

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

MAY 4-5, 2026 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 Wright, MD, President
Jennifer Root, MD, Vice President
Theresa Mills-Floyd, MD
Natalie Gregory, MD
Jim Chow, MD
George S. Dilts, MD
Marcelo Hochman, MD
Linda Tjiattas-Saleski, DO
Edward Grove, MD
Brian Toston, MD
Mary J. Richardson, Public Member

SCDLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Horner, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Randall Dong, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Jessica Beise, Board Executive
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
Jennifer Hollis, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Lolei Bristow, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement
Valerie Eady, Investigator, Office of Investigations & Enforcement

Court Reporter: Tina Behles, CCR, CVR-M

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Dr. Christopher Wright at 8:41 a.m. on Monday, May 4, 2026.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF ABSENCES/MINUTES

Motion to adopt the agenda with amendments to delete the 2:00 p.m. Monday appearance per request. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the February 2, 2026 meeting minutes; motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Legislative Update –Mr. Horner provided the legislative update on behalf of Virginal Wetzel, Office of Governmental Affairs. No motions made.

EPT Policy—Trichomonas and BV (Bacterial Vaginosis)—Dr. Natalie Gregory presented information regarding establishing guidelines Expedited Partner Therapy by health professionals toward sexual partners of physician's patients with regards to Trichomonas and BV diagnosis. After discussion, motion to add Trichomonas to the list of organisms that can be treated under the existing Expedited Partner Therapy Board policy. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of the Protocol for Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists—Kacey Shealy, Board Executive for the Board of Pharmacy presented recommendations for approval from the Joint Vaccines Administered by Pharmacist Committee. After discussion, motion made to accept the recommend changes to the Protocol for Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists. Motion carried.

Appointment of Committee Members for CLIA-Waived Testing and Treatment by Pharmacists—Dr. Wright asked the BME members for three volunteers to participate in a CLIA-Waived Testing and Treatment by Pharmacists committee that is being established. Drs. Tjiattas-Saleski, Chow and Dilts volunteered to participate.

Appointment of Committee Members for Collaborative Practice by Pharmacists—Dr. Wright asked the BME members for three volunteers to participate in a Collaborative Practice by Pharmacists committee that is being established. Drs. Root, Toston, and Wright volunteered to participate.

RPP Questionnaire

Motion to closed session. Motion carried.

Motion for Board Members to review the South Carolina Recovering Professionals Program questionnaire and return to Counsel or the Board Administrator by July 1, 2026. Motion carried.

Motion to Amend the Agenda to move the Administrator's Report until later in the day. Motion carried.

Motion to open session. Motion carried.

Consideration of Waivers of the SPEX Exam under S.C. Code 40-47-32 (E)(2)

Waiver request by Gustav J. Lo, MD (WebEx)—Request to waive the SPEX examination presented by Dr. Lo. Motion to discuss request in executive session for purposes of legal advice. Motion carried.

Waiver requested by Steven Odeh, MD of Fayetteville, GA (WebEx)— Request to waive the SPEX examination presented by Dr. Odeh. Motion to discuss request in executive session for purposes of legal advice. Motion carried.

Waiver requested by Heloise Westbrook, MD of Owensboro, KY – Request to waive the SPEX examination presented by Dr. Westbrook. Motion to discuss request in executive session for purposes of legal advice. Motion carried.

BREAK (10:28 a.m. to 10:37 a.m.)

Motion to closed session. Motion carried.

MOA FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE #2020-457 [CLOSED]

Motion to executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session to closed session; motion carried. Motion to issue a private reprimand for violations of South Carolina Code sections 40-47-110(B)(3), -110(B)(9), -110(B)(14) and -110(B)(27). The respondent must complete a live prescribing course as approved by the Board; complete an eight-hour documentation course; and pay investigative costs of \$ 4,260.00. Motion carried.

SOF FINAL ORDR HEARING, CASE #2023-93 [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 40-47-110(B)(9). The Board issues a private reprimand with sanctions of an eight-hour CME prescribing course and pay the investigative costs of \$410.00. Additionally , Respondent must develop a formal informed consent process to address issues raised by respondent's prescribing outside of evidence-based guidelines. Additionally, respondent must institute random drug screens for patients.

FINAL ORDER HEARING CASE, DEFAULT HEARING, CASE #2024-655 [CLOSED]

Motion to revoke the respondent's license to practice medicine in South Carolina. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGREEMENT, CASE #2023-639 [CLOSED]

Motion to accept the Consent Agreement. Motion carried.

BREAK (1:25 pm to 1:34 pm)

Motion to open session; motion carried.

