

# SC Board of Medical Examiners - Respiratory Care Committee Minutes

Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP) Committee Meeting  
January 10, 2025 10:00 a.m. WebEx Meeting  
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building  
110 Centerview Drive Columbia, South Carolina 29210

## **Meeting Called to Order**

*The meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act by notice emailed to the media and all other requesting persons, organizations, or news media. In addition, notice was posted on the Board's website and on the bulletin board located at the main entrance of the Kingstree Building where the Board office is located. The meeting was held via videoconference and the public who wished to attend could email [medboard@llr.sc.gov](mailto:medboard@llr.sc.gov) for login instructions.*

### **Committee Members Present:**

Joseph Ariale, RCP  
Michael Fields, MD  
Sonya Bracone, RCP, Secretary  
Rahul Argula, M.D.  
April Sawyer, RCP, Vice Chair  
Vinod Jona, MD

### **Absent Committee Members:**

Laurel Glover, RCP, Chair

### **S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Staff Present:**

Candace Parnell, RCP Program Administrative Assistant  
Robynn Devine, Program Coordinator I  
Jessica Beise, Board Executive  
Bob Horner, Advice Counsel

### **Also Present**

Tina Behles, Court Reporter, Capital City Reporting, LLC.  
South Carolina Board of Long-Term Health Care Administrators  
Department of Public Health  
South Carolina Board of Nursing Practice and Standards Committee

## **Minutes Friday, January 10, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. (Quorum present)

Review and adoption of agenda.

Approval of October 11, 2024 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded; motion carried.

## SC Board of Medical Examiners - Respiratory Care Committee Minutes

**Respiratory Care in Skilled Nursing Facilities:** The South Carolina Board of Long-Term Health Care Administrators (LTHCA) Board Members Sarah Doctor Greenwade and Elizabeth Schaper and Board Executive Patrice Deas and South Carolina Department of Public Health representatives Amber Capers and Victoria Jackson, alongside Michelle Haney, South Carolina Licensed RCP, Elsa Fludd, North Carolina Licensed RCP, discussed some of the issues with the nursing staff's lack of education and experience concerning high-complex respiratory care patients. Policies and regulations were discussed concerning the implementation of staffing a therapist within the facility. Ms. Fludd indicated 8 hours would be required in the state of North Carolina.

Discussion was had on how to educate staff within these facilities in South Carolina. Ms. Haney proposed having policies and procedures in place indicating this is not allowed. There was a discussion about what is acceptable and not acceptable for an RN within their scope. Bob Horner, advice counsel, explained that there is a pathway within the regulations where an RN can submit additional formal training and have it signed off by the board to perform respiratory care duties without holding a respiratory care license.

Sonya Bracone, RCP stated policies and procedures are regulated through DHEC concerning the skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and CMS guides the financial aspect. LTC administrators noted they are guided by the Department of Public Health (DPH) Reg. 61.17 which does not specify for a therapist. Most SNFs will not take residents on ventilators unless covered under the medically complex waiver through the Medicaid program; otherwise, these residents will be sent to the hospital for proper care. Most SNFs will care for those residents that are stable. Most SNFs provide an annual competency for RNs and LPNs to be checked off on RCP competencies.

By consensus the committee agreed a regulatory change would be needed through DPH to Reg. 61.17 and also to include legislation addressing staffing requirements and training, potentially when regulatory review occurs in 2026.

### **Scope of Registered Nurse to initiate or adjust respiratory adjuncts such as BiPAP and CPAP:**

The South Carolina Nursing Practice Standards Committee group along with Dawn Keller and Megan Flannery, Esq. discussed training issues concerning equipment settings performed by RNs. Dawn Keller suggests an advisory opinion for all South Carolina RNs be initiated concerning tasks. The committee will table this discussion until further could be taken of the Nursing Standards Advisory Opinion provided by advice counsel.

### **Respiratory Care Practitioners with Temporary Licenses applying for Permanent Licensure:**

Approval of temporary to permanent licensees. Motion to approve all applications with no issues. Motion seconded; motion carried. The applicants with "yes" answers (3) were addressed individually. Motion to approve the applicants with "yes" answers. Motion seconded; motion carried.

**Application Hearing** – The committee made the motion to go into a closed session to discuss Abby Whalen's application. Motion carried. The committee subsequently made a go into executive session for legal advice. Motion seconded; motion carried. The committee motioned to come out of executive session. Motion seconded; motion carried. Motion to deny Ms. Whalen's application until the discipline with the North Carolina RCP Board is resolved and Applicant is no longer under discipline/probation, at which time Ms. Whalen would be eligible to re-apply for licensure. Motion seconded; motion carried.

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**Committee Chair Report and Administrator's Report:** April Sawyer, Vice Chairperson reminded the committee of the next April 11<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Motion to adjourn; motion carried.

**Next meeting: Friday, April 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx.**