

**South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service
Board Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 10:00 am
110 Centerview Dr., Kingstree Building, Lowcountry Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

1. Meeting Called to Order

Gregory Evans, Vice President, called the meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on June 27, 2024, at 10:00am.

Public Notice

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. State Board of Funeral Service office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Commission website, 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 the Agenda

Motion: To amend the agenda, moving item #14, Elections for CE Approver and Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Members, after item #9, Staff Reports. Motion was made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

4. Introductions of Board Members and Persons Attending the Meeting:

Board Members Present

Gregory E. Evans, Vice President, of Newberry
Michelle A. Cooper, of Moncks Corner
Darryl Dickerson, of Goose Creek
James P. Hodge, of Anderson
Landis D. Price, II, of Leesville
Stoney W. Bachman, of Norway
William B. Taylor, of Chesterfield

SCLLR Staff Present:

Mary League, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Robert Dean, Lead Investigator, Office of Investigations
Jennifer Stillwell, Office of Inspections
Matalie Mickens, Board Executive
Robert Dean, Lead Investigator, Office of Investigations
Shamone Breazeale, Administrative Assistant
Tori Smith, Office of Investigations

Public Present:

Tina Behles, Court Reporter
Steve Nadeau
Adam Birr
Tommy Harris
Andrew Hines
Torrance White
Greg Jones
Robert Prindiville, Jr
Milon Fenner Jr.
Ricky Fernandez
Samuel Randolph
Bernard Vereen
Korie Galloway
Marvin Smith
Scott Hamm
John McAfee

5. Approval of Excused Absences

Motion: To approve the absences of Mr. Wayne Pratt, Thomas L. Wright, and Mrs. Thoma L. Williams. The motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Ms. Cooper. The motion passed.

6. Approval of Excused Absences of IRC Members

All IRC members were present at the IRC so no action taken.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. April 24, 2024 Board Meeting
- b. April 25, 2024 Board Meeting

Motion: To approve the April 24 & 25, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion carried.

8. President’s Remarks – Gregory Evans Vice President

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting.

9. Staff Reports

a. Board Executive Report- Matalie Mickens

Ms. Mickens gave a breakdown of current funeral licensee totals. She advised that all funeral license renewals were opened on April 2, 2024. She reminded the Board that at the end of this license renewal period there will be a 100 percent continuing education (CE)

audit completed and that CE audit reminders have begun to go out to licensees as well as the plan for August. Ms. Mickens advised the Board that moving forward there will be a change to the order of meeting days. Currently the Board handles disciplinary matters on the first meeting day and administrative and application matters on the second meeting day. Moving forward administrative and application matters will take place on the first meeting day and disciplinary matters will take on the second meeting day.

Financial Report: The cash balance is -\$206,669.52.

b. Office of Inspections Report-Jennifer Stillwell, Chief Inspector

Mrs. Stillwell presented the Inspection Report for informational purposes. Between April 19, 2024, and June 18, 2024, 87 inspections have been completed. Between January 1, 2024 and June 18, 2024, a total of 142 inspections were performed.

c. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report- Robert Dean

Mr. Dean presented the Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report for informational purposes only. The total complaints received from January 1, 2024, to June 13, 2024, is 47. There are a total of 27 active investigations, and 40 cases have been closed.

d. Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Report – Robert Dean

Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Price were recused themselves from the IRC Report.

Mr. Dean presented the IRC Report for the Board’s review. There were 24 cases for dismissal, 6 for formal complaints, and 4 for letters of caution.

Motion: To approve the IRC Report. Motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Price returned

e. Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report-Alexis Bell, Esq.

Ms. Bell presented the Office of Disciplinary report and provided that currently there are 26 open cases, 22 cases pending hearings and agreements, and 12 cases have been closed since January 1, 2024.

10. Elections

a. CE Approver

Ms. Mickens explained to the Board that Dr. Michelle Dupre was the CE approver for the Board and since Dr. Dupre is no longer a Board member there must be a replacement. The CE approvals can be done at staff level if it’s the Board’s pleasure.

Motion: CE courses are to be approved at staff level. The motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

b. Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Members

Motion: To go into executive session to include Board Executive Matalie Mickens. The motion made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Hodge. The motion passed.

Motion: To exit executive session where legal advice was sought and no votes were taken. Motion made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

Motion: The 2024-2026 Investigative Review Conference Members are: A. Glen Crawford, Charvis Grey, Eddie Nelson, William Billy Horton, and Elizabeth Simmons. The motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

11. Application Hearings

a. New Funeral Establishment

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

1. E. M. Mortuary and Cremation Services – Darlington – Torrance White

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve the new Facility with Torrance White, as the proposed manager.

Mr. White was sworn in. He spoke and responded to the questions from the Board.

Motion: To approve the application with Mr. Torrance White as the proposed manager pending final inspection. The motion was made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

2. Fernandez Mortuary- Union- Ricky Fernandez, Sr.

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve the new Facility and Ricky Fernandez, Sr as the proposed manager.

Mr. Fernandez was sworn in. He spoke and responded to the questions from the Board.

Motion: To approve the application with Mr. Fernandez as the proposed manager pending final inspection. The motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

b. New Crematory

1. The Wood Crematory-Duncan-Andrew J. Hines

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete and that Mr. Hines is asking for the Board to approve the branch facility with Mr. Hines as the proposed manager.

Mr. Hines was sworn in. He spoke and responded to questions from the Board.

Motion: To approve the crematory application with Mr. Hines as the proposed manager pending final inspection. The motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

[The next 2 application hearings were heard together]

2. Harris-Nadeau Crematory-Chesnee- Tommy Wayne Harris

c. Change of Name

1. Harris-Nadeau Mortuary & Crematory-Chesnee- Tommy Wayne Harris

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the applications were complete for the new crematory and name change with Mr. Tommy W. Harris as the proposed manager.

