor signify
14 by saying aye.

15 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

16 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: Any opposed?

17 (NO RESPONSE.)

18 CHAIRMAN PHILIP: All right. Motion passes.
19 All right. Have a good one. And we'll see you
20 next time.

21 (WHEREUPON, THE PROCEEDINGS WERE CONCLUDED AT
22 9:46 A.M.)

23

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2

3 STATE OF FLORIDA)

4 COUNTY OF LEON)

5

6 I, JULIE CULVER, Notary Public for the State of
7 Florida at Large, do hereby certify that I was
8 authorized to and did stenographically report the
9 foregoing remote proceedings; and that the foregoing
10 transcript is a true and complete record of the
11 proceedings within the limits and quality of the audio
12 for the remote proceedings.

13

14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
15 employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
16 nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
17 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am
18 I financially interested in the action.

19

20 DATED this 18th day of September, 2025.

21

22 
23 JULIE CULVER, Court Reporter

24

25

1	16:4, 16:8 administrative-type [1] - 16:4	beginning [1] - 7:18 behavioral [1] - 9:5 between [2] - 8:15, 16:17 bid [1] - 13:14 big [5] - 6:10, 7:16, 9:12, 12:6, 13:1 bit [2] - 9:25, 13:5 board [2] - 13:11, 13:21 Board [1] - 15:24 bring [1] - 17:1 brings [3] - 5:15, 12:22, 13:22 broken [1] - 13:23 brought [1] - 16:25 burdensome [2] - 9:22, 16:8 BUSINESS [1] - 1:1 business [1] - 16:25 buying [1] - 9:4 BY [1] - 1:11	citations [2] - 6:14, 6:16 clinic [2] - 9:1, 10:14 coming [3] - 5:12, 9:16, 11:5 comments [1] - 16:24 COMMITTEE [1] - 2:1 Company [3] - 8:12, 8:13 compare [1] - 8:11 comparing [1] - 5:20 complete [2] - 12:10, 18:10 completed [2] - 5:24, 6:1 completely [1] - 12:21 complex [1] - 10:19 complexity [1] - 10:13 compliance [4] - 6:3, 13:3, 13:16, 16:19 concerning [1] - 4:22 CONCLUDED [1] - 17:21 concludes [1] - 15:4 confirming [1] - 9:2 confusion [1] - 12:17 Coniglio [4] - 4:12, 5:3, 15:22, 16:24 CONIGLIO [6] - 3:2, 3:19, 4:4, 5:4, 5:14, 16:13 connected [1] - 18:17 construction [1] - 13:11 contest [1] - 6:19 continue [1] - 4:2 Controlled [3] - 7:17, 8:2, 8:17 controlled [4] - 7:24, 8:20, 9:10, 13:20 cooperation [1] - 16:17 coordination [1] - 4:21 correct [2] - 16:14, 16:15 Controlled [3] - 7:17, 8:2, 8:17 controlled [4] - 7:24, 8:20, 9:10, 13:20 cooperation [1] - 16:17 coordination [1] - 4:21 correct [2] - 16:14, 16:15 Corrections [1] - 13:13 corrections [1] - 13:15 corrective [1] - 16:7 COUNCIL [1] - 1:2 Council [7] - 4:10, 4:11, 4:14, 5:11, 13:25, 14:1, 14:22 counsel [2] - 18:15, 18:17 count [2] - 3:3, 3:19 COUNTY [1] - 18:4 course [2] - 10:18, 15:17
