

THE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 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: Edward Grove, MD

SCDLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Horner, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Jessica Beise, Board Administrator
Marsheika Armstrong, 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
Casey Smith, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Ratisha Brisbon, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Ashley Bailey McNair, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
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
Ryan Belton, 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 8:39 a.m. on Monday, November 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. Grove excused. A quorum was present. Motion to approve the August 4, 2025 meeting minutes; motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

RPP Internal Review Committee (IRC)—Bob Horner, Esq. asked for volunteers from the Board that were willing to serve as needed with the RPP IRC. Drs. Dilts, Tjiattas-Saleski, and Wright volunteered to serve. No motion made.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Renewal Update – Board Executive Beise provided an update to the board regarding current renewals for Acupuncture, Physician Assistants and Anesthesiologists Assistants.

Physician Assistant Advisory – Last meeting held July 11, 2025. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2026.

Respiratory Care Practitioner Advisory Committee – Last meeting held October 10, 2025. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2026. The RCP Committee has been working on defining respiratory care acts and nursing acts as it relates to patient care. There may be some proposed regulations in the future to help better define the distinction.

Athletic Trainers Committee – Last meeting held July 9, 2025. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2026.

Acupuncture Advisory Committee – There has been no recent meeting because all of the seats of this Committee have expired. Ms. Beise received Letters of Interest from potential candidates that responded to an E-Blast that was sent out regarding the open seats. Their Letters of Interest and CVs were submitted to the Board members for review. Motion made to appoint Treayor Smith and Dawn Garrison to two of the Acupuncturists seats. Motion carried. Motion made to appoint Dr. Demetrios Papadopoulos to the Physician seat. Motion carried.

Anesthesiologist Assistant Committee – Last meeting held October 23, 2025. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026. The committee discussed some of the language on the application forms and agreed to have LLR staff update the language on the forms used for this license.

Joint Podiatry Surgery Advisory Committee-The next scheduled meeting will be on November 21, 2025.

Election Update – Election ballots for Congressional Districts Three and Four, and the At-Large Seat were emailed out to eligible voters on November 3, 2025. The voting will be open for 15 calendar days.

FSMB Annual Meeting –The next Federation of State Medical Boards meeting will be held in Baltimore, MD April 30-May 2, 2026. There are potential scholarships for staff members and Board members who might be interested in attending.

Upcoming 2026 Meeting dates: February 2-3, May 4-5; August 3-4, November 2-3 – upcoming meeting dates noted.

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

Motion to closed session; motion carried.

Investigation and Enforcement Board Report – Ashley Bailey-McNair, OIE presented a total of 94 cases for approval: 68 cases for Dismissal, 19 Letters of Caution and 7 Formal complaints.

Dismissals

68 Dismissals were presented to the board in addition to the three previously approved. Motion to approve dismissals. Motion carried.

Letters of Caution

19 Letters of Caution were presented to the board. After brief Board discussion, a motion was made to downgrade Cases #s 72 (2025-391), 80 (2025-16), and 82 (2025-63) from Letters of Caution to Dismissals. Motion carried. Motion to approve the 16 remaining Letters of Caution. Motion carried.

Formal Complaints

7 Formal Complaints were presented to the board. Motion to approve formal complaints. Motion carried.

BREAK (9:45 a.m. to 10:04 a.m.)

Ms. Shealey, ODC presented the Triage report detailing recommendations for 3 cases from the Informal Conference for review and approval. For the first case, Motion made to elevate case #2025-24 from Dismissal to a Letter of Caution. Motion carried. Motion made to approve case #2024-47 as a Letter of Caution. Motion carried. Motion made to approve case #2018-654 as a Letter of Caution. Motion carried 9 to 1.

Ms. Shealey presented Dr. Anne Cook as a potential candidate for the In-House Medical Reviewer position. Motion made to appoint Dr. Cook as the new In-House Medical Reviewer. Motion carried. Ms. Shealy and the Board members discussed procedures for receiving information from RPP. No motions.

