

GEORGIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
2 MLK Jr. Drive SE, East Tower 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334
Minutes for March 19, 2025 Board Meeting

Board Members present:

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

Board Staff present:

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

Visitors:

Brad Bolton, Cardinal Health NPHS
Stephanie Kirkland, Elder Care Pharmacy
Heather Hughes, Publix
Beth Jarrett, Walmart
Chris Hempfling, Bright Spring Health
Becca Hallum, GHA
Christi Hays, Emory
Mark Clayton
Eric Holgate, Custom Pharmacy

Emily Doppel, McKesson
Jordan Khail, PharmD, UGA
Jonathan Marquess, GPhA/ AIP
Michael Pedreira, UGA Vet Teaching Hospital
Negin Moon
Steve Baxter, Shepherd Center Hospital
Brian Park, Shepherd Center Hospital
Amber Rains-Vines
Jennifer Sain, Walgreens

Open Session

President Cordle established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 February 12, 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 711 licenses since the last meeting. 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

Willis Memorial Hospital – Rule(s) 480-13-.05(2)(b)(1), 480-13-.06(2) (a), and 480-11.04(3)(b)1
Request for waiver of rule regarding Laminar airflow hood.

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). Mr. Brinson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Stephens County Hospital Pharmacy – Rule 480-10-.12(1)(e)1

Valley Healthcare Systems, Inc. – Rule 480-10-.12(1)(e)1

Mr. Stone asked President Cordle if he could address the Stephens County Hospital Pharmacy and Valley Healthcare Systems waiver requests together as they are pertaining to the same rule. He asked if anyone was present from either facility. It was established that a representative was not present. These facilities are requesting waiver of the rule regarding Class A Balance or Electronic Balance. Dr. Azzolin commented that the waiver of this rule is not necessary if the pharmacy is not compounding, and that the pharmacy should not be held accountable for having a Class A Balance or Electronic Balance as long as the pharmacy is not compounding.

Mr. Brinson made a motion to deny the request for waiver of Rule 480-10.12(e)1 and Mr. Stone seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion

Palliative Pharmacy Solutions - Rule 480-37-.03 Request regarding Remote Automated Medication Systems and Omnicell XT.

The Board considered this request from Palliative Pharmacy Solutions for variance from Rule 480-37-.03, requesting to use an Omnicell XT unit as a Remote Automated Medication System pursuant to the Board Rules in Chapter 480-37.

Director Karnbach explained the RAMS requirements and stated that he does not believe the Omnicell XT can dispense patient-specific products. He continued, stating that if that means that a nurse or other non-pharmacist must take the drugs from the Omnicell XT, label the product, and then dispense it, this activity defeats the purpose of a RAMS unit. Additionally, he stated that he believes this activity has a non-pharmacist assuming the role of the pharmacist because the RAMS rules stated that all prescriptions dispensed by a RAMS unit are considered checked and verified by a pharmacist. Director Karnbach concluded, stating that he does not believe the functionality of the Omnicell unit does not fit the definition or intent of the Board's RAMS rules.

Director Karnbach stated that there is currently only one RAMS unit licensed and active in Georgia and briefly discussed the history of the permit. He stated that if the permit is being underutilized then the Board's might want to review the rules to determine whether changes or repeal are necessary.

Dr. Azzolin stated that he agreed with Director Karnbach, and that he does not believe this rule variance is appropriate in this case. He stated that the concept of RAMS in the Boards rules and in the law is so state specific that no manufacturer is going to make a machine to comply with it. He continued, stating that the concept of RAMS in general is counterproductive. He cited as an example that he used to work in a hospital with a 25-bed wing of the hospital that had a dispensing cabinet. While he was there, the hospital converted that wing into a licensed nursing home, and he was required to remove the dispensing cabinet because of the licensure change. He stated that nothing had changed surrounding the dispensing cabinet, and that they passed every inspection. At their next inspection, they were told to remove the dispensing cabinet because it could not be in a nursing home. Dr. Azzolin stated that he understands the letter of the law, but that it defeated the spirit of the law in this instance. He stated that dispensing cabinets are very good at preventing diversion and keeping accountability of drugs and decreasing waste.

Mr. Brinson advised that he agreed with Dr. Azzolin and Director Karnbach that the Board's rules need reviewed.