2	Advisory [1] - 4:9 agencies [2] - 4:22, 13:12 agenda [2] - 5:5, 15:4 ago [2] - 5:19, 16:1 ahead [2] - 8:19, 13:7 allow [2] - 8:5, 10:6 analyze [1] - 8:5 Anisha [1] - 3:5 announce [1] - 5:6 announcement [1] - 13:2 annual [1] - 15:7 annually [1] - 4:16 Anthony [1] - 4:2 anxiety [1] - 9:8 APPEARANCES [1] - 2:1 applicant [1] - 14:9 applicants [3] - 12:1, 12:9, 14:2 application [6] - 11:23, 12:11, 12:13, 12:18, 15:2, 15:3 applications [2] - 11:14, 11:15 apply [1] - 14:25 appreciate [1] - 4:1 appropriate [2] - 5:9, 7:6 area [1] - 9:3 assist [1] - 11:11 associated [1] - 16:12 AT [1] - 17:21 attorney [2] - 18:15, 18:17 attorneys [1] - 15:14 audio [1] - 18:11 auditing [1] - 9:1 authority [1] - 6:13 authorized [1] - 18:8 available [1] - 15:12 average [1] - 6:2 aye [1] - 17:14 AYES [1] - 17:15	calendar [2] - 7:12, 12:20 cannot [1] - 10:16 care [3] - 9:1, 10:13, 10:18 career [1] - 13:10 case [2] - 7:1, 16:21 center [4] - 10:3, 10:6, 10:15, 10:16 Center [1] - 9:14 certain [1] - 7:22 CERTIFICATE [2] - 2:9, 18:1 certify [1] - 18:7 CERTIFY [1] - 18:14 chain [2] - 6:8, 14:19 chair [3] - 15:7, 15:8, 15:21 Chair's [1] - 4:10 Chairman [1] - 17:5 CHAIRMAN [11] - 2:2, 3:8, 4:7, 15:22, 16:22, 17:3, 17:7, 17:9, 17:12, 17:16, 17:18 change [5] - 11:15, 11:16, 12:3, 12:4 Chapters [1] - 14:18 base [2] - 9:23, 11:9 basis [1] - 8:8 become [1] - 9:21 beefed [1] - 8:15 began [2] - 9:15, 13:10	concludes [1] - 15:4 confirming [1] - 9:2 confusion [1] - 12:17 Coniglio [4] - 4:12, 5:3, 15:22, 16:24 CONIGLIO [6] - 3:2, 3:19, 4:4, 5:4, 5:14, 16:13 connected [1] - 18:17 construction [1] - 13:11 contest [1] - 6:19 continue [1] - 4:2 Controlled [3] - 7:17, 8:2, 8:17 controlled [4] - 7:24, 8:20, 9:10, 13:20 cooperation [1] - 16:17 coordination [1] - 4:21 correct [2] - 16:14, 16:15 Controlled [3] - 7:17, 8:2, 8:17 controlled [4] - 7:24, 8:20, 9:10, 13:20 cooperation [1] - 16:17 coordination [1] - 4:21 correct [2] - 16:14, 16:15 Corrections [1] - 13:13 corrections [1] - 13:15 corrective [1] - 16:7 COUNCIL [1] - 1:2 Council [7] - 4:10, 4:11, 4:14, 5:11, 13:25, 14:1, 14:22 counsel [2] - 18:15, 18:17 count [2] - 3:3, 3:19 COUNTY [1] - 18:4 course [2] - 10:18, 15:17
3	31 [1] - 12:6	C	Department [8] - 4:16, 4:18, 6:13, 7:8, 8:1, 9:14, 9:18, 13:12 department's [1] - 10:2 Department's [1] - 8:4 develop [2] - 8:5, 10:4 Development [1] - 7:11 Diane [1] - 3:15 direct [2] - 14:23, 14:25 directly [3] - 4:13, 10:22, 14:25 director's [1] - 4:12 disciplinary [3] - 6:15, 6:16, 16:6 discipline [1] - 16:9 discussing [1] - 6:9 distribution [2] - 4:23, 4:25 distributions [2] - 7:24, 8:10 distributor [1] - 14:16 Distributor [1] - 4:9
4	452 [1] - 5:24 458 [1] - 14:18 459 [1] - 14:18 499-0121 [1] - 7:21 499.01211 [2] - 4:14, 14:7		
5	500 [2] - 8:12, 8:14		
6	61N-1.0241 [1] - 6:11		
9	9.30 [1] - 3:3 9:30 [1] - 1:9 9:46 [2] - 1:9, 17:22		
A	A.M [1] - 17:22 a.m [3] - 1:9, 3:3 absolutely [1] - 16:14 account [1] - 10:11 accurate [2] - 8:22, 8:24 action [4] - 3:25, 16:7, 18:17, 18:18 add [1] - 15:23 additionally [1] - 14:9 address [1] - 11:17 adjourn [2] - 17:4, 17:8 administer [2] - 4:15, 4:17 administrative [2] -		
B	base [2] - 9:23, 11:9 basis [1] - 8:8 become [1] - 9:21 beefed [1] - 8:15 began [2] - 9:15, 13:10		