Lisa Maher—Physician Assistant Applicant for Licensure. Presentation by PA Mayer regarding request for licensure. Motion for (deferred) executive session to receive legal advice. Motion carried.

Cynthia Treharne--Physician Assistant Applicant for Licensure. Presentation by PA Treharne regarding request for licensure. Motion for (deferred) executive session to receive legal advice. Motion carried.

Kelly Strickland--Physician Assistant Applicant for Licensure. Presentation by PA Strickland. Motion for (deferred) executive session to receive legal advice. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

AI Applications for the Medical Board—Ms. Beise gave a brief overview. No motions made.

Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) meeting—Ms. Beise gave a brief overview of attendance at the FSMB meeting in Baltimore, MD.

Upcoming Renewals—Ms. Beise advised that the Medical Board is currently receiving and processing Limited Physician and Academic renewal licenses, as well as preparing for the first ever Athletic Trainer License renewals.

Athletic Trainer Regulatory Training—Travel Authorization—Ms. Beise advised that the Athletic Trainers Advisory Committee has asked that a representative be sent to the biennial Board of Certification in Athletic Training Regulatory two-day conference in Omaha, NE. Ms. Beise asked the Board consider a travel authorization for her to attend as the representative. Motion made to authorize the travel authorization. Motion carried.

Physician Assistant Advisory Committee – Ms. Beise advised that the last meeting was held January 9, 2026. The Board received an interest letter and CV from Dr. John Cull to replace Dr. Stephen Gardner on the PA Committee. Motion to appoint Dr. Cull to the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee; motion carried.

Respiratory Care Practitioner Advisory Committee – Ms. Beise advised that the last meeting was held April 10, 2026. Their next meeting is scheduled for July 2026.

- a. RCP Committee Recommendations for application approvals—Cari Shaw; Donald Smith

Mr. Horner presented two recommendations made by the RCP Committee to grant licensure to the applicants with conditions. Motion to approve licensure of both applicants with conditions. Motion carried.

Athletic Trainers Advisory Committee –The next meeting is scheduled for July 2026.

Anesthesiologist Assistant Committee –The next meeting is scheduled for October 2026.

Motion to closed session; motion carried.

Chiamaka Okeke, M.D.—Applicant for Academic Licensure (WebEx)

Motion to proceed with academic licensure. Motion carried.

FERNANDO XAVIER CASTRO, MD., MOA FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE #2024-510 [CLOSED]

Motion to executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session to closed session; motion carried. Motion to revoke the respondent's license to practice medicine in South Carolina. Motion carried.

MOA FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE #2023-608 [CLOSED]

Motion to executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session to closed session; motion carried. Motion to issue a private reprimand and assess investigative costs in the amount of \$80.00. Motion carried.

Executive session to receive legal advice on applicants seeking a waiver of the SPEX under S.C. Code 40-47-32 (E)(2) and PA applicants' requests for licensure

Motion to executive session to receive legal advice. Motion carried. Motion out of executive session; motion carried.

Waiver request by Gustav J. Lo, MD (WebEx)--Motion to grant the SPEX Waiver. Motion carried.

Waiver requested by Steven Odeh, MD of Fayetteville, GA (WebEx)-- Motion to grant the SPEX Waiver. Motion carried.

Waiver requested by Heloise Westbrook, MD of Owensboro, KY--Motion to grant the SPEX Waiver. Motion carried.

Lisa Maher--Physician Assistant Applicant for Licensure—Motion to proceed with licensure through either of the following pathways:

- a. Applicant successfully complete a clinical skills assessment/reentry program for physician assistants offered by the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians (CPEP). or
- b. Applicant may receive a license to practice, subject to the condition that she must practice under the direct onsite supervision of a physician for no less than 1,000 clinical hours, provided the supervising physician must perform chart review of no less than 10% of the physician assistant's charts to assess the physician assistant's clinical decision making, prescribing practices, and documentation. The supervising physician must submit a report to the Board either upon the completion of the 1,000 hours or every 6 months if the physician assistant has not completed the 1,000 clinical hours, and then submit a report to the Board upon the completion of the 1,000 hours.

Additionally, the applicant must obtain and maintain certifications through NCCPA. Motion carried.

Cynthia Treharne--Physician Assistant Applicant for Licensure—Motion to proceed with licensure through either of the following pathways:

- a. Applicant successfully complete a clinical skills assessment/reentry program for physician assistants offered by the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians (CPEP). or
- b. Applicant may receive a license to practice, subject to the condition that she must practice under the direct onsite supervision of a physician for no less than 1,000 clinical hours, provided the supervising physician must perform chart review of no less than 10% of the physician assistant's charts to assess the physician assistant's clinical decision making, prescribing practices, and documentation. The supervising physician must submit a report to the Board either upon the completion of the 1,000 hours or every 6 months if the physician assistant has not completed the 1,000 clinical hours, and then submit a report to the Board upon the completion of the 1,000 hours.

