

GEORGIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
2 MLK Jr. Drive, 11th Floor East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30341
Minutes for December 17, 2025 Board Meeting

Board Members present:

Dr. Cecil Cordle, President
Mr. Young Chang, Vice President
Dr. Michael Azzolin
Mr. Jim Bracewell, Consumer Member
Mr. Michael Brinson
Mr. Michael Farmer
Mr. Chuck Page
Mr. Dean Stone

Board Staff present:

Mr. Clint Joiner, Executive Director
Mr. Michael Karnbach, Director, GDNA
Mr. Alec Mathis, Deputy Director, GDNA
Mr. Damien Merrick, Special Agent, GDNA
Ms. Vanessa Alva, Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Itovia Evans, Deputy Director of Licensing
Mrs. Angela Johnson, Board Admin. Secretary

Visitors:

Ben Wright, The Hudson Group
Jennifer Sain, Walgreens
Christine Cline-Dahlman, Pharm Tech Forward
Beth Jarrett, Walmart
Brandon Brooks, Publix
Shannon Borsom, UGA Vet Training Hospital
Katie Johnston, Revelation
Max Turner, Troutman
Kate Snead, Guardian Pharmacy

Kamryn Wham, Georgia Hospital Association
Jonathan Marquess, GPhA/ AIP
Helen Sloat, Gold Dome Partners
Rebecca Rice, CVS
William Dahlman, Pharm Tech Forward
Heather Hughes, Publix
Amanda Survat, Eldercare Pharmacy
Trent Nesbit, McKesson
Jordan Khail, UGA College of Pharmacy

Open Session

President Cordle confirmed that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He then welcomed the members of the public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the Open and Executive Session minutes from the November 19, 2025, meeting. Mr. Farmer seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Report of Licenses Issued

Director Joiner reported that since the last meeting, the Board issued 415 licenses. The Board now administers 49,052 licenses and registrations, consisting of 18,777 pharmacist licenses, 7,020 facility licenses, and 23,255 technician registrations.

Mr. Stone made a motion to ratify the list of licenses issued. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Petitions for Rule Waiver or Variance

Rehabilitation Hospital of Newnan (License #PHH007951) – Waiver of Rule 480-13-.05(2)

Mr. Stone asked if anyone was present from Rehabilitation Hospital of Newnan at the meeting. It was established that none were present.

During the Board’s review of the petition, Board members expressed confusion regarding which specific rule provisions the facility is requesting to waive. The petition references Rule 480-13-.05(2), which governs equipment and supplies, but does not clearly identify the specific subsections for which a waiver is requested.

Board members initially believed the request involved a waiver of the laminar flow hood

requirement under Rule 480-13-.05(2)(b)(1), based on the narrative language in the petition discussing disposal of the laminar flow hood. Further discussion clarified that the facility appears to be seeking a waiver of the light-dark field inspection device requirement under Rule 480-13-.05(2)(b)(2), not the laminar flow hood itself. However, the petition narrative references both the laminar flow hood and the light-dark field device, creating ambiguity as to whether a waiver of both requirements is being requested, or the laminar flow hood is mentioned only as background context.

Several members noted that the petition lists general equipment items and cites the broader rule section, rather than clearly stating the specific rule subsection(s) for which a waiver is sought. Board members also questioned whether the facility previously obtained a waiver for the laminar flow hood requirement, given the statement that the hood has already been discarded.

Because the petition did not clearly and specifically identify the rule subsection(s) at issue, the Board determined that the request lacked sufficient clarity to act upon.

Mr. Stone made a motion to table the waiver request to obtain clarification on what sections/subsections of rule that the facility is asking to waive. Mr. Bracewell seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

Correspondences None.

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency – Mr. Michael Karnbach

Director Karnbach introduced special agent Damian Merrick, noting he recently graduated from the Academy and will cover the middle Georgia area.

He reported that GDNA has conducted 999 inspections year-to-date and received 427 complaints year-to-date.

Director Karnbach requested the Board provide guidance on inspection frequency, noting laws/rules require inspections but do not specify how often. Director Joiner noted this topic will be addressed in the policy manual updates.

Attorney General’s Report – Ms. Vanessa Alva

Ms. Vanessa Alva introduced herself as the newly assigned Assistant Attorney General to the Board, replacing Mr. Dowlin Ryals.