DISTRIBUTOR [1] - 1:2	exceeded [1] - 5:23	guest [1] - 3:21	information [1] - 15:13	10:10, 10:11, 11:9, 12:5, 12:8, 12:19
distributors [1] - 7:23	excited [3] - 3:24, 5:11, 10:25	guide [1] - 12:7	input [1] - 4:16	licensed [1] - 14:17
Division [1] - 10:3	expected [1] - 8:18	guides [5] - 11:25, 12:2, 12:5, 12:9, 12:15	inspection [1] - 5:16	licensee [2] - 7:7, 16:18
division [7] - 4:12, 5:24, 6:1, 9:17, 9:19, 10:17, 10:22	extent [1] - 11:17	half [1] - 9:24	inspections [4] - 5:25, 8:16, 8:19	licensees [7] - 7:22, 8:17, 9:13, 10:7, 11:7, 11:11, 11:25
division's [1] - 11:12	facility [1] - 8:21	hammering [1] - 16:19	inspector [4] - 6:23, 7:8, 12:25, 16:18	licenses [1] - 12:6
Division's [1] - 14:24	fact [2] - 6:20, 12:25	hand [5] - 8:4, 8:21, 8:23, 12:10	inspectors [1] - 8:16	limits [1] - 18:11
DMS [1] - 13:13	fairly [1] - 14:7	hand-in-hand [1] - 8:4	instance [1] - 11:15	link [1] - 10:11
done [4] - 10:8, 11:22, 12:19, 12:21	far [1] - 5:22	handle [2] - 10:17, 10:22	instances [1] - 7:2	listeners [1] - 14:1
double [1] - 6:1	faster [1] - 7:7	handled [3] - 9:19, 10:14, 13:13	Integration [1] - 9:14	located [1] - 14:19
down [2] - 11:6, 12:16	favor [1] - 17:13	handling [1] - 9:10	interested [3] - 14:3, 14:21, 18:18	location [2] - 11:16, 12:3
dragging [1] - 16:20	February [1] - 9:15	happy [5] - 5:5, 5:17, 13:8, 13:18, 13:21	introduce [1] - 13:5	looking [2] - 4:2, 7:9
Drug [1] - 4:9	federal [1] - 4:22	hard [1] - 6:3	investigation [1] - 6:25	Looking [1] - 5:11
DRUG [1] - 1:2	few [2] - 13:7, 13:24	HCCEs [1] - 9:3	investigations [1] - 6:15	M
drug [3] - 6:8, 10:20, 14:16	filled [2] - 12:24, 14:6	health [6] - 4:20, 5:1, 7:5, 9:1, 9:5, 10:13	investigative [1] - 7:3	mail [1] - 11:20
drugs [3] - 4:19, 4:23, 9:4	final [2] - 11:1, 11:4	Health [1] - 9:18	issue [1] - 6:13	mailing [1] - 11:16
E	finally [1] - 14:18	healthy [1] - 12:23	issued [1] - 6:18	mailroom [1] - 11:21
earnest [1] - 3:21	Finally [1] - 8:25	hear [1] - 3:25	issues [2] - 11:3, 16:4	maintain [1] - 10:10
efficiencies [1] - 6:21	financially [1] - 18:18	Hearing [1] - 17:3	IT [1] - 8:4	maintenance [1] - 11:14
efficient [1] - 8:6	fine [1] - 14:10	hearing [1] - 4:2	It'll [1] - 11:6	manage [1] - 11:8
efforts [1] - 7:19	first [3] - 5:5, 5:15, 13:7	help [2] - 11:8, 13:19	it'll [1] - 11:8	manufacturer [1] - 14:17
either [1] - 6:18	fiscal [5] - 5:16, 5:18, 5:23, 6:5, 7:18	helpful [3] - 9:13, 11:6, 16:2	item [2] - 5:5, 5:15	manufacturers [2] - 7:22, 10:20
