

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING &  
REGULATION**

**South Carolina Board of Chiropractic Examiners Board**

**Meeting Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building**

**110 Centerview Drive**

**Columbia SC 29210**

**Lowcountry Room**

**Thursday, February 6, 2025**

**Board Members Present:**

Gene A. Garris, D.C., Board Chair  
Martia Creighton Thigpen, D.C., Vice Chair  
Michael L. Coon, D.C.  
Patricia Garcia, Public Member  
Mark W. Thayer, D.C.  
Tammy Costello-Hales, D.C.  
Iva Battrell-Hughes, D.C.  
Lucian Henry, D.C.  
Thomas Stetson, D.C.

**Staff Present:**

Mack Williams, Board Executive  
Bob Horner, Office of Advice Counsel  
Jonathan Owens, Program Coordinator  
Erin Baldwin, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
April Howe, Office of Investigation & Enforcement

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210 and is provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**Call to Order**

Dr. Garris, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. The meeting was held in the Lowcountry Room located at the Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building at 110 Centerview Drive, in Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Costello-Hales made a motion to amend the agenda and move item #7 to item #5. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thayer.

**Approval or Disapproval of Absent Members**

**Motion:** All Board members were present.

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Henry made a motion to the minutes with one correction. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Costello-Hales.

### **Disciplinary Hearing**

**Case #2023-21:** Ms. Baldwin presented the Memorandum of Agreement. The Respondent made a personal appearance and was represented by Mike Kelly, Esq.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Coon made a motion to close the hearing to protect personal health information. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Costello-Hales.

**Motion:** In closed session, Dr. Thigpen made a motion to go into executive session to get legal advice in regards to Case #'s 2023-21. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

(10:27 am – 11:42 am) -- No votes were taken in executive session.

**Motion:** In closed session, Dr. Costello-Hales made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thigpen.

**Motion:** In closed session, Dr. Thayer made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement and issue a public reprimand with an indefinite suspension and a civil penalty of three thousand (\$3000) dollars. Upon fully complying with all conditions, a petition for reinstatement can be submitted to the Board. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

**Motion:** In closed session, Dr. Coon made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thayer.

### **Administrator Report:**

#### **Office of Investigations and Enforcement Reports (OIE/IRC)**

Ms. Howe presented the statistical report to the Board. The Board accepted the report as information.

Ms. Howe presented the IRC report to the Board. Ms. Howe presented Case # 2024-23 for dismissal.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Thayer made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case # 2024-23 for dismissal. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Costello-Hales.

Ms. Howe presented one Formal Complaint, Case # 2023-29 to the Board.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Thayer made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case # 2023-29 for Formal Complaint. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

Ms. Howe presented two (2) Letters of Caution, Case #'s 2024-5 and 2024-27 to the Board.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Thayer made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case #'s 2024-5 and 2024-27 for Letters of Caution. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

**Office of Disciplinary Counsel:** Ms. Baldwin, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, presented the ODC report to the Board. The Board accepted the report as information.

**Financial Report:** Mr. Williams, Board Executive, presented the financial report. The Board accepted the finance report as information.

**Ethics Commission:** Mr. Williams, Board Executive, reminded the Board to file with the State Ethics Commission prior to the deadline of March 30, 2025.

**Board Chair Remarks:**

Dr. Garris asked the Board to think about requiring malpractice insurance for all chiropractors, which would be another measure to protect the public.

**Preceptorship:**

Mr. Williams, Board Executive, presented the preceptorship form to the Board for approval or disapproval. The purpose of the form is to streamline the preceptorship process. The Board approved staff to continue to approve preceptorship requests.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to add a comma to provide more clarification. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Henry made a motion for staff to approve preceptorship applications. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Costello-Hughes.

**CE Broker and CE Committee-Provider Course Renewals**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion for Dr. Thigpen, Dr. Coon, Dr. Hughes-Battrell, Dr. Henry, and Dr. Costello-Hales to form the CE Committee. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Coon made a motion the CE Provider renewal date is six (6) months before expiration pertaining to continuing education classes. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Costello-Hughes.

**2025 NBCE Part IV Spring Exam (Approve Members to Attend)**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Coon made a motion for Dr. Costello-Hales and Dr. Battrell-Hughes to attend the 2025 NBCE Part IV Spring Exam and Dr. Garris as the alternate. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thayer.

**2025 NBCE Part IV Test Committee (Approve Members to Attend)**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Garris made a motion to approve Dr. Thigpen to attend the 2025 NBCE Part IV Test Committee and Dr. Costello-Hales as the alternate. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Battrell-Hughes.

**New Business:**

**Review SC. Reg. 25-10**

The Board, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Horner discussed the process to place a license in inactive status. Mr. Williams informed the Board of the CE requirement to place the license to inactive status. The Board interpreted SC Reg. 25-10 (C) as licensees must maintain all CE hours before the license can be placed in inactive status.

**Mobile Chiropractic**

Dr. Stetson asked the Board about mobile chiropractic and the state's regulations. Dr. Coon suggested to contact the FCLB to find out what other states procedures, requirements, and stipulations are for mobile chiropractic.

### **Recognized Chiropractic Specialty Program (RCSP)**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Thayer made a motion to table this item for the next Board meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

### **Discussion Items:**

### **Jurisprudence & Rules and Regulations PowerPoint**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Coon made a motion to go into executive session to get legal advice in regards to the copyright issue. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

(12:40 pm – 12:59 pm) -- No votes were taken in executive session.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Thayer made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Costello-Hales.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Henry made a motion to approve each PowerPoint with the stated corrections. Dr. Costello-Hales and Mrs. Garcia will continue to review the PowerPoints to identify necessary changes. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Battrell-Hughes.

### **Accreditation Action Announcements**

Mr. Williams presented the accreditation action announcements with the Board. The Board accepted the report as information.

### **2024 District III & V Annual Conference**

Dr. Garriss and Dr. Coon shared their experiences at the Annual Conference with the Board. South Carolina was well represented at the conference.

### **2024 Part IV Fall Exam**

Dr. Garriss shared his experience at the Part IV Fall Exam in Los Angeles, California with the Board. Dr. Iva Battrell-Hughes shared her experience at the Part IV Fall Exam in Portland, Oregon with the Board.

### **Adjournment**

There being no other Board business, Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:14pm. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thigpen.