

GEORGIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
2 MLK Jr. Drive, 11th Floor East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30341
Minutes for July 23, 2025, Board Meeting

Board Members present:

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

Board Staff present:

Clint Joiner, Executive Director
Michael Karnbach, Director, GDNA,
Alec Mathis, Deputy Director, GDNA
Russ Moore, Special Agent
Dowlin Ryals, Assistant Attorney General
Itovia Evans, Deputy Director of Licensing
Stacy Altman, Deputy Director of
Investigations and Compliance
Shawn-Alysse Faria, GDNA Support Analyst
Angela Johnson, Board Administrative
Secretary

Visitors:

Brandon Brooks, Publix
Ben Cowart, Georgia Retailers
Diane Sanders, Kaiser Permanente
Jeenu Philip, Walgreens
Susan McKoy, Court Reporter
Heather Hughes, Publix
Jacob Herrington
Phillip Fulford
Kamryn Wham, GHA
Trent Nesbit, McKesson
William Dahlman, Pharm Tech Forward
Christine Cline-Dahlman, Pharm Tech Forward
Frances Fordham

Jordan Khali, UGA
Mary Kate Snead, Guardian Pharmacy
D. Scott Bass, Esq., Hobgood & Bass & GPhA
Brad Bolton, Cardinal Health
Eric Bauer, CAPS Pharmacy
Shannon Borsom, UGA Veterinary Teaching
Hospital
Jonathan Marquess, GPhA/ AIP
John Bell, Bell Law Firm
Robert Jackson
Eric Holgate
Carolyn Holgate

Agency Review

Agency Review – E.H. and C.P.S.

Open Session

President Cordle established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

President Cordle greeted the members of the public who were present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the Open and Executive Session minutes from the June 18, 2025, meeting. Mr. Brinson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Report of Licenses Issued

Director Joiner reported that the Board has issued 707 licenses since the last meeting. He advised that there is an issue with the payment processor that is still being addressed. The Board had previously granted an extension, but it was noted that a further extension might be necessary.

Mr. Stone made a motion to ratify the list of licenses issued. Mr. Farmer seconded, and the Board

voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

President Cordle stated that the Board appreciates the work that the board staff did during this renewal period.

Petitions for Rule Waiver or Variance

Liberty Regional Medical Center Parkway – Rules 480-13-.05(2)(b) (1), 480-13-.06(2)(a) and 480-11-.04(3)(b)(1)

Mr. Stone advised that this facility is requesting waiver of Rules(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)1, 480-13-.06(2)(a) and 480-11-.04(3)(b)1, and 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). Dr. Azzolin seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Dr. Azzolin commented that rule 480-13-.06(2)(a) specifies that the compounding of parenteral medications must be performed under a laminar flow hood and that's likely why it is being requested to wave this rule. He commented that he understood why it needs to be denied because there are other components of that section that do not need to be waved however, he asked if the staff would let the facility know that the approval of the other two rules would allow for immediate use compounding without a laminar flow hood. He also commented that this rule needs to be amended or the section about the laminar flow hood needs to be in its own subsection to allow for more clarity. He stated that alternatively, the rule could likely be eliminated altogether.

Cardinal Health Nuclear & Precision Health – Rule 480-25-.03

Cardinal Health Nuclear and Precision Health (Cardinal Health) submitted a waiver request for Rule 480-25-.03 requesting approval of its Nuclear and Precision Health Solutions (NPHS) Authorized User Training Program.

Mr. Stone asked Mr. Brad Bolton to speak on behalf of Cardinal Health about the request.

Mr. Bolton explained that Cardinal Health has developed an internal, Nuclear Regulatory Commission-compliant authorized user training program that is used in most of the country. He explained that Georgia is one of a few states with regulations that specify that such programs must be administered by an accredited College of Pharmacy, which is the reason for the waiver request.

He stated that the Cardinal Health training program was approved by the Arkansas Board of Pharmacy in October 2024, a state that also had a similar rule. He mentioned that the program provides 200 hours of didactic training and 500 hours of hands-on training. The program is designed to be self-paced with preceptor support, and it allows trainees to use the actual equipment they will be using in a nuclear pharmacy setting.

Mr. Bolton also noted that, to his knowledge, there are only two colleges of pharmacy in the country that offer this program: Purdue and the University of New Mexico. He stated that none of the colleges in Georgia offer such a program.

After discussing the waiver and the training program, the Board decided to approve the program but denied the waiver request. However, they stated that individual pharmacists would still be required to submit rule waivers, which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. This requirement will stand until the official rule is amended.

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

Dr. Azzolin made a motion to deny the request for waiver of Rule 480- 25.03. Mr. Stone seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the waiver request.