Additionally, the applicant must obtain and maintain certifications through NCCPA. Motion carried.

Kelly Strickland--Physician Assistant Applicant for Licensure—Motion to proceed with licensure through either of the following pathways:

- a. Applicant successfully complete a clinical skills assessment/reentry program for physician assistants offered by the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians (CPEP). or
- b. Applicant may receive a license to practice, subject to the condition that she must practice under the direct onsite supervision of a physician for no less than 1,000 clinical hours, provided the supervising physician must perform chart review of no less than 10% of the physician assistant's

charts to assess the physician assistant's clinical decision making, prescribing practices, and documentation. The supervising physician must submit a report to the Board either upon the completion of the 1,000 hours or every 6 months if the physician assistant has not completed the 1,000 clinical hours, and then submit a report to the Board upon the completion of the 1,000 hours.

Additionally, the applicant must obtain and maintain certifications through NCCPA. Motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 4:58 p.m.; motion carried.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Dr. Christopher Wright at 8:31 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Shreya Deoghare, M.D.—Applicant for Academic Licensure (WebEx)

Motion to proceed with academic licensure. Motion carried.

Chao Ji, M.D.—Applicant for Academic Licensure (WebEx)

Motion to proceed with academic licensure. Motion carried.

Motion to closed session; motion carried.

TRIAGE REPORT/INFORMAL CONFERENCES [CLOSED]

Ms. Shealey, ODC presented the Triage report detailing recommendations for five cases from the Informal Conference for review and approval. Motion made to issue a Letter of Caution for Case # 2023-27. Motion carried. Motion made for dismissal for Case #2024-41. Motion carried. Motion made to issue as a Letter of Caution for Case #2024-340. Motion carried. Motion made for dismissal for Case #2025-203. Motion carried. Case #2024-658, the Complainant sent a letter requesting to withdraw the complaint. Motion to accept withdrawal of complaint. Motion carried.

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 101 cases for approval: 64 cases for Dismissal, 15 Letters of Caution, and 22 Formal complaints.

Dismissals

64 Dismissals were presented to the board. Motion to move Case #2025-338 and Case #2025-680 from Letter of Caution to dismissal. Motion carried. Motion carried. Motion to approve at total of 65 Dismissals. Motion carried.

Letters of Caution

Motion to approve the 13 Letters of Caution. Motion carried.

Formal Complaints

22 Formal Complaints were presented to the board. Motion to approve Formal cCmplaints. Motion carried.

MOA FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE #2025-414 [CLOSED]

Motion to Executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session to closed session; motion carried. Motion to reject the MOA and issue a Letter of Caution. If Respondent chooses to apply in the future, the Board would require ten CME hours on ethics in addition to any CME required by the Acupuncture Society. Motion carried.

MOA FINAL ORDER HEARING, CASE #2025-406 [CLOSED]

Motion to executive session for legal advice; motion carried. Motion out of executive session to closed session; motion carried. Motion to accept the MOA, issue a private reprimand and impose other terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board. Respondent must return to the Board before being released from terms and conditions. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

SPEX Waiver Discussion

Board members discussed options to assess competency outside of the SPEX. Motion to accept the following criteria to qualify for waiver of SPEX: five continuous years of patient practice, a statement from the applicant's hospital, medical staff, or senior practice associates attesting to their competency, and review of NPDB report. Applicants may be required to appear before the Board if they fail to meet stated criteria.

PA Licensing/Reinstatement discussion

Discussion regarding potential requirements Physician Assistants applying for licensure after 3-5 year period of non-licensure or no clinical practice, or reactivation/reinstatement of a lapsed license of more than 3 years.

Ketamine and the Potential Registration of Ketamine Clinics

Discussion regarding formation of a committee to look at creating regulation/standards for hallucinogenic assisted therapies. Five members of the Board volunteered for the committee: Ms. Richardson; Drs. Root, Toston, Hochman and Grove. Motion to accept these Board members as part of the Ketamine Policy Committee. Motion carried.

Motion made to accept Dr. Stephen Gardner as an IRC member. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

Motion made to nominate Dr. Wright as President; motion carried. Motion made to nominate Dr. Root as Vice President; motion carried. Motion made to nominate Dr. Dilts as Secretary; motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 11:52 a.m.; motion carried.