Dr. Azzolin added that the placement of a dispensing cabinet in nursing homes also poses patient choice concerns as the drugs in the cabinet belong to one pharmacy, and the presence of the cabinet

in the nursing home means that it will be easier for nurses to get prescriptions filled from that pharmacy, and they will be inclined to use that pharmacy.

Director Karnbach added that there will also be patients who are not able to use the cabinet because of their insurance coverage; and that dispensing from the dispensing cabinet takes patient specific prescriptions away from the local pharmacy. Director Karnbach further stated that he believes that “e-kits” are a related issue, as some facilities are using Pyxis unit in those settings. He believes there is overlap in this area.

Mr. Brinson added that he only remembers one RAMS unit coming to the Board for approval, and he has been on the Board since 2019. Director Karnbach stated that at one time the Board had about 30 RAMS licensees, but that they were all associated with a single entity.

Director Karnbach reminded the Board that with RAMS being a separate license, whatever decision they make with regard to it will have an impact on GDNA and Board staff in processing licenses and conducting inspections.

President Cordle stated the Board should take two actions. Rule on this variance request first and then table further discussion of the RAMS issue until the November work session.

Mr. Stone made a motion to deny the rule variance, and table further discussion of the RAMS issue until the November work session. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Correspondences

Correspondence from Jenkins County Medical Center– Request for Key Lock Box

Mr. Page asked if anyone was present on behalf of Jenkins County Medical Center. It was established that a representative was not present.

Jenkins County Medical Center requested permission to use a lock box to store the entry key for the pharmacy located at 931 E. Winthrop Avenue, Millen, GA 30442 and provided documentation for the request. The Board reviewed the documentation provided and discussed this correspondence. Director Karnbach advised that the proposed location for the Key Lock Box was in a public area and that GDNA did not recommend approving this request. The Board determined that the key lock box needs to be located in a more secure location before it can be approved.

President Cordle directed the Board Staff to respond to the correspondence as discussed.

Correspondence from eClinical Works – Response to Board’s Request for Appearance

The Board considered this correspondence from eClinical Works, a response to a request for more information from the Board at its meeting in February. Mr. Page asked if anyone was present on behalf of eClinical Works. It was established that a representative was not present.

Mr. Page briefly summarized the history of this matter which was discussed at the Board’s meeting in February. In February, the Board requested additional information with regard to prescriptions transmitted by eClinical Works. The Board is concerned that these transmissions do not meet the requirements of prescription drugs orders when they are transmitted by eClinical Works. Specifically, the Board was concerned that the signatures appearing on said transmissions do not appear to comport with legal requirements. At the February meeting, the Board requested additional information from eClinical Works and that a representative of eClinical Works appear at the March meeting.

Mr. Page continued, stating that the current correspondence from eClinical Works states that their

solution to the concerns raised by the Board is to add language to their transmissions stating that the transmission is not a prescription.

Note from the Executive Director: The Board reviewed the full text of the eClinical Works correspondences, of March 5, 2025 and of March 14, 2025, prior to the meeting. Not directly discussed by Mr. Page in his summary but considered necessary for complete understanding of the discussion as detailed below, is the nature of the eClinical Works system functionality. That portion of this functionality described as “a technical issue” by the Board, appears in bold below.

As described by eClinical Works in its correspondence of March 5, 2025:

*“...when eClinicalWorks is unable to validate the prescription order, eClinicalWorks converts these prescriptions to fax within our cloud environment to preserve the provider intent of the prescription. Since this conversion is performed outside of the eClinicalWorks application at a central hub, **a stored image of the provider's signature is not able to be included in the fax transmission.** Please note conversion to fax is only performed on non-controlled orders.” Bold emphasis supplied.*

Mr. Page stated that he has two issues primarily with this response. First, he believes that the correct response should be to fix the technical issue causing the problem. Second, that this is not a valid response, as this response shifts the burden to the pharmacist and the prescriber. The pharmacy will have to call the prescriber on every “prescription” received. Mr. Brinson concurred.

Dr. Azzolin agreed with Mr. Page, this is not a solution. However, he said, the Board cannot tell an organization that it cannot “send a note” to a pharmacy. Likewise, the Board cannot force eClinical Works to correct their technical issue. He explained that ultimately, it was going to be up to the pharmacists and the prescribers as to whether they wanted to take their time and energy to make the calls on these “notes.” Dr. Azzolin then asked if the signature requirement was in law or rule, and the Board established that the requirement was statutory.

