

THE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025 AT 8:30 A.M.

SYNERGY BUSINESS PARK, KINGSTREE BUILDING, LOWCOUNTRY ROOM
110 CENTERVIEW DRIVE,
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29210

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building 110 Centerview Drive Columbia, SC 29210 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.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christopher C. Wright, MD, President
Robert Kosciusko, MD
Jennifer R. Root, MD
Theresa R. Mills-Floyd, MD
George S. Dilts, MD
Natalie Gregory, MD
James McClain, MD
Marcelo Hochman, MD
Linda Tjiattas-Saleski, DO
Mary J. Richardson, Public Member

Excused Absence: Richard Howell

SCDLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Horner, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Jessica Beise, Board Administrator
Robynn Devine, Program Coordinator
Tina Brown, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Rowland P. Alston, III, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Prentiss Shealey, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Ratisha Brisbon, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Ashley Bailey McNair, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Holly Beeson, Esq., Office of Governmental Affairs
Virginia Wetzal, Office of Governmental Affairs

Jennifer Hollis, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Lolei Bristow, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Jennifer Cooper, Paralegal, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Pete Siepert, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
David Escalante, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Billie Chambers, Division of Operations Technology and Security
Court Reporter: Tina F. Behles, CVR-M

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Dr. Christopher Wright at 8:37 a.m. on Monday, February 3, 2025.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF ABSENCES/MINUTES

Motion to adopt the agenda. Motion carried. The following absences were approved with approval of the agenda: Dr. Howell excused. A quorum was present for both days. Motion to approve the November 4, 2024 meeting minutes; motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Christopher Wright welcomed new Board Members Natalie Gregory, Lindsay Tjiattas-Saleski, and James McClain.

Legislative Update – Virginal Wetzel and Holly Beeson, Office of Governmental Affairs provided a legislative update. No motions made.

MDC Appointments—Dr. Wright referred the discussion to Board Executive Beise. Board Executive Beise advised the Board that there were 13 vacancies that are on the list because there are term expirations. There are also eight members that are eligible for reappointment. The Board members can make suggestions for recommendations from their districts or choose from the CVs provided by interested physicians.

IRC Member Appointment(s)—Dr. DeHoll is resigning from the IRC, so the other IRC members suggested Dr. Jim Chow as a potential replacement. Dr. Chow served for twelve years on the BME. Motion made to appoint Dr. Chow to the IRC vacancy. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Licensing Update – Board Executive Beise provided an update to the board.

Physician Assistant Advisory Committee – Last meeting was held January 10, 2025. At the September meeting the Committee discussed standardizing the procedures that could be used with the Modified Scopes for Aesthetic procedures regarding the requirements relating to competency

and training for the PA and the Supervising physician. Motion made to accept the recommended Scope of Practice requirements for aesthetic procedures. Motion carried. Motion made to accept the Minutes from the PA Committee. Motion carried.

Respiratory Care Practitioner Advisory Committee – Last meeting held January 10, 2025 at which representatives from the Board of Nursing and the Department of Public Health to talk about respiratory care in skilled nursing facilities and respiratory care. Motion made to approve the July 12, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

Acupuncture Advisory Committee – Board Executive Beise advised that an E-Blast will be sent seeking members for the Acupuncture Advisory Committee. She is seeking clarification from the Board regarding the specific portion of the law that specifies a Member-At-Large for the Acupuncture Committee. Advice Counsel Horner communicated the language in the law to the Board. Motion made to interpret the statute as meaning that the Member-At-Large seat should be a non-acupuncturist layman. Motion carried.

Athletic Trainers Committee – Last meeting held January 14, 2025. The Committee discussed their upcoming national and statewide meetings for Athletic Trainers and invited LLR BME staff to attend. They also discussed the implementation of background checks that will be required for newly applying Athletic Trainers. They would like to move forward with having background checks as part of their initial renewal which will be in 2026. Motion made to accept the Athletic Trainer Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion made that all athletic trainer applicants will be required to have a background check. Motion carried.

Joint Podiatry Surgery Advisory Committee-Last meeting held November 15, 2024. There are no minutes to present, but the next scheduled meeting will be on May 16, 2025.

FSMB Annual Meeting –The meeting will be in April 2025. There are potential scholarships for staff members and Board members who might be interested in attending. Ms. Beise requested that Advice Counsel, herself and the Program Coordinator from staff attend and well as anyone on the Board who is interested in attending. Motion made that the Board sponsor the Advice Counsel and Administrative staff to attend the meeting. Motion carried.

Anesthesiologist Assistant Committee – Last meeting held on October 24, 2024. The next scheduled meeting of the committee conflicts with the SCMA and FSMB meeting dates so Board Executive. Beise will coordinate to reschedule the Anesthesiologist Assistant Committee meeting.

Election Update – Reviewed the election updates. The Board held an election for the Congressional District 7 seat, which was forwarded to the Governor’s Office. We have not yet received an appointment on that election.

Renewal Updates—All of the renewals for the Medical Board licenses, except for Athletic Trainers are coming up this year. Validation emails will be sent out to licensees prior to the renewals starting

to confirm email addresses. There will be a renewal web page that will have information about how to renew and FAQs regarding the renewal process.

Upcoming Meetings: May 5-6, August 4-5, November 3-4 – upcoming meeting dates noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL (ODC)/ OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT (OIE) REPORT [CLOSED]

Motion to closed session; motion carried.