Executive Director’s Report – Mr. James Joiner

No Report.

Legal Services – Mr. James Joiner

No Report.

Election of Board Officers for Calendar Year 2026

Dr. Azzolin made a motion to nominate Young Chang to serve as Board President for 2026. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Brinson a motion to nominate Michael Farmer to serve as Board Vice President for 2026. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Old Business – Follow-up

Director Joiner reported that a revised policy manual had been uploaded to SharePoint, including Policy No. 4, regarding reinstatement of pharmacy technicians; Policy No. 9, regarding approval of Board-approved treatment providers; Policy No. 10, addressing licensure considerations for

pharmacy facilities undergoing a change of location or change of ownership; and Policy No. 11, regarding the timing of pharmacy facility inspections by GDNA. The policies were presented for Board consideration.

Reinstatement Pathway for Pharmacy Technicians- Proposed Board Policy Manual Update to Policy No. 4)

Director Joiner presented an update to Policy No. 4 to incorporate pharmacy technicians into the reinstatement guidelines.

Board Policy 4

Guidelines for Reinstatement of Pharmacists’ Licenses and Pharmacy Technician Registrations that have been Administratively Lapsed for Failure to Renew.

It is the Board’s Policy that licenses and registrations that have been Administratively Lapsed due to nonrenewal shall be reinstated ~~to include the following stipulations in the manner prescribed below:~~

1. Pay a reinstatement fee. Current fees may be found on the approved fee schedule.
2. Board may request to meet with licensee/registrant prior to license/registration being renewed.
3. Pharmacist applicants ~~M~~ must also follow the requirements ~~in~~ of Policy 2 if applicant has not been actively practicing pharmacy for the past four (4) years or longer.

Approved Treatment Providers – Proposed Board Policy No. 9 (new)

Director Joiner presented the proposed language of Policy No. 9.

Board Policy 9

Initial Approval and Periodic Review of Board-Approved Treatment Providers

This policy outlines the approval process for the initial recognition and periodic review of facilities, organizations, or individuals seeking designation as Board-approved treatment providers for Georgia-licensed Pharmacists or Pharmacy Technicians diagnosed with, or suspected of having, substance use disorders or mental health disorders.

The process outlined herein shall be applicable and available only to such facilities, organizations, or individuals located in the State of Georgia, or another United States jurisdiction. Foreign/international entities must contact the Board for details on the approval process for such entities.

Approval Process

Entities seeking designation as a Board-approved treatment provider shall submit an application based upon their organization type: Either an “Individual Provider or Small Group Provider Application” or an “Organization or Institution Application.” Applications shall be submitted electronically to the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy by email to pharmacyboard@dch.ga.gov.

Entities with multiple practice locations shall submit a separate application form for each such location from which it intends to provide Board-approved services.

Applications will be reviewed by the Board during the public session of the next meeting of the Board. In no event shall the Board review any application less than 15 days after receipt of same.

Applicants shall be notified of the Board’s decision in writing, and approved treatment providers shall be listed as such on the Board’s website inclusive of the date of expiration of such approval. Treatment providers are approved for a period of two years from the date of the written notice of approval.

Treatment providers approved by the Board must remain so approved during the entire treatment period of and Pharmacist or Pharmacy Technician. Evaluations or progress reports from providers whose Board approvals have expired may be rejected by the Board, even in the case where such provider was Board-approved at the time such treatment was initiated.

Facility Licensure Tail Period during CHOW/COL – Proposed Board Policy No. 10 (New)

Director Joiner presented the proposed language of Policy No. 10.

Board members discussed appropriate timeframes for a grace period, with suggestions ranging from a weekend window to up to one week, particularly in light of challenges associated with wholesaler deliveries, hospital relocations, and contract transitions. Board Members further noted that changes in ownership presented different regulatory and operational issues than changes in location, including the impact on license numbers, contracting, and required notifications.

Director Karnbach raised concerns regarding Policy 10, noting that pharmacy relocations are not instantaneous and may take several hours or days to complete. He explained that, under the current interpretation of the law, a facility may technically be in violation during a transition period when drugs are temporarily located at an unlicensed site. He recommended establishing a clearly defined temporary grace period to allow both locations to operate under the same license during the transition, while emphasizing the need for firm time limits to avoid creating an open-ended allowance.