elections [1] - 15:7	fit [2] - 14:3, 14:13	helps [2] - 16:6, 16:12	items [3] - 15:4, 16:24, 16:25	MARYANN [1] - 2:3
Ellis [4] - 3:13, 17:6, 17:7, 17:13	five [1] - 9:21	hereby [1] - 18:7	J	Maryann [1] - 3:9
ELLIS [4] - 2:5, 3:14, 17:5, 17:8	floodgates [1] - 10:9	himself [2] - 13:5, 13:6	Jay [2] - 3:11, 5:7	matches [1] - 9:3
employed [1] - 14:19	floor [1] - 15:6	hope [1] - 12:14	JAY [1] - 2:4	materials [1] - 7:3
employee [4] - 14:15, 14:16, 18:15, 18:16	Florida [9] - 1:12, 4:13, 6:8, 7:21, 7:25, 14:18, 14:20, 15:24, 18:7	hoping [1] - 16:10	JEENU [1] - 2:2	matters [1] - 13:17
encourages [1] - 16:17	FLORIDA [1] - 18:3	horizon [1] - 6:10	Jeenu [1] - 3:7	mean [1] - 11:12
ended [1] - 5:16, 7:12, 10:5, 12:20	follows [1] - 14:14	hours [1] - 6:7	joining [1] - 5:11	medications [1] - 9:8
ended [1] - 5:18	foregoing [2] - 18:9	huge [1] - 13:19	Jones [1] - 3:15	meeting [9] - 3:4, 4:3, 4:5, 4:8, 13:3, 13:23, 15:6, 15:12, 17:4
engage [1] - 6:14	forward [3] - 4:2, 5:12, 7:9	hundreds [1] - 7:2	JONES [1] - 3:16	meets [1] - 14:22
engaging [1] - 11:10	four [1] - 14:5	I	JULIE [3] - 1:11, 18:6, 18:22	member [2] - 5:6, 15:11
enhance [1] - 11:11	free [1] - 14:10	idea [1] - 7:3	keep [1] - 6:7	members [3] - 15:10, 15:18, 16:23
ensuring [1] - 5:1	Friday [3] - 11:2, 11:3, 13:1	identified [1] - 16:3	kind [5] - 7:20, 10:23, 11:8, 16:15, 16:17	memorized [1] - 14:10
entertain [1] - 17:4	friendly [1] - 12:16	immediately [2] - 11:19, 16:16	L	method [1] - 6:17
environmental [1] - 13:17	full [4] - 6:14, 6:25, 7:1, 16:5	impact [1] - 4:24	Large [2] - 1:12, 18:7	metric [1] - 5:22
escalated [1] - 10:17	fully [1] - 7:13	impacted [1] - 7:5	larger [1] - 11:9	Microsoft [1] - 1:22
especially [3] - 13:15, 13:19, 15:10	FURTHER [1] - 18:14	improve [2] - 4:19, 4:20	last [4] - 6:2, 9:21, 11:1, 13:2	might [2] - 9:6, 9:7
Essentially [2] - 11:19, 12:13	G	increase [2] - 6:21, 10:1	late [1] - 8:9	mind [1] - 14:12
essentially [4] - 6:12, 7:7, 10:6, 14:5	general [1] - 10:9	increased [2] - 9:23, 11:8	lead [1] - 4:3	minimize [1] - 4:24
establishments [2] - 9:1, 10:14	government [2] - 4:22, 15:9	increasingly [1] - 9:21	leave [1] - 13:9	minor [1] - 7:4
Etheridge [1] - 13:4	great [1] - 16:22	industry [2] - 4:25, 14:2	LEON [1] - 18:4	Monday [1] - 11:5
Evan [2] - 13:4, 13:9	Griffin [1] - 3:22		lesser [1] - 10:12	month [1] - 13:9
	GRiffin [1] - 3:24		license [7] - 9:23, 3:25, 4:7, 5:10	monthly [1] - 8:7
	growth [1] - 9:25			months [1] - 5:18
	guess [2] - 16:22, 17:3			morning [5] - 3:2, 3:6, 3:25, 4:7, 5:10