Director Karnbach commented that GDNA has never made a case on this issue to the Board, and that his agency has always used its discretion when signature issues of this sort as points of education on the requirements of the law. However, the express statement that the document is not a prescription, appearing on the face of the “prescription” removes that discretion. There is no longer a question as to the validity of the document. Director Karnbach also pointed out that insurance companies will refuse to pay pharmacists for drugs that were dispensed pursuant to a “prescription” that is expressly not a prescription.

Dr. Azzolin stated that he believes their choice not to fix the software is an issue. However, he understands that if 20 other states do not require what Georgia requires, that there are business practicalities to consider. He continued, saying that on the flip side, if a law or rule creates impracticalities in practice, it might incentivize practitioners to find ways to work around the rule, creating medication errors.

Director Karnbach responded that rather than the long-term changes to law through the legislative process or the Board's rules, the Board could work with eClinical Works to determine whether their system is capable of utilizing any of the other methods of affixing a valid signature to prescriptions transmitted via by their system. He noted that there are several methods of applying a signature to a prescription which are valid under the Board's rules, some of which are electronic signatures. He stated that in this manner, every time the system converted a prescription, it would convert with a valid signature type.

Dr. Azzolin stated that he believes eClinical Works needs to be present at a Board meeting to discuss this matter with the Board, and that the Board should push for their attendance.

Mr. Farmer stated that the change proposed by eClinical Works is already in effect in Georgia, and that he had received a “prescription” with the “not a prescription” language in his pharmacy earlier in the week. He stated that in that case, a family practitioner sent over 6 prescriptions, and his pharmacy received 5 normally and 1 as a fax. Director Karnbach explained that the issue appeared to be an NDC issue, where the doctor had selected a drug code that was either not in the eClinical Works database or not in the database of Mr. Farmer’s pharmacy. The result was that the last prescription, with the mismatched code was sent as a fax.

Dr. Azzolin stated that issues like this one, with the code mismatch, are the reason eClinical Works needs to appear at a board meeting to discuss this issue with the Board.

Mrs. Johnson asked the Board whether they would prefer eClinical Works come to the April or May meeting. The Board advised that it would prefer to resolve the issue sooner rather than later, and would therefore prefer the April meeting, in Savannah.

Mr. Farmer stated that he believes their addition of language expressly invalidating the prescription transmission has created a more restrictive condition in the practice of pharmacy.

Mr. Stone asked if the Board could propose reverting the eClinical Works change until after they have discussed the issue with the Board. President Cordle replied that he did not see a problem with that course of action. Mr. Farmer added that the response to eClinical Works should specify that the previous form of their fax transmissions had few restrictive legal implications than their changes.

Director Joiner pointed out that the issue before the Board was that the previous iteration of the fax transmissions was invalid. The only difference between the current model and the previous was that the current version expressly states on the face of the document that the transmission is not a valid prescription. Director Joiner then asked the Board to clarify its rationale for its decision, noting that the changes made by eClinical Works are not in violation of the rule. Dr. Azzolin responded that the patient safety concern is that the impracticality could incentivize medication related errors. President Cordle added that prescriptions received directly from the practitioner have fewer drug errors than prescriptions transcribed by pharmacy staff, and that this change forces that transcription process. He continued, that the additional step also creates issues of delayed start of therapy for the patient.

President Cordle directed Board Staff to respond to the correspondence as discussed.

Correspondence from Geisinger – Problems with their workday application.

Geisinger sent a letter to the Board advising that they recently discovered that some purchase orders sent from its Workday application are not reaching its external suppliers. The Board reviewed the correspondence and agreed to take this correspondence as information only and that no further action is necessary at this time.

Email from Talbott Recovery

Ms. Lee Ann Williams thanked the Board for allowing her to speak at the Board’s February 7, 2025, meeting and invited the members to take a tour of the facility. The Board reviewed the email and agreed that this email is for informational purposes.

Email from Shepherd Center Inpatient Pharmacy

Shepherd Center Inpatient is requesting approval for a satellite pharmacy on the 6th floor of the Marcus Center, the building in which their pharmacy is located. Mr. Page stated that they have

provided schematics of the proposed location and layout of the proposed pharmacy. Mr. Page stated that he did not see any issues with their request and asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board and specifically requested comment from Director Karnbach.

