

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PERFUSIONISTS**

**250 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02108**

**Thursday, June 5, 2025**

**VIA Zoom**

**8:00 AM**

**GENERAL SESSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

(Open Session)

Board Members Present: Kyle Spear, Certified Clinical Perfusionist, Chair  
Prem Shekar, M.D., Cardiovascular Surgeon  
Kevin Lilly, Certified Clinical Perfusionist, Vice Chair  
Thomas Stapleton, Certified Clinical Perfusionist

Board Members

Not Present: Nelson Thaemert, M.D., Anesthesiologist, Cardiac  
Anesthesia, Secretary

Staff Present:

Edmund Taglieri, PSUD Supervisor, BHPL, DPH  
Tracy Ottina, Board Council, Office of the General Counsel  
Kayla Mikalauski, Acting Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL,  
DPH  
Tracy Tam, Acting Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL, DPH  
Carol Larkin, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL, DPH  
Mark Waksmonski, SARP Coordinator, BHPL, DPH

I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum

At 8:07 a.m., Mr. Kyle Spear, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order. Mr. Spear reminded board members the meeting was being recorded and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

Roll call as follows: Kyle Spear: present; Prem Shakar: present; Kevin Lilly: present; Thomas Stapleton: present.

Absent: Nelson Thaemert

II. Approval of General Session Agenda | Conflict of Interest

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Spear asked the board members to disclose any recusals with the June 5, 2025, General Session Agenda. There were no recusals noted.

ACTION:

Mr. Thomas Stapleton made a motion to approve the agenda as written, which was seconded by Mr. Kevin Lilly, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Kyle Spear: approve; Prem Shakar: approve; Kevin Lilly: approve; Thomas Stapleton: approve.  
Absent: Nelson Thaemert

**Document:** June 5, 2025, General Session Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Spear asked the board members to review the minutes and make a motion to approve when ready. Mr. Spears stated that the date was wrong on the minutes. The date should be March 6, 2025, and Ms. Mikalauski stated the error would be corrected before posting.

ACTION:

Mr. Thomas Stapleton made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, which was seconded by Mr. Prem Shekar, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Kyle Spear: approve; Prem Shekar: approve; Kevin Lilly: approve; Thomas Stapleton: approve.  
Absent: Nelson Thaemert

**Document:** March 6, 2025, General Session Minutes

IV. Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program  
Practice and Supervision Criteria

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Mikalauski stated the Board wanted to bring back the Practice and Supervision Criteria because of potential questions about restrictions on working overnight. Mr. Spear stated that the restrictions that stood out for him were not being able to work more than a 12-hour shift per day and not being able to exceed 40 hours in a week. Mr. Spear wanted to open this up for discussion with the Board to see if they wanted to make any changes to that or any other restrictions. Dr. Shekar stated he would like to leave the restrictions as is, with the option of the individual program Chief Perfusionist to have a discussion of the authority. Mr. Stapleton agreed to leave as is for now and if a unique situation arises in a department that might be limited by staff, then the Board would have a discussion as to how these could be reconsidered under the obligations of the department.

Mr. Taglieri stated that he could give feedback on this situation to consider if that would be acceptable. Mr. Taglieri stated that going back to the board with exceptions could be difficult, and asked if the Board wanted to alter the restriction to state that the participants could not be scheduled more than 40 hours a week and twelve hours in one day unless there was an emergency or if they are

called in. Mr. Taglieri stated there is also the restriction of twelve midnight to five a.m., which is more for practitioners, if the Board finds that a perfusionist is not in a situation like that in an OR, they could vote to remove that restriction.

Mr. Waksmonski asked the Board if they would be comfortable with monthly or bi-monthly reports with a change in restrictions. Mr. Waksmonski stated that workplace monitors would report any deviations from their conditions of practice, and they could be addressed collectively by the program moving forward and reiterations of practice in the future. Mr. Spear stated that as someone who schedules staff to cover shifts, he could see potentially a big issue with 6-12 month hourly restrictions, stating they are allowed to work without these restrictions at 18-24 months. Mr. Spear stated that the Perfusionist Board is in a unique position where they do not have unlimited Perfusionists available to cover these restrictions.

Mr. Waksmonski asked Mr. Spear if the Board would consider outpatient therapists to support participants wanting to work overtime. Mr. Waksmonski suggested that a therapist would give a recommendation to allow the participant to work overtime or longer shifts and would give regular reports on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Taglieri stated that in that situation, it would need to come back to the board. Mr. Taglieri suggested that in order to work scheduled overtime, a participant would need a therapist evaluation and that would not need to be brought to the board and would be monitored by the program. He also states the program is aware that emergent situations come up and the program would not feel the need to interfere. Mr. Spears confirmed if an emergency situation came up, a therapist evaluation would not be needed? Mr. Taglieri stated no.

