

SC Board of Medical Examiners - Respiratory Care Committee Minutes

Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP) Committee Meeting
January 9, 2026, 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, Vice Chair
Sonya Bracone, RCP, Secretary
Rahul Gupta Argula, MD
Tracy Cook, RCP
Karen Simmons, RCP

Absent Committee Members:

Laurel Glover, RCP, Chair
Vinod Jona, MD

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

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

Also Present

Tina Behles, Court Reporter, Capital City Reporting, LLC.
Harrison Saunders, Esq. Atty for Cari Shaw
Julie Wood, Director of Respiratory at MUSC-Charleston
Tripp Grooms, Executive Director of Operations for MUSC Health Charleston Division
Samantha Griffin, MUSC Staff

Minutes Friday, January 9, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10:27 a.m. (Quorum present)

Review and adoption of the agenda.

Approval of January 9, 2026, minutes. Motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded; motion carried.

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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 Erin Hennig as one of the applicants with “yes” answers. Motion seconded; motion carried. Additional information is required of Cilianis Lauriston for review.

Application Hearing – The committee made the motion to go into a closed session to discuss Cari Shaw’s application. Motion carried. The committee subsequently went 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 approve Mrs. Shaw’s application with the following conditions: (1) the employer would submit job performance reports to the board two times per year for a period of two years. (2) Worksite approval would be required for a period of two years. Motion seconded; motion carried.

Provider Exemption for Ventilation by Non-Respiratory Care: Julie Wood, RCP Director, MUSC, proposed a care model that would allow non-respiratory therapists in freestanding Emergency Department to monitor and manage invasive and non-invasive ventilation under the guidance of a real-time virtual RT through the telehealth platform. Tripp Grooms, Executive Director of Operations, MUSC, spoke briefly from the operational standpoint of the importance of freestanding Emergency Departments. After extensive discussion, the committee requested additional information (training protocols, organizational-specific data, etc.) The committee discussed a special called meeting, if possible, to review the exemption request.

Motion to adjourn; motion carried.