Director Karnbach explained that GDNA did not have any specific concerns and that allowing this practice is consistent with what the Board has done in similar cases. Mr. Stone added that he did not see any issues and that he would be in support of a favorable response from the Board.

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

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency – Mr. Michael Karnbach

Director Karnbach reported that GDNA has conducted 2,530 inspections and was involved in 327 investigations for FYD.

Director Karnbach introduced Damian Merrick who will be taking over the territory that Deputy Director Mathis was handling in middle Georgia, the Henry County to Macon area. He will start the academy in July. Director Karnbach advised that Mark Smith left the Governor's Office, and Amy Dorman will be taking his place.

Director Karnbach reported that GDNA, like the Board, spoke in Athens last month and thanked Dr. Khail for the hospitality. He added that GDNA has been invited to speak at PCOM and Mercer in April.

Director Karnbach reminded the public that in the event of natural disasters or situations where pharmacies are forced to relocate due to no fault of their own, GDNA and the Board will move very quickly to assist pharmacies in these types of situations. Once a new location has been determined the Board and GDNA will work together with the pharmacy to get them operational as soon as possible. Director Joiner added for emergencies, if a pharmacy is in need, and it's a situation out of the licensee's control, the Board and GDNA can work to accelerate processes and if a vote is needed, the Board has the flexibility to make rapid decisions and ratify those decisions after the fact at the next Board meeting to allow quick response to avoid hardship for licensees.

Director Karnbach stated that he wants to encourage pharmacists that if an emergency does happen to reach out to the Board and GDNA. He asked Mr. Marquess to remind the association.

Attorney General's Report – Mr. Dowlin Ryals

No Report.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Clint 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. Annie Ruth Parks. Ms. Parks has worked for the State of Georgia for 25 years. Her tenure with the Board spans 15 years. She handles the workload of all of the facility applications except retail facilities. Director Joiner advised that she is a subject matter expert and has an unparalleled work ethic. The Board thanked Ms. Parks for her years of service.
- Director Joiner asked the Board to ratify the Board's decision to temporarily grant Tift Regional Medical Center's emergency request to allow Tift Regional Medical Center (License No.: PHH007998) to stock Omnicell units and "crash carts" for Georgia Sports Medicine from the hospital pharmacy drug inventory due to Georgia Sports Medicine's transition of physicians.

Director Karnbach explained that GDNA did not have any specific concerns and that allowing this practice is consistent with what the Board has done in similar cases in the past.

Mr. Stone made a motion to ratify the Board's approval to grant the temporary request. Mr. Brinson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Director Joiner advised that Tift Regional Medical Center also requested to make the temporary authorization permanent.

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

Legal Services – Mr. Clint Joiner

No Report.

Discussion Topics

Fee for late Low THC Renewal

Director Joiner stated that the first renewal period for low THC permits is approaching and that the Board needs to determine the late renewal fee. Director Joiner suggested a fee equal to or less than the current retail cost but noted that it has been difficult for the licensees to obtain approval from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Director Joiner suggested it might be appropriate to waive the fee for the first renewal or until the present situation with the DEA has been resolved.

Dr. Azzolin made a motion for the Board to adopt \$600 as the late renewal fee for Low THC licenses. Mr. Farmer seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Dr. Azzolin made a motion to waive the renewal fee given the present stance of the DEA until this situation has been resolved. Mr. Stone second, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Records Retention Schedule

Director Joiner advised that the Board's records retention schedule is 50 years. The Board currently pays a monthly storage fee to maintain these records. He added that the schedule does not specify what form (electronic versus paper) the records are to be maintained. Director Joiner advised that he and Director Karnbach have been considering document storage options. GDNA is moving to a paperless system, they are looking to get rid of the paper files and maintain the records electronically. Director Joiner advised that the Board would need to determine what files need to be kept in paper form, what can be scanned and what can be destroyed.

The Board discussed variations of maintaining the records, keeping an index versus scanning a whole document and paper versus electronic storage. The Board agreed that maintaining 50 years of records was excessive.