most [2] - 6:5, 12:19

motion [1] - 17:4

Motion [2] - 17:12, 17:18

MR [16] - 2:4, 2:5, 2:6, 3:2, 3:12, 3:14, 3:18, 3:19, 4:4, 5:4, 5:10, 5:14, 16:13, 17:5, 17:8, 17:11

MS [4] - 2:3, 3:10, 3:16, 3:24

N

name [2] - 11:16, 12:4

nationally [1] - 14:15

nature [2] - 9:9, 13:14

need [2] - 12:10, 15:2

NELSON [3] - 2:3, 3:10, 17:11

Nelson [2] - 3:9, 17:13

network [1] - 11:2

new [5] - 7:15, 7:20, 8:5, 13:3, 16:25

newer [2] - 15:10, 15:11

newest [1] - 5:6

next [7] - 6:9, 7:16, 9:12, 12:14, 12:21, 13:1, 17:20

Next [1] - 15:6

NO [3] - 3:16, 17:2, 17:17

non [2] - 6:16, 10:19

non-disciplinary [1] - 6:16

non-resident [1] - 10:19

none [1] - 17:3

notable [1] - 6:4

Notary [2] - 1:11, 18:6

Notice [1] - 7:10

number [2] - 12:23, 13:12

numbers [2] - 5:16, 5:17

O

obviously [1] - 16:10

OF [6] - 1:1, 2:9, 17:15, 18:1, 18:3, 18:4

OGC [1] - 15:15

one [6] - 5:22, 12:7, 14:13, 14:22, 15:5, 17:19

online [5] - 11:13, 11:14, 11:18, 11:23, 12:12

open [1] - 16:23

opened [1] - 10:9

operated [1] - 14:15

operating [1] - 6:5

Operations [1] - 10:3

opportunity [1] - 16:15

opposed [1] - 17:16

order [1] - 4:5

otherwise [1] - 15:20

outreach [1] - 9:20

overall [2] - 10:1, 10:24

overly [1] - 16:8

Oversight [1] - 7:18

oversight [1] - 9:11

own [2] - 9:19, 9:20

P

pages [1] - 7:2

painkillers [1] - 9:6

part [3] - 4:14, 4:15, 4:18

Part [1] - 8:15

parties [1] - 18:15

parties' [1] - 18:16

passes [1] - 17:18

passing [1] - 10:23

paternity [1] - 13:9

pay [1] - 10:11

people [2] - 14:1, 16:19

pharmaceutical [1] - 14:17

pharmacy [1] - 14:19

Pharmacy [1] - 15:24

PHILIP [11] - 2:2, 3:8,

4:7, 15:22, 16:22,

17:3, 17:7, 17:9,

17:12, 17:16, 17:18

Philip [3] - 3:7, 4:5, 5:4

Phoenicia [2] - 14:11, 15:1

phone [2] - 9:19,

10:24

physician [1] - 14:17

plan [1] - 13:4

podiatry [1] - 9:7

point [2] - 9:25, 15:21

popular [1] - 12:19

populous [1] - 12:8

positions [2] - 14:4,

14:5

possible [3] - 11:13,

11:17, 15:19

potential [1] - 11:25

power [1] - 6:22

practice [1] - 9:3

prescription [4] -

4:19, 9:4, 10:20, 14:15

prescriptive [1] - 14:7

presence [1] - 11:12

Present [5] - 3:8, 3:10, 3:12, 3:14, 3:18

pretty [2] - 5:23, 12:6

print [1] - 11:23

PROCEEDINGS [1] -

17:21

proceedings [4] -

6:15, 18:9, 18:11, 18:12

process [3] - 6:17,

12:13, 16:6

processed [1] - 11:18

procurements [1] -

13:14

PROFESSIONAL [1] -

1:1

program [3] - 6:12,

15:25, 16:11

project [3] - 11:10,

12:6, 13:20

Project [1] - 9:14

promulgated [1] -

7:13

proposed [1] - 4:17

prosecutor [1] - 13:10

protect [1] - 6:8

protection [3] - 4:19,

5:1, 13:17

protests [1] - 13:14

provide [2] - 4:16, 8:1

Public [2] - 1:11, 18:6

public [5] - 4:20, 5:1,

7:4, 9:20, 15:9

published [1] - 7:10

put [2] - 5:8, 15:15

putting [1] - 6:7

Q

quality [1] - 18:11

questions [4] - 10:12,

10:13, 10:19, 10:21

quite [1] - 13:24

quorum [1] - 3:20

R

rate [2] - 6:6, 9:25

rather [2] - 6:14, 10:23

reach [1] - 14:11

read [1] - 14:8

ready [1] - 7:14

really [11] - 3:25, 6:3,

6:7, 6:21, 7:19,

10:24, 11:6, 11:23,

13:18, 13:25, 15:20

reason [1] - 10:16

receipts [1] - 7:24

receive [2] - 11:19,

12:17

received [2] - 8:11,

8:21

receiving [1] - 8:22

recommendations [3]

