

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, February 5, 2026

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.

Staff Present:

Mack Williams, Board Executive
Hardwick Stuart, 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 9:04 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: Dr. Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stetson and passed.

Approval or Disapproval of Absent Members

All Board members were present.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion: Dr. Henry made a motion to approve for Dr. Garris be the alternate delegate for the 2026 FCLB Annual Meeting and Dr. Thigpen to be the alternate delegate for the 2026 NBCE Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stetson and passed.

Motion: Dr. Henry made a motion to approve the November 6, 2025 meeting minute-no corrections noted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Battrell-Hughes and passed.

Administrator Report:

Office of Investigations and Enforcement Reports (OIE/IRC)

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 2025-20 and 2025-42 for Dismissals.

Motion: Dr. Thayer made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case #'s 2025-20 and 2025-42. The motion was seconded by Dr. Coon and passed.

Mr. Pate presented Case # 2025-36 for Formal Complaint.

Motion: Dr. Thayer made a motion to accept the IRC recommendations for Case # 2025-36. The motion was seconded by Dr. Battrell-Hughes and passed.

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.

Ethics Commission: Mr. Williams, Board Executive, reminded the Board to file with the State Ethics Commission prior to noon on March 30, 2026, which is the deadline.

Board Chair Remarks

Dr. Garris provided insights from his recent trip to Las Vegas.

Dr. Mike Geran, VP PSCA-Present Concerns about NBCE and FCLB Merger

Dr. Geran was scheduled to discuss the NBCE/FCLB merger, but did not appear.

Hearing Officers

There was discussion with the hearing officer's recommendations. Dr. Stetson submitted a recommendation, Dr. Kloss, to the Board.

Motion: Dr. Thayer made a motion to accept the hearing officer's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Battrell-Hughes and passed.

Motion: Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to recommend Dr. Kimble as a hearing officer. The motion was seconded by Dr. Coon and passed.

Review 40-920 (B)

The Board discussed the preceptorship regulations and processes.

Motion: Dr. Henry made a motion to notify the student's per, 40-9-25 (a), they are ineligible to participate in a preceptorship until all academic requirements for graduation are met. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thayer and passed.

Endonasal/Cranial-Facial Release (CFR/BNS/ECC)

The Board discussed the endonasal and cranial-facial release.

Motion: Dr. Henry made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thayer and passed.

No votes were taken in executive session.

Motion: Dr. Thayer made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stetson and passed.

Motion: Dr. Thayer made a motion to respond with reference to question 1, balloon-assisted cranial facial manipulation is within the scope of chiropractic practice in South Carolina. With reference to question 2, the chiropractor must have adequate training to safely perform the procedure. The motion was seconded by Dr. Battrell-Hughes and passed.

Rules and Regulations Presentation Request

The Board discussed which Board member could present the Rules and Regulations at Sherman College. It was suggested to contact former members, Dr. Hughes and Dr. Kyles to facilitate.

NBCE/FCLB Merger

The Board discussed the NBCE/FCLB merger.

Motion: Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Dr. Henry and passed.

No votes were taken in executive session.

Motion: Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Henry and passed.

NBCE/FCLB 2026 Annual Meeting

Mr. Williams informed the Board that all members were approved to attend the annual meeting.

NBCE Part IV Spring Exam

Motion: Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion for Dr. Henry and Dr. Costello-Hales to attend the Part IV exam and Dr. Battrell-Hughes as the alternate. The motion was seconded by Dr. Coon and passed.

NBCE Part III & Physiotherapy Test Development Committee

Motion: Dr. Coon made a motion for Dr. Henry to attend the Part III & Physiotherapy Test Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Battrell-Hughes and passed.

NBCE Part IV Test Development Committee

Motion: Dr. Coon made a motion for Dr. Thigpen to attend the Part IV Test Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Battrell-Hughes and passed.

Adjournment

There being no other Board business, Dr. Battrell-Hughes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15pm. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Thigpen.