Director Joiner and Director Karnbach proposed the following recommendations:

0419-61-001A & 0419-61-001B | Approved Initial Individual and Facility Applications and Renewals

- Current Retention Schedule: (0419-61-001A) Individual Applications and Renewals: 50 years; (0419-61-001B) Facility Applications and Renewals: 10 years after facility closes.
- Proposed Retention Schedule: 10 years for paper documents; 30 years for electronic records

0419-61-006 | Board Orders (Pharmacy)

- Current Retention Schedule: 50 years
- Proposed Retention Schedule: 10 years for paper documents; 30 years for electronic records

0419-61-002A and 0419-61-002B | Examination Grade Sheets and Materials for Applicants for Pharmacist Licensure

- Current Retention Schedule: (0419-61-002A) Applicants for Pharmacist Licensure: Approved: 10 years; (0419-61-002B) Failed Examination Grade Sheets and Materials: 18 months
- No change

0419-61-005 | Investigative and Hearing Files (Pharmacy)

- Current Retention Schedule: 50 years
- Proposed Retention Schedule: 10 years for paper documents; 30 years for electronic records

0419-61-004 | Legal Opinions from the Department of Law (Pharmacy)

- Retention: Retain for useful life.
- No change

0419-61-003 | Withdrawn, Declined, or Pending Applications for Licensure, Permitting

- Retention: 18 months
- No change

GDNA Facility Inspection Files

- Retention: 5 years for paper documents; 10 years for electronic records\

GDNA Administrative Investigation Case Files

- Retention: 10 years for paper documents; 30 years for electronic records

GDNA Criminal Investigation Case Files

- Retention: 10 years for paper documents; 30 years for electronic records

Board of Pharmacy Background Files for Applications

- Retention: 10 years for paper documents; 30 years for electronic records

Board of Pharmacy Orders

- Retention: 10 years for paper documents; 30 years for electronic records

GDNA Notifications submitted to the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency

- Retention: 5 years for paper documents and electronic records

GDNA Employee Activity Reports

- Retention: 5 years for paper documents and electronic records

Board of Pharmacy Investigative and Hearing Files

- Retention: 10 years for paper documents; 30 years for electronic records

Mr. Brinson made a motion to approve the proposed retention schedule for the Board's records. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the proposed retention schedule for GDNA's records. Mr. Page seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Letter from Don Hutcherson- Public Access to Licensee Information

Mr. Hutcherson expressed concern that a simple license verification on the Department of Community Health (DCH) website provides too much personal information for the licensees. He added that in recent times violence towards healthcare workers has become more acceptable with a small minority of society. He believes that having personal information readily available online is too easy for someone who is upset with a pharmacist, due to their inability to afford or obtain medications, to retaliate which could put the licensee and their families in danger. Mr. Hutcherson requests that the Board consider removing the full address for licensees from the public website.

Mr. Brinson mentioned that on the Secretary of State's website it does not list the full address for the licensees. Their website has the name, city and state for the licensee. Mr. Stone stated he always uses his work address because he also believes that personal addresses should not be listed publicly.

Mr. Page asked what the law says about what information should or should not be included publicly online. Director Joiner advised that the Board is required by law to provide a public roster of licensees, registration holders, and permit holders (which includes names and business addresses) to anyone requesting the information but the Board does not have control over whether a pharmacist provides their business or personal address for the public listing. He added that this requirement is the reason why the information appears on the website.

O.C.G.A. §26-4-28.1(b)

“(b) The executive director shall prepare and maintain a public roster containing the names and business addresses of all current licensees, registration holders, and permit holders for each of the various registrants regulated by the board [emphasis added]. A copy of the roster shall be available to any person upon request at a fee prescribed by the board sufficient to cover the cost of printing and distribution. The following shall be treated as confidential, not subject to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50, relating to open records, and shall not be disclosed without the approval of the board: (1) Applications and other personal information submitted by applicants, except to the applicant, the staff, and the board; (2) Information, favorable or unfavorable, submitted by a reference source concerning an applicant, except to the staff and the board; (3) Examination questions and other examination materials, except to the staff and the board; and (4) The deliberations of the board with respect to an application, an examination, a complaint, an investigation, or a disciplinary proceeding, except as may be contained in official board minutes; provided, however, that such deliberations may be released to a law enforcement agency or prosecuting attorney of this state or to another state or federal enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority. Releasing the documents pursuant to this paragraph shall not subject any otherwise privileged documents to the provisions of Code Section 50-18-70.”

The Board discussed options on how to handle the situation and whether or not it is appropriate to list the work address or home address as the mailing address for public listing. Director Joiner commented that when someone applies for a pharmacy license in Georgia, the bottom of page two says “if you are granted a license, your name, mailing address and license number become public information and will be posted on the Georgia Board of Pharmacy's website.” He added that the mailing address is primarily used for renewal purposes and application processing and that the licensee must report any address change as soon as possible. Director Karnbach advised that the law does require licensed permit holders to report permanent business address or personal address changes within 15 days.