- 4:18, 4:20, 4:24

reconcile [1] - 8:20

record [2] - 13:23,

18:10

Record [1] - 1:21

records [3] - 8:21,

8:23, 15:9

reduce [1] - 16:2

regarding [1] - 4:17

REGULATION [1] -

1:1

regulation [1] - 4:25

regulatory [2] - 4:21,

13:16

related [1] - 10:13

relative [2] - 18:14,

18:16

rely [1] - 13:25

remarks [2] - 3:23, 5:9

remedy [2] - 6:18,

16:16

remote [2] - 18:9,

18:12

Remotely [1] - 1:22

repackagers [2] -

7:23, 10:20

report [5] - 4:10, 4:12,

5:17, 7:23, 18:8

REPORTED [1] - 1:11

reported [2] - 8:9,

8:14

Reporter [1] - 18:22

REPORTER [2] - 2:9,

18:1

reporting [2] - 9:10,

13:20

Reporting [4] - 1:21,

7:17, 8:3, 8:18

reports [4] - 8:1, 8:6,

8:20, 8:23

requirements [2] -

14:8, 14:14

requires [1] - 7:21

research [1] - 10:21

resident [1] - 10:19

resolved [1] - 16:4

resources [2] - 14:24,

15:2

RESPONSE [3] - 3:16,

17:2, 17:17

retail [1] - 14:19

revamped [2] - 7:17,

9:9

review [5] - 4:10, 4:14,

11:24, 12:1, 15:3

roll [1] - 3:5

rolled [1] - 15:25

rolling [1] - 11:5

Ronald [1] - 3:17

RONALD [1] - 2:6

roughly [1] - 15:16

routing [1] - 11:21

rule [4] - 6:10, 6:11,

7:13, 16:11

Rule [2] - 6:10, 7:10

rulemaking [1] - 6:9

rules [2] - 4:15, 4:17

S

safe [1] - 6:8

safety [1] - 7:5

schedule [2] - 13:7,

15:18

scheduled [1] - 3:4

screenshots [1] -

12:12

second [2] - 17:10,

17:13

Seconded [1] - 17:11

Secretary [1] - 3:22

Spellman [3] - 3:11, 5:7
spot [1] - 5:8
spring [1] - 12:21
staffing [2] - 12:22, 12:23
stage [2] - 12:12, 12:14
start [1] - 13:3
started [1] - 3:20
starting [2] - 12:8, 12:25
state [3] - 7:25, 13:12, 14:20
STATE [1] - 18:3
State [2] - 1:12, 18:6
states' [1] - 4:21
statewide [1] - 13:13
Statute [1] - 7:21
statute [1] - 14:6
Statutes [1] - 4:13
stenographically [1] - 18:8
step [2] - 12:11
step-by-step [1] - 12:11
stepped [1] - 7:19
still [1] - 10:1
stuff [4] - 10:21, 11:21, 12:4, 13:17
