

South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service
Board Meeting Minutes
10:00 a.m., April 24, 2024
110 Centerview Drive, Low Country Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

1. Meeting Called to Order

Thoma L. Williams, President, called the meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on April 24, 2024, at 10:08 a.m.

Public Notice

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda. Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Dr. Dupre. The motion passed.

4. Introduction of Board Members and Persons Attending the Meeting

Board Members Present:

Thoma L. Williams, President, of Sumter
Gregory E. Evans, Vice President, of Newberry
Michele A. Cooper, of Moncks Corner
Darryl Dickerson, of Goose Creek
Dr. D'Michelle P. DuPre, of Chapin
Wayne K. Pratt, Sr., of Newberry
Landis D. Price, II, of Leesville
Stoney W. Bachman, of Norway
William Taylor, of Chesterfield

SCDLLR Staff Present:

Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Kyle Tennis, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel
Robert Dean, Lead Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Jennifer Stillwell, Lead Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Matalie Mickens, Board Executive
Shamone Breazeale, Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public:

Adam Birr
Mari McKithen

5. Approval of Excused Absences

Motion: To approve the excused absences of Thomas Wright, IV and James Hodge. Motion was made by Mr. Taylor and second by Dr. DuPre. The motion passed.

6. Disciplinary Hearings

These proceedings were recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

A. Consent Agreements

1. Case Nos.: 2022-84; 2022-85

[Mr. Price recused himself from the presentation of the Consent Agreement for Case Nos. 2022-84 and 2022-85.]

Ms. Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, presented the Consent Agreement

Mrs. Williams called for questions. The Board had no questions; therefore Mrs. Williams called for a disposition in this matter.

Motion: To accept the Consent Agreement. Motion was made by Dr. DuPre second by Mr. Pratt. The motion passed.

[Mr. Price returned to the meeting.]

2. Case No.: 2023-53

Ms. Bell presented the Consent Agreement

Mrs. Williams called for questions. The Board had no questions; therefore Mrs. Williams called for a disposition in this matter.

Motion: To accept the Consent Agreement. Motion was made by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Dr. Dupre. The motion passed.

B. Evidentiary Hearing

1. Case No.: 2022-32

Ms. Bell, disciplinary counsel for the State, presented evidence through Ms. Beverly Gould, a paralegal for the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, that Respondent, Kevin J. Thomas, was properly noticed for this hearing. After reviewing, the Board found that Respondent was properly served for the hearing and did not appear despite being properly served; so, the hearing moved forward in his absence. After making its opening

statement, the State presented the case before the Board. The State called Robert Dean, Investigator for the State, and Mari McKithen as witnesses. The Board questioned the witnesses. After the State made its closing argument, Mrs. Williams called for a motion.

Motion: To go into executive session for legal advice. Motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

Motion: To exit executive session, during which time legal advice was received and no votes were taken. Motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded Dr. DuPre. The motion passed.

Motion: Ms. Cooper made a motion that the State had proven both charges in the formal complaint and that Respondent should be publicly reprimanded, fined \$1,000 payable within 60 of the Final Order, and that Respondent must appear before the Board if he applies for an apprenticeship registration or any other license or registration governed by the Funeral Board in the State of South Carolina again. Ms. Cooper's motion was seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

Adjournment

Mrs. Williams called for a motion to adjourn the April 24, 2024 Funeral Board meeting.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Dr. DuPre and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is April 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.