Director Karnbach commented that if you own a business the Secretary of State will have your home address listed. Mr. Stone commented that he did not like the licensee's home address published on the Board's website. He felt that it could create a potential safety issue. Director Karnbach agreed that it could propose a risk.

The Board agreed to table the discussion to look at possible options to address the concern.

Miscellaneous

- **Dan Dixon the CEO of Green Acres Wellness** (Green Acres) requested status on their request to be added to the approved treatment facilities list.

The Board discussed meeting with Green Acres at last month's meeting and the materials provided by Green Acres. The Board agreed that it would be appropriate to add Green Acres to the preferred provider list.

Mr. Stone commented that the Board needs to create a checklist for reviewing qualifications for facilities requesting approval. The Board discussed differences that they have seen in the various programs offered by providers for treatment. Mr. Farmer agreed that the board should come up with a base line for credentials.

Mr. Farmer asked how many providers are on the preferred list currently. Director Joiner advised that there 25. The Board discussed reviewing all of the providers on the existing list to create new standards.

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

The Board agreed to table discussion of reviewing the existing list of preferred providers and the creation of baseline credentials for preferred providers until the work session.

- Mr. Brinson thanked Director Joiner, Director Karnbach and Deputy Director Mathis for all their work on their presentations to the Georgia legislature and all that they do for the Board. Director Joiner thanked the House and Senate for allowing the Board to give the presentation to the appropriations committee.
- Mr. Brinson commented that Mr. Azzolin did an excellent job on his presentation to the House Committee concerning HB193.
- **Pharmacy Technician Continuing Education (CE)**
President Cordle advised that the Board has received a lot of feedback from the public about the first wave of technician renewals and the CE requirements. The law now requires that immunizing technicians must take two (2) hours of CE that is immunization related. However, the Board recognizes that for this first renewal process the Board might need to grant some leeway on the CE requirements.

Rule 480-15-.02 Registration of Pharmacy Technicians and Continuing Education Requirements.

- (6) On and after July 1, 2023, as a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her registration, a pharmacy technician must complete not less than twenty (20) hours of approved continuing education.

- (a) "Approved continuing education" means courses approved by the Board as described in Rule [480-3-.03](#).

- (b) One hour of C.E., is refined as 0.1 C.E.U. Each pharmacy technician in the State of Georgia must obtain 20 hours of continuing education or 2.0 C.E.U.'s per biennium for registration renewal.
 1. Certificates documenting 20 hours of approved continuing education or 2.0 C.E.U.'s must be completed and filed within the biennium
- (c) C.E. requirements during the technician's first biennial registration cycle:
 1. A pharmacy technician registered during the first six (6) months of the biennium (July 1, Year-One to December 31, Year-One), shall be required to obtain 20 hours of C.E.
 2. A pharmacy technician registered during the following twelve (12) months (January 1, Year-Two to December 31, Year-Two), shall be required to obtain 10 hours of C.E.
 3. A pharmacy technician registered during the last six (6) months (January 1, Year-Three to June 30, Year-Three) of the biennium, shall be exempt from continuing education for that biennium only.

Director Joiner advised that the Board may grant an exemption to this requirement for this initial renewal period. Alternatively, the Board could defer compliance with the requirement for a defined period. He added that it would be difficult for the Board to track compliance in this latter case, but it was an option nonetheless.

The Board discussed the options. Mr. Stone commented that he would like for the Board to review the CE requirements for the Pharmacy Technicians at the work session. President Cordle stated that the CE requirements and how to monitor compliance will need to be added to the November work session.

Mr. Stone made a motion to waive the 20 hours CE requirement for Pharmacy Technicians for this first renewal period only, except the two (2) hours CE requirements required by law for the immunizing technicians which must be immunization related. Mr. Brinson seconded, and the Board voted in favor of the motion.

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

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, Michael Brinson, Young Chang, Cecil Cordle, Michael Farmer, Chuck Page, and Dean Stone.

Executive Session

Appearances:

R.C.	N.S.	A.R.	N.S.M.
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Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency - Mr. Michael Karnbach
Pharmacy Technician impairment.

