

**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 Low Country Room**  
**Thursday, August 7, 2025**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Board Members Absent:**

Patricia Garcia, Public Member

**Staff Present:**

Mack Williams, Board Executive  
Tara Nixon, Office of Advice Counsel  
Jonathan Owens, Program Coordinator  
Prentiss Shealey, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Kevin Pate, 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 Low Country 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 approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Stetson.

**Approval or Disapproval of Absent Members**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to approve Ms. Garcia's absence. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Henry made a motion to approve the May 15, 2025 meeting minute-no corrections noted. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Battrell-Hughes.

**Administrator Report:**

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

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Henry.

Mr. Pate presented the statistical report to the Board. The Board accepted the report as information.

Mr. Pate presented the IRC report to the Board. Mr. Pate presented Case #'s 2024-13, 2024-21, 2025-9, 2025-16, 202526, and 2022-12 for dismissal.

**Motion:** In closed session, Dr. Henry made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case #'s 2024-13, 2024-21, 2025-9, 2025-16, 2025-26, and 2022-12 for dismissal. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Costello-Hales.

Mr. Pate presented two Formal Complaints, Case #'s, 2022-18 and 2025-28 to the Board.

**Motion:** In closed session, Dr. Henry made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case #'s 2022-18 and 2025-28 for Formal Complaint. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Battrell-Hughes.

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

**Office of Disciplinary Counsel:** Ms. Shealey, 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.

**Board Chair Remarks:**

Dr. Garris stated that he believes a diverse Board of chiropractic professionals will lead to be a better profession by considering all concerns and by working together to address them.

**Disciplinary Hearing:**

In open session, Dr. Henry made a motion to close the session. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thigpen.

**Case # 2022-27:** Ms. Shealey presented the Consent Agreement. The Respondent did not

make a personal appearance and was not represented by counsel.

In closed session, Dr. Thayer made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice regarding the consent agreement. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Coon.

(9:40am – 10:20am) – No votes were taken in executive session.

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

**Motion:** In closed session, Dr. Thayer made a motion to reject the Consent Agreement and dismiss the Case and to direct staff to review the Board’s applications and forms. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Henry.

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

### **Hearing Officer Recommendations:**

There was no discussion for the hearing officer recommendations. The item was deferred to the next meeting agenda.

### **Sherman College Presentation: Peak Programs/NBCE Part IV**

Dr. Christopher Kent discussed the issues students have in taking the NBCE Part IV exam with the Board. The new requirement will require students to travel to Greeley, CO to take the exam. Dr. Kent discussed the issues with the travel and other expenses necessary that students incur to take the Part IV exam. Dr. Jack Bourla asked the Board for immediate action to remove the requirement for the student to travel to Greeley, CO to take Part IV and consider the student’s senior intern evaluation as it shows competency.

### **Fluoroscopy X-Ray Machine-Request Approval of Permitted Machine-40-9-10(d)**

The Board and Dr. George Auger discussed the fluoroscopy x-ray machine.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to reaffirm the Board’s position that fluoroscopy is an acceptable tool and permitted machine for use in chiropractic. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Costello-Hales.

### **Hearing Officers**

Mr. Williams informed the Board that Dr. Banks, Dr. Garcia, and Dr. Johnson are the current hearing officers. A hearing officer does not have to be a past Board member. The Board deferred the topic to the next meeting agenda.

### **IRC Members**

Ms. Shealey discussed the IRC process with the Board.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Coon made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice regarding the IRC process. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thigpen.

(11:26am – 12:11pm) – No votes were taken in executive session.

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

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Henry made a motion to remove the prior motion. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thayer.

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Henry made a motion to approve Dr. Beth Ehlich, Dr. Antony Kyles, and Dr. Douglas Hughes as new IRC Members. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thayer.

### **Regulatory Review**

Mr. Williams informed the Board that this is the time to identify any changes to the regulations to be submitted for the 2026 legislative session. The Board decided no changes are necessary at this time.

### **2026 Board Meeting Dates**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to approve the 2026 Board meeting dates. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Stetson.

### **Jurisprudence & Rules and Regulations PowerPoints**

**Motion:** In open session, Dr. Costello-Hales made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice and to discuss the changes. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Battrell-Hughes.

(12:32pm – 12:42pm) – No votes were taken in executive session.

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

### **Recognized Chiropractic Specialty Program**

Dr. Auger addressed the Board regarding his concerns with the FCLB Recognized Chiropractic Specialty Program. Dr. Auger recommends the Board maintain/regain its independent authority over specialty recognition, review each credentialing program directly to ensure transparency and quality, refrain from automatic adoption of third-party

credentialing structures, and remain mindful of potential regulatory entanglements that could impact state autonomy.

**Adjournment**

There being no other Board business, Dr. Thayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:05pm. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Battrell-Hughes.