Ms. Prentiss Shealey, Esq. from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) gave a brief overview of the Agency's complaint process and how cases get brought before the Board.

Investigation and Enforcement Board Report – Ratisha Brisbon, OIE presented a total of 54 cases for Dismissal, 18 Letters of Caution and 9 Formal complaints.

Dismissals

54 Dismissals were presented to the board. Motion to approve dismissals. Motion carried.

Letters of Caution

18 Letters of Caution were presented to the board. After brief Board discussion, a motion was made to upgrade Case # 70 (2024-518) from Letter of Caution, to a Formal Complaint. Motion carried. The Board had further questions regarding some of the cases so Motion to executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session; motion carried. Motion to approve the 17 remaining Letters of Caution. Motion carried

Formal Complaints

9 Formal Complaints were presented to the board in addition to the one previously approved. Motion to accept formal complaints. Motion carried.

Ms. Shealey, ODC presented the Triage report detailing recommendations from the Informal Conference for review and approval. For the first case, Motion made to elevate case #2023-281 from Letter of Caution to a Formal Complaint. Motion carried. Motion made to approve case #2023-382 as a Dismissal. Motion carried. Motion made to elevate case #2020-540 from Dismissal to a Letter of Caution. Motion carried.

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BREAK (10:41a.m. to 10:49 a.m.)

Motion to close session; motion carried.

MOA FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE NUMBER 2023-592 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session; motion carried. Motion to accept the MOA, find violations of 40-47-110 (B)(9) and (B)(24) with sanctions of a private reprimand and investigative costs of \$420.00.

Motion to open session; Motion carried.

JOSEPH KING, M.D., APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE (WebEx)

After presentation by the Applicant a motion was made to approve application for licensure; motion carried.

ALEJANDRO ESPAILLAT, M.D., APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE

After presentation by the Applicant a motion was made to approve application for licensure; motion carried.

BREAK (11:34 a.m. to 11:46 a.m.)

Motion to open session; motion carried.

DEANA LASHLEY, D.O., REQUEST TO SUPERVISE AN ADDITIONAL PRACTITIONER (WebEx)

Dr. Deana Lashley, D.O., MUSC, Child Abuse Pediatric Clinic, request supervise an additional APP pursuant to S.C. Code section 40-47-195(D)(1)(c) . Dr. Lashley presented that this request was being made because the MUSC Pediatric Child Abuse Clinic has a physician retiring in March 2025 who shares in supervising of 7 APPs Child Abuse Pediatric Clinic. Dr. Lashley requested an exception to the current law to allow her to supervise 7 midlevel practitioners only until such time as MUSC can hire a new pediatrician who is board certified in child abuse pediatrics. Motion to approve the request until such time as MUSC hires a new qualified physician. Motion carried.

LUNCH BREAK (11:54 a.m. to 1:10 p.m.)

Motion to close session; motion carried.

MOA FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE NUMBER 2024-80 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session; motion carried. Motion to accept the MOA, find violations of 40-47-110 (B)(9), -110(B)(3) and -

110(B)(14), with a sanction of a private reprimand and payment of investigative costs in the amount of \$80.00.

MOA FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE NUMBER 2023-409 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session; motion carried. Motion to accept the MOA, find violations of 40-47-110 (B)(7), (B)(9) and (B)(14) with sanctions of a private reprimand, must complete a four-hour CME course in Ethics, and pay the investigative costs of \$120.00. Motion carried.

MEDICAL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Board reviewed Letters of Interest from candidates to fill the vacant MDC seats for Districts One through Seven. After discussion, there was a motion to appoint the physicians agreed upon from the discussion. Motion to appoint Dr. Harry Simms Hardin IV, Dr. Hunter E. Woodall and Henry D Salter III, Dr. Jeff Cashman, Dr. Brian C Thurston, Dr. Lee Carson, and Dr. Matthew D. Cannon, Dr. Edward Thomas Lewis III, Dr. Joshua Stranton, Dr. Vinod Jona, Dr. Peggy Bourguillon, and Dr. Christopher Gross to the Medical Disciplinary Committee. Motion carried.

Motion made to reappoint all the currently serving members who are returning but not expired. Motion carried.

ASHWATH GURUMURTHI M.D., APPLICANT FOR ACADEMIC LICENSURE (WebEx)

Motion to open session; motion carried. After presentation by the Applicant a motion was made to approve Applicant for an academic license; motion carried.

KARIM REBEIZ, M.D., APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE (WebEx)

After presentation by the Applicant a motion was made to approve Applicant for an academic license; motion carried.

Motion to close session; motion carried.

MOA, CASE NUMBER 2023-443 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session; motion carried. Motion to accept the MOA and admitted violation of 40-47-110(B)(4) with sanctions of a private reprimand, investigative costs of \$230.00, and other terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board.

MOA, CASE NUMBER 2023-564 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session; motion carried. Motion to accept the MOA, find violations of 40-47-110(B)(4) with sanctions of a private reprimand and investigative costs of \$130.00

Accepted terms of the MOA.

MOA, CASE NUMBER 2018-696 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried.

Motion out of executive session; motion carried. Motion to accept the terms of the MOA, find violations of 40-47-110(B)(3), (B)(9), and (B)(14) with a sanction of permanent revocation of license. Motion carried.

Motion to open session; motion carried.

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried.

Motion out of executive session; motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 4:52 p.m.; motion carried.