Mr. Harris was sworn in. He spoke and responded to questions from the Board.

Motion: To approve the application for new crematory and name change with Mr. Tommy W. Harris as the proposed manager pending final inspection. The motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

BREAK

d. Additional Facility

Mr. Price recused himself.

1. Palmetto Cremation Society-Cayce-Jeffrey Scott Hamm

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete. Mr. Hamm is requesting approval for an additional facility with him as manager of record.

Mr. Jeffrey Hamm and Mr. Mark Smith was sworn in. Both spoke, and responded to questions from the Board.

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

Motion: To exit executive session during which legal advice was sought and no votes were taken. Motion made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

Motion: To approve the additional facility application with Mr. Hamm as the proposed manager pending final inspection. The motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

e. Change of Ownership

1.Gray Crematory-Pelzer-John F. McAfee

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete. Mr. McAfee is requesting approval for change of ownership with him as proposed manager.

Mr. McAfee was sworn in. He spoke, and responded to questions from the Board.

Motion: To approve the change of ownership application with Mr. McAfee as the proposed manager pending final inspection. The motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

11. Funeral Director and/or Embalmer Applications

f. Licensure by Endorsement

1. Milon Fenner, Jr - North Carolina – Funeral Director

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete and that Mr. Fenner is asking for the Board to approve licensure by endorsement as a funeral director.

Mr. Fenner was sworn in and testified and responded to the questions from the Board.

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

Motion: To exit executive session during which legal advice was sought and no votes were taken. Motion was made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Hodge. The motion passed.

Motion: To approve the application for licensure by endorsement for funeral director pending passing the South Carolina Law exam. Motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

2. Greta Kosenko – New York – Funeral Director/Embalmer

Applicant did not appear.

3. Robert Anthony Prindiville, Jr – Georgia – Funeral Director/Embalmer

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete and that Mr. Prindiville is asking for the Board to approve licensure by endorsement as a funeral director and embalmer.

Mr. Prindiville was sworn in and testified and responded to the questions from the Board.

Motion: To approve the application for licensure by endorsement for funeral director and embalmer pending passing the South Carolina Law exam. Motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

4. Bernard Robert Vereen – North Carolina – Funeral Director

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete and that Mr. Vereen is asking for the Board to approve licensure by endorsement as a funeral director.

Mr. Vereen was sworn in and testified and responded to the questions from the Board.

Motion: To approve the application for licensure by endorsement for funeral director and embalmer pending passing the South Carolina Law exam. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

g. Acceptance of Funeral Director Apprenticeship

1. Korie Allen Galloway

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete and that Mr. Galloway is asking for the Board to approve his apprenticeship that was completed on August 21, 2014, which is over 5 years ago.

Mr. Galloway was sworn in and testified and responded to the questions from the Board.

Motion: To go into executive session for legal advice with Matalie Mickens, Board Executive. Motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

Motion: To exit executive session during which legal advice was sought and no votes were taken. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Cooper. The motion

passed.

Motion: To deny the application for apprenticeship. However, Applicant can become licensed once he completes a 12-month funeral director apprenticeship. Motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

h. Apprenticeship

1. Samuel Randolph

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete and that Mr. Randolph is asking for the Board to approve funeral director/embalmer application. Mr. Randolph has a criminal background.

Mr. Randolph was sworn in. He spoke and responded to the questions from the Board.

Motion: To approve the application for apprenticeship for funeral director and embalmer. Motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

12. Old Business

a. Delegations of Authority to Executive to Approve Application

Ms. Mickens presented a proposal to have applications for New Facilities, Additional Branch Facilities, Change of Ownership/Change of Name and Retail Sales Outlet to be approved at staff level.

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

Motion: To exit executive session where legal advice was sought and no votes were taken. Motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Hodge. The motion passed.

Motion: The Board will continue to hear applications for new facilities and additional facilities. The Board Executive has the authority to approve change of ownership applications, change of name applications, change of manager applications, and retail sales outlet applications. If the Board Executive has questions regarding any of the applications, the applicant is to be brought before the full Board for approval. A report of the changes is to be presented at Board meetings. The motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Ms. Cooper. The motion passed.

13. New Business

a. Crematory Operator Training Course Approval

As a result of pending bill H.4116, Ms. Mickens advised that the Board has to approve crematory operator training courses as part of the crematory operator registration process. Based on H.4116, the course has to be at least 8 hours of instructional time. The Board was presented with three options: NFDA, which is 8 hours of instructional time; CANA, which is 8 hours of instructional time; and ICCFA, which is 7 hours of instructional time.

Motion: To approve CANA and NFDA Certified crematory operator training courses as they meet the 8-hour requirement. The motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Ms. Cooper. The motion passed.

Mr. Price asked will there be additional courses added in the future. Ms. Mickens answered yes.

15. Board Executive Travel Approval

a. National American Death Regulators Association

Ms. Mickens is asking the Board to approve her travel to the North American Deathcare Regulators Conference to be held October 7-10, 2024, in Sacramento, California.

Motion: To approve that Board Executive to attend the conference. The motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Ms. Cooper. The motion passed.

16. Legislative Update

Ms. Mickens advised on H4116 being passed and waiting on the bill to be ratified and should implemented soon.

17. Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

18. Public Comments

Mr. Price thanked Ms. Cooper for her service.

Mr. Dickerson complimented Mr. Evans on doing a good job running the meetings in the absence of the President Thoma Williams.

19. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is **August 28 & 29, 2024.**