

South Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 10:00 am
110 Centerview Dr., Kingstree Building, Upstate Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

1. Meeting Called to Order

Gregory Evans, Chairperson called the meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order at 10:10 a.m. A quorum noted as present.

Board Members Present:

Gregory Evans, President
Wayne Pratt, Secretary
Stoney Bachman
Timothy Cox
Darryl Dickerson
Megan Driggers
R. Douglas Hawkins
James Hodge
Landis Price, II

SCDLLR Staff Present:

Matalie Mickens - Board Executive
Latoya Houser - Administrative Coordinator
Shamone Breazeale - Administrative Assistant
Brandy Duncan, Esq. - Advice Counsel
Alexis Bell, Esq. – Assistant Disciplinary Counsel, ODC
Robbie Dean – Program Manager, OIE
Byron Ray – Investigator, OIE
Tori Smith – Investigator, OIE
Kirsten Mobley – Investigator, OIE
Renee Young – Inspector, OIE
Destiny Black – Inspector, OIE
April Howe – Chief Inspector, OIE

Members of the Public:

Tina Behles - Court Reporter
Elizabeth Jacobs
Rion Rampey
Tecorrie Garvin
Zach Passmore
Dean Canler
Douglas Shaw
I. S. Leevy Johnson, Esq.
Adam Birr, Esq.

Public Notice

Mr. Evans announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC 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.

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the Charleston 9

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Evans called for a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Price made the motion to approve the agenda with article 10 a and b moved to the board meeting on June 19, 2025. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. **Chairperson's Remarks – Gregory Evans**

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

4. **Introduction of Board Members**

The Board members introduced themselves.

5. **Approval of Excused Absences**

MOTION: Mr. Hodge made a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Taylor, Mr. Wright, and Ms. Driggers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

Approval of Excused Absences of IRC Members

All Present.

6. **Approval of Minutes from the April 24, 2025 meeting**

The Board members reviewed the minutes. Mr. Evans called for a motion.

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to approve the April 24, 2025 minutes, with amendments. Mr. Pratt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. **Staff Reports**

A. **Board Executive Report-Matalie Mickens**

Ms. Mickens presented the reports of the licensee totals and change of manager report. The Board was reminded of the fee increases that were introduced to start July 1, 2025.

Financial Report: The cash balance is -\$22,785.72 as of May 31, 2025

B. **Inspection and Citation Report – OIE Chief Inspector April Howe**

Ms. Howe presented the Inspection Report as information only. Ms. Howe presented the Inspection Report for the time between April 14, 2025 to June 15, 2025. 54 inspections were performed. A total of 192 inspections were performed January 1, 2025, to June 15, 2025.

C. **Office of Investigation and Enforcement (OIE) Report – OIE Program Manager Robbie Dean**

Mr. Dean introduced Ms. Renee Young as the new Lead Investigator of OIE. The OIE report was presented as information only. Complaints received from January 1, 2025 through June 10, 2025, were 39. 27 cases have been closed and five cases are still active investigations.

D. **Office of Investigation and Enforcement (IRC) Report – OIE Program Manager Robbie Dean**

Mr. Dean presented the IRC report for approval. The IRC recommended 3 cases for dismissal, 5 cases for formal complaints, and 4 cases for letters of caution.

MOTION: Mr. Hodge made a motion to approve the IRC report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox, which carried unanimously.

E. Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report (ODC) – Alexis Bell, Esq.

Mrs. Bell presented the ODC Report as information only. Since June 18, 2025, ODC has closed 4 cases and 14 cases have closed since the beginning of this year. There are no appeals pending. 23 cases are currently open with 16 cases pending agreements or hearings and 7 cases pending rescheduling.

8. Application Hearing-Funeral Establishments

a. New Facility

B.R. Vereen Burials and Cremations-Loris-Ja-Novice B. Greene-Richardson

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve the new facility with Ms. Ja-Novice B. Greene-Richardson as manager.

Mr. B. R. Vereen and Ja-Novice B. Greene-Richardson were sworn in. Both testified and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to accept the application of the facility, and accept the application as manager, pending final inspection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson, which carried unanimously.

9. Application Hearings-Funeral Director and/ or Embalmer Applications

a. Licensure by Endorsement

Dean Austin Canler

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete. Ms. Mickens informed the Board that Mr. Canler has not been licensed in the state of Kentucky for 5 years, therefore his application cannot be approved at staff level.

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

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to enter executive session, with the addition of Mrs. Mickens, for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price, which carried unanimously.

Executive Session

MOTION: Mr. Pratt made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

MOTION: Mr. Hodge made a motion to approve Mr. Canler's application by endorsement under the conditions of one year of apprenticeship in South Carolina, with a requirement of completing an additional twenty-five cases for funeral directing, and twenty-five cases of embalming under South Carolina's standards due to not being licensed for five years. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

Douglas Gordan Shaw

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete. Ms. Mickens informed the Board that Mr. Shaw has not been licensed in the state of North Carolina for 5 years therefore his application cannot be approved at staff level.

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

MOTION: Mrs. Driggers made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hodge, which carried unanimously.

Executive Session

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Driggers, which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Hodge made a motion to approve Mr. Shaw's application by endorsement, upon passing the South Carolina State law exam. Mr. Cox seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Extension of Apprenticeship

1. Tecorrie Antawn Garvin

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete but cannot be approved at staff level. Ms. Mickens informed the Board that Mr. Garvin was not licensed within 5 years and that staff is requesting direction on whether his application should be considered an initial application or an extension of his apprenticeship.

Mr. Garvin and I. S. Leevy Johnson were sworn in. Both testified and responded to the questions from the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Driggers, which carried unanimously.

Executive Session

MOTION: Mr. Pratt made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to approve the initial apprenticeship application for Mr. Garvin. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hodge, which carried unanimously.

2. Elizabeth Jordan Jacobs

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete but cannot be approved at staff level. Ms. Mickens informed the Board that Ms. Jacobs completed her apprenticeship more than 5 years ago and that she was seeking an extension of time to take her Funeral Director license exam.

Ms. Jacobs was sworn in. She testified and answered questions from the Board

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. Mr. Price seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Executive Session

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pratt, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

MOTION: Mr. Hodge made a motion to approve a second extension of Mrs. Jacob's original apprenticeship, with no additional requirements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price, which carried unanimously.

3. Steven T. Nathaniel

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete but cannot be approved at staff level. Ms. Mickens informed the Board that Mr. Nathaniel was not licensed within 5 years and that staff is requesting direction.

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price, which carried unanimously.

Executive Session

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to accept Mr. Nathaniel's Embalmer Apprenticeship application to start over. He must meet all of the apprenticeship requirements to become an embalmer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson, which carried unanimously.

Lunch Break

MOTION: Mrs. Driggers made a motion to excuse Mr. Pratt from the remainder of the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

10. Approval of FAQ

Attorney Duncan informed the Board that staff have received several inquiries regarding multiple funeral homes being run out of the same location. Attorney Duncan presented the Board with a proposed Frequently Asked Question and a proposed answer to be placed on the website:

MOTION: Mrs. Driggers made a motion to enter executive session to seek legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price, which carried unanimously.

Executive Session

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to exit executive session. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to deny the FAQ. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

13. Public Comments

None

14. Adjournment

Mr. Evans called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Evans, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the **June 18, 2025** meeting of the South Carolina Funeral Board at 3:05 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held **June 19, 2025**.