Consecrated Care Inc. – Rule 480-18-.05 Physical Requirements

Consecrated Care, Inc. requested a waiver of the rule concerning the physical requirements of its facility. The company is relocating to a new 106-square-foot facility located at 253 Upper Riverdale Road, SW, Riverdale, GA.

The Board discussed the request.

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

Correspondence

Questions from Michael Griffin about expired Narcan

Mr. Page asked if Mr. Griffin was present, and it was confirmed that he was not in attendance.

Mr. Griffin's letter presented a proposal to redistribute expired Narcan from reverse distributors to the GA Overdose Prevention agency, where it could be used for harm reduction work. Mr. Griffin works with the organization which currently hands out Naloxone. He claimed that it is effective for up to 28 years after its expiration date.

While the Board appreciated the suggestion and the work of the GA Overdose Prevention agency, the Board declined the request, citing liability concerns and a lack of authority on the matter. The Board also noted that only the manufacturer of the medicine can determine its expiration date and effectiveness after the expiration date.

River Edge Crisis Services Pharmacy & Mercer Center for IDD Care Pharmacy – Lock box request

Mr. Page asked if anyone was present on behalf of River Edge Crisis Services Pharmacy or Mercer Center for IDD Care Pharmacy, and it was confirmed that no representative was in attendance.

River Edge Crisis Services Pharmacy and Mercer Center for IDD Care Pharmacy, who share space, requested permission to use a lock box to store the entry key for the pharmacies located at 750 Hazel Street, Macon, Georgia and provided documentation for the request.

The Board reviewed the documentation provided and discussed this correspondence. Director Karnbach advised that GDNA did not see any problems approving this request. The Board approved the request.

Follow-up from eClinicalWorks

Mr. Page asked if anyone was present on behalf of eClinicalWorks, and it was confirmed that no representative was in attendance. Mr. Page gave the Board a brief overview of Ms. Kranti Patel's correspondence.

Ms. Patel from eClinicalWorks provided an update regarding a previously discussed issue with electronic prescriptions that failed validation and were transmitted by fax without a prescriber's signature image. The enhancements discussed at previous Board meetings have been implemented.

The new software versions now include an electronically reproduced visual image of the prescriber's signature on faxed prescriptions.

Ms. Patel added that as clients upgrade to the updated versions, Georgia pharmacies will begin receiving valid prescriptions via fax, addressing the Board's concern about prior faxes lacking valid signatures. Ms. Patel offered to remain the contact person for any further questions from the Board.

The Board thanked Ms. Patel for the update and agreed to take this correspondence as information only and that no further action is necessary at this time

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency – Director Michael Karnbach

Director Karnbach introduced Special Agent Russ Moore and Support Analyst Ms. Shawn-Alysse Faria.

Director Karnbach advised that Ms. Faria was instrumental in the agency's transition to the new software. She is currently helping to resolve glitches and refine the system for optimal performance.

Director Karnbach reported that GDNA has conducted 3,713 inspections year-to-date and has had 484 investigations year-to-date.

Cognizant Delegation of Authority for Investigative Interviews

Director Karnbach proposed a new process for the Board to review complaints. The current process involves the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency (GDNA) presenting a case to the Board during an executive session. At that time, the Board votes on whether to proceed with an investigative interview. After the interview is conducted, the case is presented to the Board a second time with the new findings, and a final vote is taken. This multi-step process can take several months.

Proposed New Process

- GDNA will present the case to the Cognizant member
- The Cognizant member will decide if an investigative interview is appropriate
- The investigative interview will occur
- The information obtained during the interview will be added to the case and presented to the Board at a future meeting

Director Karnbach feels that this change would make the process more efficient, reducing the timeline by at least 30 days and enhancing public safety.

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

Issue with storage and handling of IV fluids in hospitals

Director Karnbach advised that GDNA attended the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (GSHP) Summer meeting. At the meeting a pharmacist brought up an issue regarding the storage and handling of fluids in hospitals.

Director Karnbach explained that fluids are classified as "dangerous drugs" under Georgia law. This means they should be handled with the same security and access controls as other drugs, specifically by pharmacy personnel. The physical reality of hospitals makes this strict rule difficult, if not impossible, to enforce. He added that IV fluids are bulky and require a lot of logistical work to move from a loading dock to various parts of the hospital (storage areas, nursing stations, OR, ER, etc.). Pharmacy staff (techs) are not typically the ones who handle this large-scale, labor-intensive

movement. Hospitals often have dedicated supply teams for this.

He added the pharmacist at the convention pointed out that the agency's enforcement of this rule has been inconsistent across the state, leading to some hospitals being treated differently than others. After reviewing the issue internally Director Karnbach confirmed that the pharmacist's statement was true. Director Karnbach asked the board for guidance on how to handle this issue in a reasonable and consistent way to enforce the law.