submit [1] - 11:24
Substance [3] - 7:17, 8:2, 8:17
substance [3] - 8:20, 9:10, 13:20
substances [1] - 7:25
substantive [1] - 5:15
sunshine [1] - 15:10
supply [1] - 6:8
supposed [1] - 11:1
System [2] - 8:3, 8:18

T

team [7] - 5:12, 6:3, 6:6, 6:22, 7:14, 10:4
Teams [1] - 1:22
teams [1] - 8:4
tech [1] - 10:5
testing [2] - 11:1, 11:4
THE [1] - 17:21
three [1] - 12:24
TIME [1] - 1:9
today [2] - 13:6, 17:8
Today [1] - 4:8
together [1] - 15:15
tool [2] - 6:24, 7:15
toolbox [2] - 6:24, 7:15

tools [1] - 8:5
total [1] - 14:4
totally [1] - 14:10
track [2] - 7:12, 12:7
train [1] - 10:4
trained [1] - 7:14
training [1] - 15:9
transactions [2] - 8:12, 8:14
transcript [1] - 18:10
transitioned [1] - 9:17
tree [1] - 10:24
true [1] - 18:10
try [1] - 15:11
turn [4] - 4:11, 5:2, 15:6, 15:21
two [3] - 5:18, 9:24, 15:5
two-and-a-half [1] - 9:24
type [1] - 16:4
types [3] - 9:3, 12:9, 12:19

U

under [1] - 14:18
unfamiliar [1] - 7:20
Unfortunately [1] - 11:2
UNKNOWN [6] - 3:6, 3:9, 3:11, 3:13, 3:15, 3:17
unusual [2] - 9:6, 9:7
Up [1] - 6:9
up [8] - 7:1, 7:14, 7:19, 8:16, 12:2, 16:23, 16:25, 17:1
update [2] - 7:16, 9:12

V

vacancies [3] - 12:24, 13:22, 13:25
vacancy [1] - 6:6
vacant [2] - 14:4, 14:5
valuable [1] - 15:13
verify [1] - 8:13
versa [1] - 8:23
versions [1] - 11:18
versus [1] - 11:20
Via [1] - 1:22
vice [2] - 8:23, 15:8
violation [3] - 6:19, 6:20, 6:24
violations [2] - 7:4
vote [1] - 17:8

W

wait [1] - 11:7
web [1] - 11:12
WEBER [2] - 2:6, 3:18
Weber [1] - 3:17
webpage [1] - 14:24
week [2] - 7:11, 12:7
weeks [1] - 13:7
WERE [1] - 17:21
WHEREUPON [1] - 17:21
Wholesale [1] - 4:9
wholesale [4] - 4:23, 4:25, 7:22, 14:16
WHOLESALE [1] - 1:2
wife [1] - 13:6
words [1] - 9:5
workload [1] - 11:9
works [1] - 9:5
write [1] - 7:1

Y

year [13] - 5:16, 5:18, 5:20, 5:23, 5:24, 6:5, 7:13, 7:19, 11:11, 12:20, 12:21, 16:20
year-long [1] - 16:20
years [3] - 5:13, 9:21, 16:1
yourself [1] - 15:12