

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY
Mercer University College of Pharmacy
3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341
Minutes for January 15, 2025 Board Meeting

Board Members present:

Cecil Cordle, President
Young Chang, Vice-President
Michael Azzolin
Jim Bracewell
Michael Brinson
Young Chang
Michael Farmer
Chuck Page
Dean Stone

Board Staff present:

James Joiner, Executive Director
Michael Karnbach, Director, GDNA,
Alec Mathis, Deputy Director, GDNA
Rick White, Special Agent, GDNA
Dowlin Ryals, Assistant Attorney General
Itovia Evans, Deputy Director of Licensing
Angela Johnson, Board Administrative
Secretary

Visitors:

Brandon Brooks, Publix
Lea Winkles, Mercer University
Loretta Walborn, PharmD
Stephanie Kirkland, Elder Care Pharmacy
Helen Sloat, Nelson Mullins
William Truelove, Walgreens
Kayla Mays, CVS Health
Heather Hughes, Publix
Beth Jarrett, Walmart

Emily Doppel, McKesson
Jordan Khail, UGA
Katie Johnston, Revelation Pharma
Lauren Paul, CVS Health
Mark Barbee
Katrina Thomas
Shannon Borsom, UGA Veterinary Teaching
Hospital
Jonathan Marquess, GPhA/ AIP

Open Session

President Cordle established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

President Cordle greeted the members of the public who were present and reminded everyone that January 12, 2025, was National Pharmacy Day.

Approval of Minutes

President Cordle advised that due to the substantial volume of content that the minutes from the December 18, 2024, meeting have been postponed until the February meeting.

Report of Licenses Issued

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

Petitions for Rule Waiver or Variance

The petitions from Danox Environmental Services and Triumvirate Environmental Services were administratively approved by the Board and are coming to the board now for ratification. They were originally intended to go on the agenda in December but did not make it on that agenda because it was already full. Director Joiner asked the Board to ratify the administrative action taken, which was to issue the licenses.

• **Danox Environmental Services – Rule 480-7-.03(3)(d)**

This facility is requesting a variance of Rule 480-7-.03(3)(d) due to reorganization for tax purposes the name will be changing but all else will remain the same.

Mr. Stone made a motion to ratify the administrative action of approving the petition. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion

- **Triumvirate Environmental Services – Rule 480-7-.03(3)(d)**

This facility is requesting a variance of Rule 480-7-.03(3)(d) due to reorganization for tax purposes the name will be changing but all else will remain the same.

Mr. Stone made a motion to ratify the administrative action of approval of the petition. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion

Mr. Azzolin commented that the Board has granted several waivers of Rule(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)1 and & 480-11-.04(3)(b)1 but that Rule 480-13-.06(2)(a) would release the pharmacist's responsibility for the products prepared under the hood or utilizing such other equipment to protect the integrity of the product. He suggested that the Board approve the waiver of Rule(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)1 & 480-11-.04(3)(b)1 but deny the waiver request for Rule 480-13-.06(2)(a) as the Board has done in the past. He stated that the rules and laws about this issue needs to be updated to be more practical for the pharmacies. He believes that the law would allow for the Board to go back and remove some of the USP requirements.

- **Jeff Davis Hospital – Rules(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)1, 480-13-.06(2)(a) and 480-11-.04(3)(b)1**

President Cordle asked if anyone was present from Jeff Davis Hospital. It was established that a representative was not present. This facility is requesting a waiver of Rules(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)1, 480-13-.06(2)(a) and 480-11-.04(3)(b)1, are requesting to go to an immediate use model for compounding and waive the laminar flow hood.

Mr. Brinson made a motion to approve the request for waiver of Rules(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)1 and 480-11-.04(3)(b)1 and deny the request for Rule 480-13-.06(2)(a). Mr. Stone seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- **Jenkins County Medical Center – Rule(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)1, 480-13-.06(2)(a) and 480-11-.04(3)(b)1**

President Cordle asked if anyone was present from Jenkins County Medical Center. It was established that a representative was not present. This facility is requesting a waiver of Rules(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)1, 480-13-.06(2)(a) and 480-11-.04(3)(b)1, are requesting to go to an immediate use model for compounding and waive the laminar flow hood.

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the request for waiver of Rules(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)1 and 480-11-.04(3)(b)1 and deny the request for Rule 480-13-.06(2)(a). Mr. Farmer seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Correspondences

Email from Donovan Stevens with Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) – GA PDMP Collaboration.

President Cordle asked if anyone was present on behalf of DPH. It was established that a representative was not present.

Mr. Stevens' email advised the Board that the Georgia PDMP is implementing changes to enhance system integrity and ensure data continuity. The upcoming updates include an increased required registration field, which will expand the mandatory information needed for PDMP registration, pharmacy dispensation edits and account management improvements by deactivating duplicate and inactive accounts. These changes may influence pharmacists' ability to log into the PDMP.

The Board reviewed the email and agreed that this letter is information only and that no further action is necessary at this time.

Correspondence from Genoa Healthcare / Ms. Cathy Winters

President Cordle asked if anyone was present on behalf of Genoa Healthcare. It was established that a representative was not present.

Genoa Healthcare requested permission to use a lock box to store the entry key for their newly licensed locations in Augusta, Tifton and Valdosta and provided documentation for the request.

The Board reviewed the documentation provided and discussed this correspondence. It was determined that the Board and GDNA did not see any problems with the request.

Mr. Brinson made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Stone seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion

Smart Lockers

Mr. Brinson commented that there are several hospitals requesting to use smart lockers to provide hospital employees with access to the employee's filled prescriptions after normal pharmacy hours. He explained that smart lockers are in a locked area that is attached to the pharmacy that is in an area where only hospital employees can gain access. Mr. Brinson advised that he would like to start conversations again about what facilities would need to do for this to be allowed. He would like to see the Board enact a rule or protocol to allow for the use of the smart lockers. Mr. Brinson asked Director Karnbach if he had any concerns.

Director Karnbach commented that he has concerns about the concept and making sure that it is not applied outside of a hospital environment. He is concerned that in order to allow for this the Board would be authorizing the dispensing of medication without a pharmacist present. He commented that strict parameters need to be defined before the Board allows usage of the smart lockers.

Mr. Page asked if facilities should submit a request or waiver. Director Joiner advised that the Board could handle this issue the way that they handle the request for lockboxes. Director Karnbach commented that a blanket approval without some guidance would not be appropriate due to each environment being different. Mr. Brinson asked Mr. Azzolin if he had any concerns.

Mr. Azzolin commented that since this topic was not on the agenda, he does not have the research with him to properly go over the scenarios or areas that would be of concern. Mr. Azzolin stated that he agreed with Mr. Brinson and suggested that the Board needs to review the language of the existing rules to see if there was language in place that would allow or not allow for the use of the lockers. He advised that he would like to research the language before the Board adds additional rules. Director Karnbach commented that there needs to be a clear path of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable. Mr. Azzolin agreed that looking at the language might make it possible to safely expand the utilization of the lockers to environments that would not normally be allowed to use them such as retail pharmacies. Mr. Brinson asked Mr. Azzolin if he wanted to expand the usage to retail pharmacies. Several Board members commented that if they allow the usage at hospitals the retail pharmacies will want to utilize them as well. Mr. Azzolin suggested that until the Board can decipher what the language needs to look like, the Board should consider the requests on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Page agreed and reminded the Board about the previous discussion about North Carolina's rules on smart lockers and how complicated it was.

Director Karnbach commented that GDNA would like to go to the sites to review the setup before

the Board makes the approval. Mr. Azzolin commented that the problem is that the facilities do not want to spend the money if they are worried that it will not be approved. Mr. Azzolin suggested that the Board could consider a pre-approval based on a proposal until the inspection occurs for the final approval. Director Karnbach suggested if the Board wanted to handle it that way that the requests should provide information on the setup including where the device would be located and what type of device would be used and that the final approval would be pending until GDNA confirms that the device is being safely used.

Mr. Brinson reminded the Board that Phoebe Putney Hospital gave a detailed presentation back at the July Board meeting regarding their proposed use of Smart Lockers and is still awaiting a response from the Board. He advised that he would reach out to Phoebe Putney Hospital to get an update and to see if they would be available to come back to meet with the Board.

The Board discussed the complicated nature of this request and determined that more research is needed to create a rule. The Board agreed that the issue needs to be added to the Board's next work session. The Board ruled that until a rule can be finalized current requests will need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency – Mr. Michael Karnbach

Deputy Director Karnbach reported that GDNA has conducted 2,042 inspections and were involved in 245 investigations for FYD. He introduced Special Agent Rick White.

Director Karbach advised that the agency has implemented field supervisor positions. The agents will maintain their current territories, but Mike Poblet would be in charge of the agents in the Northern region and Tommy Roe would be in charge of the agents in the Southern region.

Director Karnbach advised that the agency's process for approval of E-kits (Emergency Medication Kits) used in nursing homes, crisis stabilization units and hospice facilities has been updated. The process will switch from a paper-based request to an electronic form allowing for the process to speed up from weeks to days. The facilities will no longer have to submit a full list of the drugs as the new process will outline the requirements for the kits. Any requests asking for any increase of dosages over the standard requirements would require additional information.

Another change being implemented is changes to the personnel certification form (PCF) used for facility background checks. The PCF is necessary for GDNA to provide the background checks for the Board's licensing process. This form will now be electronic which will make the background process faster and will improve efficiency.

Attorney General's Report – Mr. Dowlin Ryals

No Report.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. James Joiner

President Cordle commented that he and Director Joiner wanted to highlight a member of the Board's staff for recognition each month. This month the Board chose to recognize Ms. Itovia Evans, who is the Deputy Director of Licensing for the Board. Ms. Evans has worked for the state for 27 years and she has served the Board for 13 years. She handles the financials, procurement, manages licensing and has managed nine (9) direct reports, up until recently, for the Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Dentistry. Director Joiner affirmed that Ms. Evans has been an invaluable resource for the Board and has been his right hand since he took over as director back in April.

Director Joiner advised that there is no report for continuing education.

Director Joiner reminded everyone that the National Association of Board of Pharmacy (NABP) Annual Meeting will be held May 13-16, 2025, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Board will need to decide who will represent the Board at this event. Mr. Chang commented that this event will be a great opportunity to connect with others. He also mentioned that NABP allows for one travel allowance to attend which is open to the Board members and the Executive Director. President Cordle advised the Board that he and Mr. Chang will be attending the event.

Legal Services – Mr. James Joiner

Director Joiner advised that the new policy manual is still in the draft phase but should be available by the February Board Meeting. He provided an update on the rules from the December work session.

Rule 480-22-.12 has been submitted Governor's office for review and the other twelve (12) rule changes were submitted to the AG's office for comment.

Miscellaneous

Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) – Standing Order for Prescription of Naloxone for Overdose Prevention

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) reissued the standing order for prescription of Naloxone for overdose prevention with no changes. President Cordle recognized Mr. Jordan Khail for comment.

Mr. Khail commented that he appreciates that the standing order is so detailed since pharmacists do not like ambiguity. The standing order provides a full product list of opioid antagonist drugs which includes some of the newer additions for opioid reversal. The standing order also provides the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose. He wanted to remind everyone that if they think that there is a slight chance that they are dealing with an opioid overdose the administration of naloxone will not hurt anyone and that the person does not have to necessarily have all of the symptoms listed on this standing order to justify the usage. He mentioned Xylazine as being ubiquitous in most stocks of illicit fentanyl. It is a veterinary medicine that has been used for many years which complicates overdose. He added that it is not a controlled substance, so it is very easy for people to get their hands on it. As this epidemic continues to evolve, the drug medetomidine, which is in the same class as xylazine, is now becoming more common in the illicit drug market.

He mentioned that the CDC's recent data is showing a promising trend that overdose deaths are dropping. He added that there are a lot of people actively doing research in the field who say to take that information with cautious optimism because some of those drops are largely because those at highest risk are gone. The research is expanding and there might be a trend where those that weren't at the highest risk might be included more often than before in overdose deaths.

President Cordle recognized Mr. Jonathan Marquess with GPhA for comment. Mr. Marquess commended Mr. Khail for his dedication and hard work. Mr. Marquess commented that Mr. Khail was given a large grant to continue the work that he is doing, and he added that it is hard to get a grant like this and that GPhA was looking forward to working with Mr. Khail.

President Cordle wanted to remind everyone that the next Board meeting will be held on February 12, 2025, at the Board's office in Atlanta. He requested that going forward any department or member of the public that wishes to be added to an upcoming meeting must submit the information before the Wednesday before the scheduled meeting to be considered for the agenda.

Director Karnbach asked President Cordle if he could quickly circle back to the section regarding the statute and use of smart lockers for controlled substances. He read the last sentence of O.C.G.A. § 26-4-80(l).

O.C.G.A. § 26-4-80 (l)

(l) A Schedule II controlled substance prescription drug order in written form signed in indelible ink by the practitioner may be accepted by a pharmacist and the Schedule II controlled substance may be dispensed by such pharmacist. Other forms of Schedule II controlled substance prescription drug orders may be accepted by a pharmacist and the Schedule II controlled substance may be dispensed by such pharmacist in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board and in accordance with DEA regulations found in 21 C.F.R. 1306. **A pharmacist shall require a person picking up a Schedule II controlled substance prescription to present a government issued photo identification document or such other form of identification which documents legibly the full name of the person taking possession of the Schedule II controlled substance subject to the rules adopted by the board.**

Director Karnbach mentioned that the statute is ambiguous and that the Board might want to consider having a rule in place that the pharmacies be required to maintain a record showing that the proper identification was given.

President Cordle asked if anyone had any questions or comments. He thanked the public for their attendance and participation.

Mr. Page 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:

K.T.	M.B.	N.W.M.
------	------	--------

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency - Mr. Michael Karnbach

No Report.

Cognizant's Report – Mr. Young Chang

GDNA #T35495	GDNA #B35581	GDNA #B35594	GDNA #B35502
GDNA #B35588	GDNA #B35426	GDNA #B35566	GDNA #B35465
GDNA #B35327	GDNA #B35532	GDNA #B35411	

Attorney General's Report – Mr. Dowlin Ryals, Assistant Attorney General

Status Report / Open Cases

N.D.	E.F.P.	J.M.	A.H./ P.A.J.
S.M.S.L.	C.M.I.	R.P.	C.S.S.L.
S.T.	M.R.	V.P.L.	

Mr. Ryals presented the following consent orders/ counterproposals for acceptance:

None.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. James Joiner

Update on Budget.

Legal Services – Mr. James Joiner

No Report.

Applications

A.V.	C.G.	C.H.	J.F.	J.S.
K.C.	N.H.	W.A.	A.K.	A.F.
A.Q.	C.B.	D.B.	E.A.	E.E.
E.K.	E.L.	J.P.	J.H.	K.G.
L.S.	L.W.	M.M.	M.J.	N.N.
P.D.	R.J.	R.M.	S.H.	S.C.
S.M.	T.D.	T.B.	W.W.	

Correspondences/Requests

A.R.L.	C.N.A.	G.T.I.	W.G.	W.P.L.
--------	--------	--------	------	--------

Miscellaneous

P.F.	J.B.	T.R.
------	------	------

Open Session

Mr. Stone made a motion for the Board to take the following The Board voted to accept all of their recommendations.

Appearances:

K.T.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
M.B.	Request to Renew Pharmacist License	Approved
N.W.M.	Change of Ownership Issue	Approved

Cognizant's Report – Mr. Young Chang

GDNA Case #T35495	Y.B.A. / C.P.	Revoke license
GDNA Case #B35581	M.L.D. / C.O.I.	Misfill Guidance #3
GDNA Case #B35594	C.P. / F.I.	Misfill Guidance #1; Letter of Concern
GDNA Case #B35502	C.P. / D.O.	Misfill Guidance #2B; Private Order to Pharmacist with \$500 fine
GDNA Case #B35588	P.S.I.	Public Consent Order with \$5,000 fine
GDNA Case #B35426	D.P.	Close No Action
GDNA Case #B35566	K.D.	Close No Action
GDNA Case #B35465	K.H.P.L.	Close No Action
GDNA Case #B35327	A.P.	Close No Action
GDNA Case #B35532	W.G.	Close No Action
GDNA Case #B35411	R.R.	Close No Action

Orders/ Counterproposals

No orders or counterproposals were presented for a vote.

Applications

A.V.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
C.G.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved; Needs to supply additional information
C.H.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
J.F.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
J.S.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
K.C.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
N.H.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
W.A.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
A.K.	Pharmacist	Approved
A.F.	Pharmacist	Approved
A.Q.	Pharmacist	Approved
C.B.	Pharmacist	Approved
D.B.	Pharmacist	Approved
E.A.	Pharmacist	Approved
E.E.	Pharmacist	Tabled; Board has requested additional information
E.K.	Pharmacist	Approved
E.L.	Pharmacist	Tabled; Board has requested additional information
J.P.	Pharmacist	Approved
J.H.	Pharmacist	Approved
K.G.	Pharmacist	Approved
L.S.	Pharmacist	Approved
L.W.	Pharmacist	Approved
M.M.	Pharmacist	Tabled for further review
N.J.	Pharmacist	Approved
N.N.	Pharmacist	Approved
P.D.	Pharmacist	Approved
R.J.	Pharmacist	Approved
R.M.	Pharmacist	Tabled for further review
S.H.	Pharmacist	Approved
S.C.	Pharmacist	Tabled for further review
S.M.	Pharmacist	Approved
T.D.	Pharmacist	Approved
T.B.	Pharmacist	Approved
W.W.	Pharmacist	Approved
B.T.	Pharmacist Certification of DTM	Approved
J.H.	Pharmacist Certification of DTM	Approved
J.W.L.	Durable Medical Equipment Suppliers	Approved
T.G.L.	Durable Medical Equipment Suppliers	Denied

Correspondences/Requests

A.R.L.	Notice of Discipline	No Action
C.N.A.	Notice of Discipline	No Action
G.T.I	Notice of Discipline	No Action
W.G.	Notice of Discipline	No Action
W.P.L.	Notice of Discipline	No Action
P.F.	Self-Report	Referred to GDNA
J.B.	Request to Extend License until October 22, 2027	Must reapply

T.R.	Request to take MPJE for the 5 th time	Approved
------	---	----------

Mr. Azzolin seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy will be held on Wednesday, February 12, at 9:00 a.m. at 2 MLK Jr., Drive, SE, 11th Floor, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Minutes recorded by Angela Johnson, Board Administrative Secretary
 Edited by J. Clinton Joiner, II, Executive Director