Director Karnbach advised that there are two (2) possible options on how to handle this situation. The first being strict enforcement. Where GDNA continues to strictly enforce the rule that only pharmacy personnel can have access to and move these fluids, which is the same as all of the other drugs in the hospital. Or the Board could adopt a more flexible enforcement by allowing the Director of Pharmacy (DOP) at each hospital to create a policy or Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that allows for non-pharmacy staff (like supply teams, nurses, etc.) to handle the movement and storage of these fluids, as long as the drugs are kept safe and secure.

Director Karnbach pointed out that strict enforcement of the rule is not practical or feasible in large hospital settings. The board already allows DOPs to create policies for other complex situations, such as investigational drugs. The DOP is already responsible for all SOPs. The agency would still inspect and review each hospital's policy to ensure compliance and drug security. He added that this would not apply to other dangerous drugs or allow public access.

The Board agreed that the Director of Pharmacy (DOP) at individual hospitals should create specific, monitored policies or protocols. These protocols will permit non-pharmacy staff to handle the logistics of electrolyte-related fluids in designated areas, acknowledging the unique challenges of hospital operations. This authority is limited to electrolyte-related fluids, not all dangerous drugs. The DOP must maintain a written policy that specifically details the exact locations where these fluids are stored outside of the pharmacy.

Attorney General's Report – Mr. Dowlin Ryals

No Report.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Clint Joiner

Director Joiner advised that he attended both the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (GSHP) and the Georgia Pharmacy Association (GPhA) conventions.

Director Joiner commented that attending these types of events fosters a "Colleague-to-Colleague" atmosphere, creating an environment where pharmacists and other licensees feel more comfortable bringing up issues. Director Karnbach agreed, adding that this open dialogue is crucial for identifying issues that may require a change in enforcement, rules, or even laws.

Director Joiner recalled that the pharmacist who raised the fluid issue at the GSHP meeting was hesitant to ask the question. Director Karnbach speculated that the pharmacist was likely hesitant because they feared a strict or negative reaction from the board. This type of interaction, they noted, underscores the need for a more accessible and open relationship between the board and its licensees.

Director Joiner commended the Board for its increased accessibility and engagement with the professional community, stating that it has led to better communication and a more responsive approach to licensee concerns.

Director Joiner also thanked GSHP and GPhA for the invitations to attend the conference and looks

forward to attending next year.

Dr. Azzolin agreed that face-to-face contact with licensees is important and added that he would like to see Board meetings recorded and/or livestreamed for more public interaction.

Legal Services – Mr. Clint Joiner

No Report.

Miscellaneous

Discussion on Pharmacist Refusal to Fill Prescriptions and Notifications

Mr. Stone reported that he recently spoke with Dr. Jerry Williams, a physician, who expressed concerns about pharmacists refusing to fill prescriptions without notifying either the prescriber or the patient. Dr. Williams cited instances where he prescribed four medications, but the patient received only three and that the patient was unaware that one had not been filled. Dr. Williams was also not informed.

Mr. Stone noted that while Dr. Williams acknowledged a pharmacist's right to refuse to fill a prescription, he recommended implementing a notification requirement to ensure physicians are aware and can appropriately manage the patient's treatment plan.

The Board members agreed that communication is critical to patient safety. While reaffirming the pharmacist's right to refuse, the Board discussed the potential administrative burden and enforcement challenges of a mandatory notification requirement. The Board agreed that the issue raises valid concerns and warrants further consideration as part of ongoing discussions on best practices.

Conclusion

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, August 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Board's office located at 2 Martin Luther King Jr Drive SE, East Tower, 11th 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. Stone made a motion and Mr. Brinson 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: A.A.S., J.H. & P.F.

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency - Director Michael Karnbach

No Report.

Cognizant's Report – Mr. Young Chang

B35460	A35846	A35866	B35568	B35626	B35763	B35811
B35830	B35831	B35862	T35688	25-46	B35840	25-310

25-154	B35774	B35804	B35823	B35712	B35808	B35809
B35695	B35709	B35711				

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

Mr. Ryals presented the following consent orders for acceptance: J.J.M. & R.A.M.
Counterproposals: N/A

Status Open Cases

E.S.P.	A.H.	P.A.J.	B.T.Y.	W.P.
C.H.E.D.	C.P.	C.P.	A.M.S.	V.L.R.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Clint Joiner

No Report.

Legal Services – Mr. Clint Joiner

No Report.

Applications

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

Miscellaneous

J.H.	J.A.	J.M.M.	R.F.	N.S.
G.D.CX.	J.K.	M.M.	J.C.	U.E.
L.M.G.	D.G.	E.S.	L.T.	J.F.
S.C.	R.C.	T.R.	Y.S.	