Mr. Stone and President Cordle suggested that the policy would benefit from being divided into two separate policies—one addressing change of location and one addressing change of ownership—to provide greater clarity and avoid confusion.

The Board expressed consensus to separate the change-of-location and change-of-ownership provisions into distinct policies, which would include a defined and limited grace period for facilities undergoing a location change and agreed to further evaluate appropriate timelines and regulatory considerations for ownership changes.

Director Joiner agreed and proposed withdrawing the current version of Policy 10 and returning to the Board with two revised policies reflecting this distinction.

Inspection Frequency Policy – Proposed Board Policy No. 11 (New)

Director Joiner explained that Policy No. 11 was developed at the request of GDNA to establish a consistent inspection frequency for pharmacy facilities. He noted that while law and rules require inspections, they do not specify how often, making it difficult to explain workload and staffing needs to the legislature. The proposed policy would require that all Georgia-licensed pharmacy facilities subject to inspection be inspected no less frequently than every 18 months, allowing GDNA to better quantify and justify its inspection caseload.

Director Karnbach stated that the proposed timeframe would help balance inspection frequency across facility types. He explained that GDNA is also revising its inspection model to include condensed inspections following clean full inspections, allowing inspectors to focus resources more efficiently while maintaining oversight. He emphasized that the 18-month standard would not reduce accountability but would establish a clear baseline expectation.

Board members discussed how the new inspection model would operate, including whether leadership changes at a facility should affect inspection scheduling. Director Karnbach noted that inspections focus on compliance with requirements rather than leadership changes and that the new system would undergo a full year of implementation before being finalized.

Board Members agreed that having a written policy that establishes consistent expectations for inspection frequency, noting that it provides transparency, accountability, and a framework for future legislative and operational planning.

Board Policy 11

Timing of Pharmacy Facility Inspections by the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency
All pharmacy facilities licensed by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy and subject by law or rule to regular inspection shall be so inspected not less frequently than once every 18 months.

This policy shall apply only to those such facilities located in the State of Georgia.

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the policy manual as presented, excluding Policy No. 10. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

Review of Pharmacy/ Pharmacist Language – Rule 480-24-.06

President Cordle noted this item has been postponed/rescheduled for discussion in January.

C-II Pickup Identification Requires Clarification

Director Joiner reported that the proposed draft for this policy is still under development and he needed Board direction on implementation before drafting a rule. Director Karnbach noted that while an ID requirement may exist in law, it is not practically enforceable and is not typically a useful tool in inspections or investigations. Members discussed workflow burdens (including drive-through operations) and the increasing use of digital IDs. The Board agreed to table the topic.

Delegation of Administrative Authority to Approve Remote Order Entry Policies

Director Joiner stated that if the Board wishes to delegate administrative approval of certain permitting/policy items to staff, staff would need explicit direction in the form of a checklist. Dr. Azzolin agreed to provide a draft checklist for Board review. The Board agreed to revisit the matter after the checklist is developed.

Students Taking MPJE Earlier

The Board discussed allowing students to take the MPJE earlier (prior to graduation). Members indicated general support and agreed no rule change appears necessary; the Board expressed interest in hearing from the schools regarding implementation.

Drone Delivery (Pharmaceutical Autonomous Delivery Systems – PADS)

Mr. Farmer noted edits and deletions had been prepared but the version in the folder did not appear to be the most recent draft. The Board agreed to move the discussion to January.

President Cordle asked if anyone had any questions or comments. President Cordle reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting of the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at South University located at 709 Mall Blvd, Savannah, GA 31406.

He requested that any department or member of the public that wishes to be added to an upcoming meeting must submit the information prior to the Wednesday before the scheduled meeting to be considered for the agenda. He thanked the public for their attendance and participation.

Mr. Brinson made a motion and Mr. Stone seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(h) and § 43-1-2(h) to deliberate and to receive information on applications, investigative reports, and the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Michael Azzolin, Jim Bracewell, Michael Brinson, Young Chang, Cecil Cordle, Michael Farmer, Chuck Page, and Dean Stone.