Cognizant's Report – Mr. Young Chang

T35675	T35601	T35679	T35631	A35219
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A35507	B35507	B55531	B35625	B35654
B35571	A35649	B35593	B35604	B35613
B35682	B35547	B35591		

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

Mr. Ryals presented the following consent orders for acceptance:

M.S.O.	C.S.	S.D.I.	D.O.	K.B.	M.R.	F.P.
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Counterproposals

B.H.P.	B.T.Y.	M.L.D.
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Status Open Cases

C.P.S. / E.H.	E.S.P.	J.M.	A.H. / P.A.J.	V.P.L.
C.I.	D.S.I.	J.K.C.		

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Clint Joiner

- J.H.

Legal Services – Mr. Clint Joiner

No Report

Applications

M.E.H.	N.M.	T.R.	T.S.	T.M.	K.C.
E.T.	S.K.E.	A.R.	J.W.	J.M.	Q.T.
K.B.	J.K.	R.S.	T.J.	R.E.	C.N.
M.U.H.A.					

Correspondences/Requests

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

Open Session

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

Cognizant's Report

GDNA Case #	Licensee	Recommendation
T35675	C.E.B.	Revoke Technician Registration
T35601	A.J.B.	Revoke Technician Registration
T35679	C.R.C.	Accept the Voluntary Surrender
T35631	J.M.S.	Revoke Technician Registration
A35219	D.B.P.	Refer to AG for Public Consent Order
A35219	D.B.P.	Refer to AG for Public Consent Order
B35507	L.M.A. / L.D.C.	Misfill Guidance #1A
B35531	P.P. / S.Y.L.M.	Misfill Guidance #1A
B35625	P.P. / N.E.H.	Misfill Guidance #1A
B35654	R.G.H.E	Refer to AG for Private Consent Order; Approve the

		application pending payment of fine and signed Private Consent Order
B35571	B.H.P/ C.M.B.	Misfill Guidance #1A
A35649	E.F.P.	Refer to AG for Private Consent Order; Approve the application pending payment of fine and signed Private Consent Order
B35593	W.G./ S.A.M. /K.A.P.	Letter of Concern to PIC and floater pharmacist
B35604	W.P	Close No Action
B35613	A.M.C.	Close No Action
B35682	S.C.P.	Close No Action
B35547	W.G.	Close No Action
B35591	B.H.M.P.	Close No Action

Orders

All proposed orders were approved for docketing.

Counterproposals

All proposed counterproposals were denied.

Applications

Applicant	Type of License	Status
M.E.H.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
N.M.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
T.R.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
T.S.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
T.M.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
K.C.	Pharmacy Technician	Approved
E.T.	Pharmacy Technician	Tabled.
S.E.	Pharmacy Technician	Tabled.
A.R.	Pharmacist	Tabled.
J.W.	Pharmacist Intern	Tabled.
J.M.	Pharmacist	Approved
Q.T.	Pharmacist	Tabled.
K.B.	Pharmacist	Approved
J.K.	Pharmacist	Approved
R.S.	Pharmacist Certification of DTM	Approved
T.J.	Nuclear Pharmacist	Tabled.
R.E.	Nuclear Pharmacist	Approved
C.N.	Nuclear Pharmacist	Tabled.
M.U.H.A.	Non-resident Pharmacy (needs to be ratified)	Approved

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

L.M.S.	O.M.D.	P.R.L.	I.P.S.	E.U.I
M.M.R.	W.C.P.			

Correspondences/Requests

Licensee	Request	Decision
A.B.	Request to Extend Pharmacy Intern License	Approved. Extend to 6/30/2026
F.U.N.	Request to Take NAPLEX – 4 th Attempt	Approved
T.D.	Request to Take NAPLEX – 4 th Attempt	Approved

I.P.	Request to Take NAPLEX – 4 th Attempt	Approved
Z.A.	Requesting 3 rd extension of her application	Approved
J.P.	Request to Take NAPLEX – 4 th Attempt	Approved
O.A.	Request for Extension of Time to Take MPJE	Approved
E.M.L.	Requesting Appearance for Reinstatement	Approved.
M.D.	Requesting Appearance for Reinstatement	Approved.
M.E.B.	Requesting Appearance for Reinstatement	Approved.
A.J.	Requesting Appearance for Reinstatement	Approved.

Vice President Chang 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, April 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at South University School of Pharmacy located 700 Mall Blvd, Savannah, GA 31406.

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