Mr. Taglieri stated that the Board could vote to allow overtime in an emergency and only allow scheduled overtime with a therapist report. Mr. Spear stated he is in support of a participant being able to attend to emergent situations, and scheduled overtime would be allowed with a therapist report. As well as removing the 12-5 am restriction. Mr. Stapleton agreed but would like to lift restrictions for 12 months upon approval of the Board. Mr. Taglieri clarified that if the Board votes to allow scheduled overtime and overnight shifts with a therapist report, participants would be able to work these shifts for 6- 12 months.

Mr. Spear asked if the Board would be voting on being able to work in emergent situations, scheduled overtime with a therapist report and removing 12-5 am restriction for participants 6-12-months. Mr. Taglieri suggested moving the timeline to 6-18 months to set them up for success, and then the participant would go unrestricted without approval. Mr. Taglieri reminded the Board that this was a 5 - year program and that the program wanted to give participants 18 months of solid therapy support and work experience.

Mr. Spear stated that most departments have 3-7 Perfusionists and having just one on restrictions could decimate a department. Mr. Spear stated he understands the program but feels a year is sufficient and wanted to ask the other members their thoughts. Mr. Stapleton agreed with Mr. Spear, but he is concerned about other members of the staff, and he doesn't want other members to ultimately get burnt out trying to support someone else going through the program, stating there has to be some balance. Mr. Taglieri stated that the primary goal is to protect the public and to allow a participant to work with therapeutic support is reasonable for 6-18 months.

Mr. Spear stated that Perfusionists are never scheduled to do overtime, it is just when an emergent situation pops up. Mr. Taglieri states that stipulating there is no overtime and only overtime in an emergency would solve the problem. Mr. Waksmonski agreed that participants could go without the therapist's approval in emergency situations.

Mr. Spear asked if a participant could come back to work before the 6-month period with a mental health issue and Mr. Taglieri stated it was up for discussion. Mr. Taglieri stated that the mental health issue is evolving, and not as clear cut and a participant will not be allowed back to work without a fitness for duty report. Mr. Spear asked if board members are ok with the proposed changes and all agreed.

*Dr. Shekar dropped off the meeting and Tracy Ottina stated they had lost quorum and at this point the matter is under discussion and if Mr. Shekar does not return the matter could be voted on at the next meeting.*

Mr. Taglieri stated that they had discussed it clearly and the board had a good plan. Mr. Taglieri also stated that currently there are no active participants in the program and the Board could wait three months to vote on the matter.

Mr. Stapleton stated that in most Boston hospitals, a manager does not have another individual who holds licensure at the same level as them. Mr. Stapleton asked if the manager went in the program, who would manage them, as their manager would mostly likely be a surgeon without a Perfusionist license. Mr. Stapleton stated that the only acceptable individuals supervising would be the Anesthesiologist and or Surgeon who may have enough understanding to supervise the participant and more specifically a cardiac surgeon. Mr. Taglieri stated that that is already loosely stated in that it can be someone of the same or higher level, if there was a situation that was uncomfortable, it could always be brought back to the board. Mr. Stapleton agreed and said that every hospital is different in terms of their Perfusionist Department.

Mr. Waksmonski stated there are supervisory reports where all members of the operating room would participate. Mr. Spear was concerned about the confidentiality piece of this report. Mr. Taglieri assured the board that if there were any concerns, they would bring those concerns back to the board for their expertise. Mr. Lilly stated there is no flexibility in the Perfusionist profession and would not want nurses and Nurse Practitioners as supervisors. Mr. Lilly stated that it would be an issue at his institution, and he would recommend cardiac surgeons and cardiac anesthesiologists. Mr. Waksmonski asked if a cardiac surgeon or cardiac anesthesiologist would be submitting the report, stating that URAMP has automated the process, so it is easier. Mr. Taglieri said in his opinion, he is comfortable with the process as written but understands the changes in the supervisory process that the board is requesting. Mr. Spear and Mr. Stapleton asked who makes the decision on who is the supervisor and Mr. Taglieri said it is between the employee and the employer. Mr. Taglieri stated that the participant during a hiring interview discloses his participation in URAMP and gets buy in from the hiring manager and actively gets into a discussion with URAMP staff on who the supervisor will be to monitor their service. Mr. Taglieri states that it is a combination of the participant, URAMP and the employer. Mr. Spear thanked Mr. Taglieri and Mr. Waksmonski and stated that the board would try to be flexible as they can, giving the restrictions of the unique profession with limited staff.

Flex Session

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Tam stated that there are no items for the flex session and wanted to remind board members that the next board meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2025, and asked if there are any board members unable to attend. Mr. Spear stated that that is a little far out and that when it comes closer, they can decide on the quorum and Ms. Tam agreed.

V. Adjournment

There being no other business before the board and Tracy Ottina requested a vote to adjourn, even though there was no quorum. Mr. Spear asked for a vote to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomas Stapleton motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Kevin Lilly, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Kyle Spear: adjourn; Kevin Lilly: adjourn; Thomas Stapleton: adjourn.

Absent: Nelson Thaemert: Prem Shekar

*Let the records show the meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.*

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Perfusionists is scheduled for September 11, 2025, via Zoom at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Board of Registration of Perfusionists