Executive Session

Appearances: QT

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency - Mr. Michael Karnbach
No Report

Cognizant's Report – Mr. Young Chang

A35747	25-756	25-806	25-943	25-931	25-1175	25-8901	25-1199	25-541
25-757	25-765	25-766	25-768	25-771	25-805	25-910	25-912	

Attorney General's Report – Ms. Vanessa Alva, Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Alva presented the following consent orders for acceptance: BFI & VI
Counterproposals: N/A

Status Open Cases

ESP	AH	PAJ	AMC	VLR	RXH	TLFP	UU
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Executive Director's Report – Mr. Clint Joiner
No Report.

Legal Services – Mr. Clint Joiner

GPFI	XLI	CHS
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Applications

JM	TS	TD	BG	DW	DA	LH	MC	DP	BD	KW	TM	SG
LD	TB	TT	BM	HF	AE	MB	MN	JM	BR	KK	GS	LBCH

Notices of Discipline

AP	SP	BI	ESP	CPL	APU	XL	AHC	MMS	HSL	ZUL	WG
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Miscellaneous JR ML SW MS JN

At the close of the Executive Session, President Cordle declared the meeting to be back in Open Session.

Open Session

Mr. Stone made a motion for the Board to take the following actions:

Appearances:

QT	Reinstatement	Approve renewal of license with a Private Consent Order
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Cognizant's Report – Young Chang

GDNA Case #	Licensee	Recommendation
A35747	WP / MMW	To the pharmacist - Public Consent Order with a \$3,500 fine
25-756	MCP/ JBM/ KBM	To the pharmacy - Private Order with a \$500 fine

25-806	CP/ MOO	Letter of concern to the pharmacist
25-943	JRL/ WBP/ KAR/ KHB/ TMA	Misfill Guidance #1A
25-931	WG/ PDST	Misfill Guidance #2A
25-1175	ABL	Board Ordered OMPE
25-890	AFPL	Close and the Board approve the application
25-1199	AFPL	Close and the Board approve the application
25-541	CP	Close
25-757	WG	Close
25-765	WP	Close
25-766	PP	Close
25-768	CP	Close
25-771	USIP	Close
25-805	CP	Close
25-910	BLL	Close
25-912	CP	Close

Legal Services – Director Clint Joiner

Pending applications for renewal with location changes & violations for failure to report.

Licensee	Violation	Decision
GPHI/ UPMPI	Facility changed name in January 2021 and was advised to submit an application but did not do so until November 2025	Public Consent Order w/ \$5,000 fine
XLI	This facility changed location July 1, 2024, continued shipping into Georgia & did not file location change until Aug 27, 2025.	Public Consent Order w/ \$5,000 fine
CHSL	Facility changed name & ownership Mar 31, 2016, & never notified the Board	Public Consent Order w/ \$5,000 fine

Applications

Licensee	Type of License	Decision
JM	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
TS	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
TD	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
BG	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
DW	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
DA	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
LH	Pharmacy Technician	Approved – but must provide court documents w/in 30 days of receipt of final case disposition
MC	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
DP	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
BD	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
KW	Pharmacy Technician	Tabled – She needs to provide LOE - did not disclose her arrest
TM	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
SG	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
LD	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
TB	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
TT	Pharmacy Technician	Approved – but must provide court documents w/in 30 days of receipt of final case disposition
BM	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
HF	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
AE	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
MB	Pharmacist	Approved
MN	Pharmacist	Approved
JM	Pharmacist	Approved
BR	Certification of DTM	Approved
KK	Certification of DTM	Approved

GS	Nuclear Pharmacist	Approved
LCHE	Retail Pharmacy	Approved

Notices of Discipline

The Board reviewed the notices and agreed that these notices are to be taken as information only and that no further action is necessary at this time.

AP	SP	BI	ESP	CPL	APU	XL	AHC	MMS	HSL	ZUL	WG
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Correspondences/Requests

Applicant / Licensee	Request	Decision
JR	Request 4 th Attempt to take NAPLEX	Approved
ML	Request 4 th Attempt to take MPJE	Approved
SW	Request for Extension of License	Approved
MS	Request to apply by exam not reciprocity; take NAPLEX & MPJE	Approved
JN	Request for 2 nd Extension through February 2026	Approved

Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at South University located at 709 Mall Blvd, Savannah, GA 31406.

Minutes recorded by Angela Johnson, Board Administrative Secretary

Edited by J. Clinton Joiner, II, Executive Director