Motion to open session; motion carried.

BENEDICT OKWARA, M.D., APPLICANT FOR REINSTATEMENT

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of Executive session; motion carried. Motion to allow applicant to proceed with licensure as long as he enters into an agreement that he will fulfill the same requirements with the South Carolina Board that was required by the North Carolina Medical Board, along with passing the SPEX exam. Motion carried.

ELIUD IRIZARRY CLAUDIO, M.D., APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE

Motion to proceed with licensure. Motion carried.

Motion to closed session; motion carried.

SCOTT SMITH, M.D., CASE NUMBER 2023-254 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of Executive session; motion carried. Motion to accept the memorandum of agreement, find violations of S.C. Code

sections 40-47-110 (B)(9), -110(B)(17 and 40-1-110 (1)(B), issue a public reprimand, assess fine of \$20,000, and pay investigative costs of \$3,130.00 with the following restrictions: no issuing of controlled substance for three years, no telemedicine practice for three years, and required continuing medical education of a recordkeeping course and a prescribing course of two-day duration. Each course must be approved by the Board. Motion carried.

MOA, CASE NUMBER 2024-427 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of Executive session; motion carried. Motion to accept the memorandum of agreement, find violations of S.C. Code section 40-47-113, issue a private reprimand, and pay investigative costs of \$1,500.00, and required to take a four-hour prescribing course approved by the Board. Motion carried.

MOA, CASE NUMBER 2024-669 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of Executive session; motion carried. Motion for the Temporary Order of Suspension to remain in place until Respondent has met terms and conditions known to the Board and the Respondent. If Respondent complies with the terms and conditions known to Respondent and the Board, Respondent must appear before the Board to consider the MOA and possible lifting temporary suspension. Motion carried.

LUNCH BREAK (3:18 p.m. to 3:29 p.m.)

Motion to open session; motion carried.

Dr. Keith Lobel, M.D., Request to Waive Limitation on Number of APRNs under S.C. Code 40-47-195 (D)(1)(c).

Motion to grant the waiver to increase the number of advanced practice providers supervised as primary supervising physician from six to ten. Motion carried 7 to 3.

Motion to closed session; motion carried.

OKECHUKWU DIMKPA, M.D., MOA, CASE NUMBER 2020-01 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of Executive session; motion carried. Motion to accept the memorandum of agreement, find violations of S.C. Code sections 40-47-110 (B)(3) and 40-47-111(A), issue a public reprimand and assess investigative costs of \$280.00 along with an indefinite suspension.

Motion to open session; motion carried.

GREENVILLE DETENTION CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM—WAIVER REQUEST TO PRESCRIBE SCHEDULE II/III NARCOTICS VIA TELEMEDICINE

Motion to grant the waiver exemption for first-encounter telemedicine to prescribe Schedule II-IV Controlled Substances at the detention center for the specific APPs and physicians that were submitted to the Board pursuant to S.C. Code section 40-47-37(C)(7)(b)(iv). Motion carried.

REQUEST TO BE RELEASED FROM BOARD ORDER [CLOSED]

Motion to closed session; motion carried. Motion to grant release from Board Order; motion carried. Motion to open session; motion carried.

MELISSA ELEN, M.D., APPLICANT FOR ACADEMIC LICENSE

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of Executive session; motion carried. Motion to grant the Academic license to enter Pediatric dermatologic practice. However, she will need to submit a case log the Board by June 30, 2026 showing that at least over 50% of your patient practice is in pediatric dermatology. Motion carried.

STEVE ODEH, M.D., CONSIDERATION OF SPECIALTY BOARD UNDER S.C. CODE 40-47-32 (D)(10)

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of Executive session; motion carried. Motion to not accept the American Board of Physicians and Surgeons certification. Applicant is required to the SPEX exam. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment. Motion to nominate Dr. Papadopoulos to serve as the Acupuncture Advisory Committee Physician Member. Motion carried. Board Executive Beise provided an update on the election. No motion made.

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 5:43 p.m.; motion carried.