

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.

VIA WEB-EX VIDEO CONFERENCE

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
Jim Chow, MD
George S. Dilts, MD
Marcelo Hochman, MD
Linda Tjiattas-Saleski, DO
Edward Grove, MD
Mary J. Richardson, Public Member

Excused Absences: Natalie Gregory, MD; Jennifer Root, MD; Theresa Mills-Floyd, 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
Virginia Wetzel, Office of Governmental Affairs
Ratisha Brisbon, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Ashley Bailey McNair, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Jennifer Hollis, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Lolei Bristow, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Valerie Eady, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Jennifer Harris, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement

Court Reporter: Nadine Garrett

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Dr. Christopher Wright at 8:32 a.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026.

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. Gregory, Dr. Root, and Dr. Mills-Floyd excused. A quorum was present. Motion to approve the November 3, 2025 meeting minutes with edits; motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Year in Review and 2026 Preview – Provided a brief update on the number of licenses issued in 2025 compared to 2024, reviewed the number committee and board meetings held and the training received by staff. Noted 2026 will have renewals of athletic trainers for the first time and a new AI application.

Physician Assistant Advisory Committee-- Last meeting held January 9, 2026. Their next meeting is scheduled for July 2026. New Committee member was introduced and received training on reviewing Modified Scopes of Practice for Physician Assistants. They discussed a current vacancy on the Committee.

Respiratory Care Practitioner Advisory Committee – Last meeting held January 9, 2026. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2026. The RCP Committee will be discussing free standing ERs and virtual respiratory therapists at a Special called March meeting.

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

Acupuncture Advisory Committee – Dr. Wright made a motion to appoint Ellen Silver, ACUP to the Acupuncture Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Anesthesiologist Assistant Committee – Last meeting held October 23, 2025. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026.

Joint Podiatry Surgery Advisory Committee-The next meeting scheduled will be in May 2026.

FSMB 2026 Trauma-Informed Regulation Training from Theory to Practice— The next Federation of State Medical Boards meeting will be held in Baltimore, MD April 30-May 2, 2026. Also, the FSMB is conducting a training on trauma-informed regulation. There are potential scholarships for staff members and Board members who might be interested in attending

FSMB Conference – Travel Authorization—. Dr. Wright made a motion for LLR BME staff and BME Board members to be able to attend the FSMB meeting and the training on Trauma-Informed Regulation session. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meeting Dates –May 4-5, 2026 ; August 3-4, 2026 , November 2-3, 2026 – 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 93 cases for approval: 64 cases for Dismissal, 13 Letters of Caution, and 16 Formal complaints.

Dismissals

64 Dismissals were presented to the board. Motion to upgrade Case #2024-403 to a Letter of Caution from dismissal. Motion carried. Motion to approve the remaining 63 Dismissals and 1 additional Dismissal moved from Letter of Caution. Motion carried.

Letters of Caution

13 Letters of Caution were presented to the board. Motion to downgrade Case # 2025-258 from Letter of Caution to Dismissal. Motion carried. Motion to approve the 12 remaining Letters of Caution. Motion carried.

Formal Complaints

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

TRIAGE REPORT/INFORMAL CONFERENCES [CLOSED]

Ms. Shealey and Mr. Alston, ODC presented the Triage report detailing recommendations for 3 cases from the Informal Conference for review and approval. Motion made to issue a Letter of Caution for Case # 2024-711. Motion carried. Motion made to dismiss Case #2027-503. Motion carried. Motion made to issue as a Letter of Caution for Case #2025-75. Motion carried.

Motion to open session; motion carried.

**DR. DIRK ELSTON, MD, MUSC CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY,
REQUEST RE: ACADEMIC LICENSE OF MELISSA ELIN, MD**

Dr. Elston spoke to the BME regarding conditions placed on Dr. Elin's practice related to seeing dermatology patients. Dr. Elston explained the difficulty in enforcing such conditions as a practical matter. Specifically, Dr. Elston asked that the percentage restrictions on pediatric versus adult patients be lifted. Motion to Executive session. Motion carried. Motion to open session. Motion carried. Motion made to have the conditions initially applied remain in place for the next year, and to have Dr. Elston along with the Dean appear before the board in February 2027 with information related to the condition of 50 percent of Dr. Elin's practice be dedicated to pediatric patients. Motion carried.

SCOTT SMITH, MD —MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Dr. Smith presented to the BME that the restriction on telemedicine was unduly burdensome and that it would cost him the inability to take a position helping patients of South Carolina, as there was a telemedicine component related to that position. Motion to Executive session. Motion carried. Motion to open session. Motion carried. Motion to lift the telemedicine restrict from Dr. Smith's previous order; the rest of the components from the previous order will remain in place. Motion carried.

Motion to closed session. Motion carried.

FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE #2023-93 [CLOSED]. *Case was continued.*

JONATHAN HENDRZAK, DO, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE

Dr. Hendrzak appeared before the Board to request licensure. Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of Executive session to closed session; motion carried. Dr. Hendrzak withdrew his application for licensure.

CHRISTOPHER CHOW, MD, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE

Dr. Dilts made a motion to allow Dr. Chow to complete the application process. Motion carried.

FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE #2024-352 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of Executive session to closed session; motion carried. Motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement, find violations of South Carolina Code sections 30-1-110(B)(4), -110(B)(22), issue a private reprimand, require worksite approval, and terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board. Respondent must present to the Board at the conclusion of the terms and conditions for release from said terms. Motion carried.

Motion to come out of closed session into open session. Motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 2:10 p.m.; motion carried.