

SC Board of Medical Examiners - Respiratory Care Committee Minutes

Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP) Committee Meeting
October 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 for login instructions.

Committee Members Present:

Joseph Ariale, RCP
Michael Fields, MD
Sonya Bracone, RCP, Secretary
April Sawyer, RCP, Vice Chair
Vinod Jona, MD
Tracy Cook, RCP
Karen Simmons, RCP

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

Candace Parnell, RCP Program Administrative Assistant
Temeka Atkinson, Administrative Coordinator
Jessica Beise, Board Executive
Bob Horner, Advice Counsel

Also Present

Tina Behles, Court Reporter, Capital City Reporting, LLC.
Holly Lever, SCSRC Secretary, Program Committee/Exhibitors

Minutes Friday, October 10, 2025

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. (Quorum present)

Review and adoption of the agenda.

Approval of July 11, 2025, minutes. Motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded; motion carried.

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 (2) were addressed individually. Motion to approve the applicants with "yes" answers. Motion seconded; motion carried.

Respiratory Care and Nursing Discussion: Joseph Ariale, Jr, brought to the committee his concerns about free-standing Emergency Departments having temporary ventilators in place without the presence of Respiratory Technicians and the required need for an exemption to initiate proper

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care. Karen Simmons added that Roper St. Francis uses paramedics in their free-standing ERs with some exceptions. April Sawyer mentioned that while creating the Advisory Opinion, please include ventilators, CPAP, BiPAP, and all equipment that applies pressure.

The committee discussed drafting regulations, and a compilation of all feedback be formalized as a draft for review during the January meeting, and have the stakeholders attend.

Request for Clarification on Scope of Practice: Nasal Specimen collection for viral antigen testing was in question, and the committee agreed that it to be a part of their scope.

Committee Chair Report and Administrator's Report: Board Executive Beise spoke briefly on the 2026 proposed meeting dates and whether there will be an in-person meeting. The committee agreed to meet once a year, making July 10, 2026, the in-person meeting date. Motion to approve the dates. Motion seconded; motion carried.

Motion to adjourn; motion carried.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Friday, January 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx.