

**GEORGIA BOARD OF PHARMACY**  
**2 MLK Jr. Drive, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30341**  
**Minutes for January 21, 2026 Board Meeting**

**Board Members present:**

Mr. Michael Farmer, Vice President  
Dr. Michael Azzolin  
Mr. Michael Brinson  
Dr. Cecil Cordle  
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. Robbie Raybon, Special Agent, GDNA  
Ms. Marci Cospy, Administrative Assistant GDNA  
Ms. Vanessa Alva, Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Itovia Evans, Deputy Director of Licensing  
Mrs. Angela Johnson, Board Admin. Secretary  
Mrs. Dianne Yawn, Compliance Analyst

**Visitors:**

Chris Munive-Oliveira, The Hudson Group  
Anthony Pepin, Piedmont Athens  
Christine Cline-Dahlman, Pharm Tech Forward  
Dawn Randolph, GPhA  
Stephanie Kirkland, Eldercare  
Listy Toledo  
Katie Johnston, Revelation  
Max Turner, Troutman  
Brad Bolton, Guardian Pharmacy  
Robert Leigh, Arete Canine  
Diane Sanders, Kaiser Permanente

Kamryn Wham, Georgia Hospital Association  
Don Tyson, Piedmont Athens  
Helen Sloat, Gold Dome Partners  
Allison Barker, Emory  
William Dahlman, Pharm Tech Forward  
Heather Hughes, Publix  
Raechelle Raymore  
Amy Spencer, Janus RX  
Jordan Khail, UGA College of Pharmacy  
Patrick Gutherie, Cardinal Health

**Open Session**

Dr. Cordle called the meeting to order at 09:02 a.m. and noted President Young Chang was absent due to a family matter. The Board congratulated Director Joiner on the birth of his son. Dr. Cordle welcomed the members of the public in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Page made a motion to approve the Open and Executive Session minutes from the December 17, 2025, meeting. Mr. Brinson 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 485 licenses.

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**

**Arete Canine, LLC - Waiver of Rule 480-7-.04(9)(b)(1)**

Mr. Stone asked if anyone was present from Arete Canine. Mr. Robert Leigh was present and addressed the Board.

Arete Canine, LLC (“Arte”) submitted a petition requesting a waiver from Board rules prohibiting licensure in a residentially zoned area in order to operate a research pharmacy at its current agricultural-residential location, which includes separate training and kennel facilities on a 76-acre site. The purpose was to use pharmaceutical-grade narcotics (e.g., cocaine, heroin, meth, MDMA) for canine detection training for government/law enforcement clients.

The Board noted that no permit of this type currently exists and expressed concern about granting approval in the absence of a facility that meets established standards.

The Board considered the request related to zoning restrictions for storage of controlled substances used in canine training. After discussion, the Board determined that a formal rule waiver was not required under Rule 480-7-.04(9)(b)(1). The waiver request was denied procedurally but accepted as written notice under the rule, allowing the applicant to proceed with facility build-out subject to inspection and licensure requirements.

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

**Innovation Compounding LLC (Innovation)** Variance of Rule(s) 480-10-.06(1)(c)(1)(vi), 480-10-.06(1)(d) & 480-10-.06(1)(e)

Mr. Stone asked whether a representative of Innovation was present. Dr. Bart Anderson, accompanied by Stephen Snow, Esq., counsel for Innovation, was present and addressed the Board.

Innovation submitted a variance request seeking a temporary rule variance to allow it to operate at two locations during a facility relocation. Innovation requested a 90-day transition period to operate while relocating to a new facility due to multi-state licensing/inspection timing issues (licensed in 48 states + DC).

Dr. Anderson explained other states often require their Georgia license updated with the new address before those states will complete the change, and some inspections require the facility to be operational for ~30 days before inspectors will come.

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

**Donalson Hospital** – Waiver of Rule(s) 480-13.06(2)(a) and 480-11

Mr. Stone advised that this facility is requesting waiver of Rules(s) 480-13-.06(2)(a) and 480-11.

The Board reviewed Donalson Hospital's petition for a rule waiver/variance related to the use of a laminar flow hood. During discussion, it was noted that the submitted waiver request was internally inconsistent, cited incorrect and conflicting rules, and appeared to reference multiple chapters without clearly identifying the specific rule(s) for which relief was sought. Additionally, the request was submitted on an incorrect form and did not clearly state the nature of the waiver being requested.

Director Joiner explained that rule waiver requests are required by law to be specific and clearly articulated so they may be posted for public notice and properly inform the public of the relief being requested. In this instance, the waiver request form itself did not adequately explain the request, and the Board could not discern the intent of the petition without referring to a separate letter previously submitted. As such, the waiver request failed to meet statutory requirements for public notice.

Because the request did not sufficiently identify the rule(s) at issue or clearly describe the waiver sought, the Board determined it could not be granted.

Mr. Stone made a motion to deny the waiver request. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

## **Correspondences**

### **Janus Rx, LLC – Request for Approval – Use of Portable Sink**

Janus Rx, LLC submitted a request seeking approval to utilize a portable sink within its licensed pharmacy premises following a recent relocation and inspection. The applicant proposes the use of a high-grade portable sink that will provide continuous access to hot and cold running water, be dedicated solely to pharmacy staff, and be regularly maintained, cleaned, and inspected. The sink would be positioned to allow immediate access during dispensing activities.

Dr. Amy Spencer, Pharmacist-in-Charge, appeared before the Board and explained that the pharmacy has not yet moved into the new location and currently uses a portable sink at its existing location. Due to limitations in the new building, the pharmacy requested approval to continue using a portable sink within the permitted pharmacy space.

The Board reviewed Rule 480-10-.12 regarding minimum equipment requirements, noting that the rule requires a sink with hot and cold running water and does not prohibit the use of a portable sink. Director Karnbach confirmed that the use of portable sinks during relocation or remodeling is a common practice and has not been cited as a deficiency during inspections.

The Board determined that the request was submitted as correspondence and not as a waiver request, and that no deficiency existed under the applicable rule. No further action was required.

### **Email from Dr. Julie Wickman, Associate Professor at PCOM – Administration of IVs – Scope of Practice Question**

The Board reviewed correspondence from Julie Whitman of PCOM regarding whether pharmacists are permitted to administer intravenous (IV) therapy, specifically whether “administration” includes initiating an IV by puncturing the skin.

Board members reviewed the Pharmacy Practice Act and Board Rule 480-13-.07, noting that both authorize pharmacists to administer drugs, particularly within the hospital setting. Discussion focused on the scope of that authority. The Board agreed that, in a hospital setting, pharmacists may administer IV medications when acting pursuant to medical staff orders, facility policies and procedures, and appropriate training as approved by the hospital. However, initiating an IV by puncturing a vein was discussed as a medical procedure and generally not considered within the scope of pharmacist practice outside of hospital-approved protocols.

The Board further discussed that retail or non-hospital settings raise additional concerns regarding training, oversight, and patient safety, and that existing rules do not clearly authorize pharmacists to initiate IVs in those settings. Board Members noted that any expansion of authority beyond the hospital setting would likely require additional rulemaking to define training requirements and scope of practice.

The Board reached consensus that, under current law and rules, pharmacists may administer IV medications in hospital settings when properly trained and authorized under facility policies, but that initiating IVs in non-hospital settings is not clearly permitted.

### **Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency – Mr. Michael Karnbach**

Director Karnbach introduced Marci Cospy, who oversees application processing and works closely with Board leadership, and Special Agent Robbie Raybon who covers portions of South Georgia who also assisted with interim IT needs. The Board expressed appreciation for their support and service.

Director Karnbach provided an update on the Governor’s proposed budget, noting that funding for at least one additional position is anticipated, pending final legislative approval.

Director Karnbach reported that GDNA has conducted 1,156 inspections year-to-date, with 176 open complaints and 227 complaints completed. The average time to close an investigation is approximately 63 days, reflecting a significant improvement from prior years when investigations averaged in excess of 80 days. Director Karnbach noted that implementation of the current case management system has contributed to this improvement, with the Board's target being investigation closure within 90 days or less.

**Attorney General's Report – Ms. Vanessa Alva**

No Report.

**Executive Director's Report – Mr. James Joiner**

Director Joiner introduced Dianne Yawn, a Compliance Analyst with more than 20 years of state service, and noted that she was one of the original employees transferred from the Secretary of State's office in 2013.

Ms. Yawn serves as a primary liaison for new complaints and coordinates closely with GDNA and Board staff. Board members expressed appreciation for Ms. Yawn's experience, expertise, and continued support of the Board.

**Legal Services – Mr. James Joiner**

Director Joiner reported that Representative Ron Stephens has agreed to serve as the sponsor for the Board's agency legislation. With a legislative sponsor secured, the Board will proceed with the legislative process in coordination with Representative Stephens.

**Discussion**

**Board Newsletter**

The Board discussed the need to reassign responsibility for preparation and distribution of the Board newsletter. It was noted that Mr. Farmer has overseen the newsletter and has assumed additional responsibilities as Vice-President of the Board, making reassignment appropriate.

Mr. Page volunteered to assume responsibility for the Board newsletter, with support from Dr. Cordle and other Board members as needed.

**Old Business – Follow-up**

**Facility Licensure during CHOW - Facility Licensure during COL (Policy Manual Updates)**

Director Joiner reported that the facility licensure items regarding change of ownership and change of location were not ready for discussion and will be brought back after he and Director Karnbach finalize proposed language.

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

Director Joiner reported that the Board's review of pharmacist-in-charge/pharmacy pharmacist language in Rule 480-24-.06 was not ready for consideration.

**C-II Pickup Identification**

Regarding C-2 pickup identification, Director Joiner stated he needs Board direction on implementation before drafting rule language. The Board agreed to leave the matter as currently stated, noting there is law providing further guidance, and directed that the item be removed from the active list.

**Delegation of Admin Authority to Approve Remote Order Entry Policies**

Director Joiner requested a checklist from Dr. Azzolin to support delegation of administrative authority to approve remote order entry policies for hospitals. Dr. Azzolin agreed to provide the checklist.

**Drone Delivery (Pharmaceutical Autonomous Delivery Systems – PADS)**

The Board discussed drone delivery rule language and noted there were multiple versions and handwritten edits, including discussion of whether controlled substances should be excluded. Board Members discussed diversion risks across delivery methods (common carriers vs. unmanned delivery) and referenced other states’ approaches. The Board, with the exception of Mr. Farmer, leaned toward allowing controlled substances to remain permitted, but no action was taken because the consolidated draft had not been fully reviewed. Director Joiner advised that he will get with Director Karnbach will revise/consolidate the draft and bring it back at a future meeting for consideration.

**Pharmacist Initial Application Finger Printing**

Director Joiner advised that pharmacist initial application fingerprinting remains an administrative process to be implemented.

**Georgia-located Pharmacy Facilities Inspections (Policy Updates)**

Director Joiner advised that the Board’s previously approved 18-month inspection timeline for Georgia-located pharmacy facilities will be reflected in an updated policy manual that will be published at a later date.

Dr. Cordle asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Dr. Cordle reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting of the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board’s office located at 2 Martin Luther King Jr Drive SE, East Tower, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Atlanta, GA 30334.

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. Page made a motion and Mr. Farmer 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, Michael Brinson, Cecil Cordle, Michael Farmer, Chuck Page, and Dean Stone.

**Executive Session**

**Appearances: JJ & SS**

**Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency - Mr. Michael Karnbach**

No Report

**Cognizant’s Report – Mr. Michael Farmer**

B35479	B35615	A35694	25-368	25-420	25-628	25-775	25-801	25-902	25-932
25-1015	25-1075	25-1082	25-1110	25-1753	26-1808	B35799	25-371	25-936	25-982
25-1077	25-1085	25-1114	25-1198	25-1619	25-1655				

**Attorney General’s Report – Ms. Vanessa Alva, Assistant Attorney General**

**Ms. Alva presented the following consent orders for acceptance:** N/A

**Counterproposals:** GP

Orders: UU, HVP

Status Open Cases

ESP	AH	PJ	AMC	VLR	RXH	TLF	AHI	ABP	QTIC	MP	XLI	AB	EH	CPS
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**Executive Director’s Report** – Mr. Clint Joiner

No Report.

**Legal Services** – Mr. Clint Joiner

**Applications**

IV	JH	TW	BL	TW	BL	KG	JM	LD	GM	LM	NG	DB	CH
AU	MO	KW	WM	AS	BS	KA	JC	CM	KS	HS	MJ	MK	

**Notices of Discipline:** PPA, ES, CR, WG

At the close of the Executive Session, President Chang 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:**

**Cognizant’s Report** – Mr. Michael Farmer

GDNA Case #	Licensee	Recommendation
B35479	EHL dba NSP	Cease and desist letter
B35615	BRL/ HRL dba HR	Approve the pending application upon a receiving executed Private Consent Order and payment of fine
A35694	WP/ JJ (Pharmacist #1)/ AB (Pharmacist #2) / EW (Tech #1)/ NST (Tech #2)/ YPL (Tech #3)	Letter of Concern to Pharmacists
25-368	WG/TZF	Misfill Guidance #1A for the pharmacist
25-420	CP/ AA (PIC)/ TN (Remote RPH)/ NVN (Floater RPH)	Misfill Guidance #1A to the PIC, the remote pharmacist, and the floater pharmacist because each pharmacist either performed data entry or conducted data entry verification.
25-628	PP/ IMB	Letter of concern to the PIC
25-775	MH (Facility #1) MH (Facility #2)	Letter of concern to the facilities
25-801	ES	Private Consent Order with fine
25-902	AP/ DHP (PIC)/ MAO	To the Pharmacy - Private Consent Order with a fine/ To the PIC - Letter of concern
25-932	WG/ SS	Letter of concern to the pharmacist
25-1015	PAL/ JPVP	Letter of concern to the pharmacy
25-1075	CP/ JSP	Misfill Guidance #1A to the PIC
25-1082	WG/ MEH	Letter of concern to the PIC
25-1110	TD/ JWC (Part-time RPH)/ RMC (PIC)/ ADR	To the pharmacy - Public Consent Order with a fine/ To the PIC and the part-time pharmacist - Letter of concern
25-1753	WP	Letter of concern to the pharmacy
26-1808	MEM	Tabled
B35799	IC	Close
25-371	WG	Close
25-936	WP	Close
25-982	WP/ LJT	Close

25-1077	IP	Close
25-1085	NP	Close
25-1114	TMT	Close
25-1198	WMPI	Close
25-1619	TSW/ TSC/ TSC	Close
25-1655	PP	Close

**Legal Services** – Mr. Clint Joiner

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

Licensee	Violation	Decision
LCHE	Facility changed their name Feb. 2023 & did not submit application for name change until Oct 2025	Private Consent Order with Fine
USL	This facility had a change of ownership on April 1, 2024, continued shipping into GA & did not file the change application until Nov 2025	Private Consent Order with Fine

**Applications**

Licensee	Type of License	Decision
IV	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
JH	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
TW	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
BL	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
KG	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
JM	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
LD	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
GM	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
LM	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
NG	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
DB	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
CH	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
AU	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
MO	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
KW	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
WM	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
AS	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
BS	Pharmacist	Approved
KA	Pharmacist	Tabled
JC	Pharmacist	Approved
CM	Certification of DTM	Approved
KS	Certification of DTM	Approved
HS	Certification of DTM	Approved
MJ	Certification of DTM	Approved
MK	Certification of DTM	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.

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 1:27 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board’s office located at 2 Martin Luther King Jr Drive SE, East Tower, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Atlanta, GA 30334.

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