Remodels

W.P.	W.P.
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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:

Cognizant's Report – Mr. Young Chang

GDNA Case #	Licensee	Recommendation
B35460	M.P.	Referral to AG's Office for Private Consent Order
B35460	J.B.M. & B.W.	Letter of Concern
A35846	G.H.	Referral to AG's Office for Private Consent Order
A35846	J.B.G.	Referral to AG's Office for Private Consent Order
A35866	P.P./ W.M.	Referral to AG's Office for Private Consent Order
B35568	W.G. / A.S.T.	Misfill Guidance #1A

B35626	R.H.L./ T.J.G.	Cease & desist
B35763	A.H.P. / F.C.B.	Misfill Guidance #1A
B35811	C.P. / F.E.H.M.	Misfill Guidance #1A
B35830	L.O.P. / G.S.	Misfill Guidance #1A
B35831	J.S.B.	Accept the Private Interim Consent Order for Assessment
B35862	G.D.C. / J.H.G.	Misfill Guidance #2A
T35688	T.D.E.	Revoke Technician Registration
25-46	B.W.D.	Referral to AG's Office for Private Consent Order
B35840	W.G./ M.M.N.	Letter of Concern
25-310	J.J.F.	Accept the Private Interim Consent Order for Assessment
25-154	H.D.L.	Close
B35774	C.P.	Close
B35804	W.P.	Close
B35823	P.P.	Close
B35712	F.D.W. / D.L.H. / C.E.C. / T.W.B.	Close and refer to the case to the Composite Medical Board
B35808	U.S.W.C. / A.M.B. / C.S.S.	Close and refer to the case to the Composite Medical Board
B35809	P.P.	Close
B35695	L.D.I. dba F.F.P.	Close
B35709	A.H.F.M.C.P.	Close
B35711	M.C.P.	Close

All proposed orders were approved for docketing and no formal counterproposals were submitted.

Applications

Licensee	Type of License	Status
B.S.	Pharmacy Technician	Deny
J.K.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve but must provide case disposition
R.B.	Pharmacy Technician	Deny.
C.J.B.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
L.T.L.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
J.W.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
L.N.H.	Pharmacy Technician	Deny
W.G.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
T.B.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
P.J.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
T.B.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
C.K.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
N.D.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
J.J.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
J.B.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
A.M.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
K.C.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
J.F.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
G.C.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
J.D.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
J.W.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
S.K.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
L.T.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
J.P.M.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
K.R.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
M.C.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
H.H.	Pharmacy Technician	Tabled. Needs to provide court documentation
M.R.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve

O.H.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
T.T.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
A.D.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
N.A.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
A.C.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
B.B.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
T.D.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
A.W.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
A.S.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
K.C.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
J.K.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
A.R.	Pharmacy Technician	Approve
S.H.	Pharmacist	Approve
T.C.	Pharmacist	Approve
S.P.	Pharmacist	Approve
D.S.	Pharmacist	Approve
C.D.	Pharmacist	Approve
J.E.	Pharmacist	Approve
M.N.	Pharmacist	Approve
J.W.	Certification of DTM	Approve
C.A.P.	Retail Pharmacy	Approve

Notices of Discipline: The Board reviewed the notices and agreed that these notices are for information only and that no further action is necessary at this time

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

Correspondences/Requests

Licensee	Request	Decision
J.H.	Request for Extension of License through March 18, 2026	Approve
J.A.	Request for 6 th Attempt at MPJE	Approve
J.M.M.	Requesting Termination of Probation	Approve
R.F.	Requesting Termination of Probation	Approve
N.S.	Requesting extension through September 30, 2026	Approve
G.D.C.	Request to Terminate Probation	Approve
J.K.	Requesting extension through May 31, 2026	Approve
M.M.	Requesting acceptance of Treatment Plan	Invite for Appearance
J.C.	He is requesting to terminate his consent order.	Approve
U.E.	Request to Remove Probation	Approve
L.M.G.	Request to Terminate Letter of Concern	Denied
D.G.	Request for 6 th Attempt at MPJE	Approve
E.S.	Request for Extension through September 11, 2026	Approve

L.T.	Request for 7 th Attempt at NAPLEX	Approve
J.F.	Request for Reinstatement	Tabled
S.C.	Request for Reinstatement	Invite for Appearance
R.C.	Request for Extension through May 2026	Approve
T.R.	Request for 6 th Attempt at MPJE	Approve
Y.S.	Request for Extension through December 31, 2025	Approve
C.C.	Questions about proposed consent order	Follow order as written
W.P.	Remodel	Approved pending satisfactory GDNA Inspection.
W.P.	Remodel	Approve

Mr. Farmer seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 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