

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PERFUSIONISTS

**250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108**

Thursday, March 6, 2025

VIA Zoom

8:00 AM

GENERAL SESSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

(Open Session)

Board Members Present: Kyle Spear, Certified Clinical Perfusionist, Chair
Nelson Thiemert, M.D., Anesthesiologist, Cardiac Anesthesia,
Secretary
Kevin Lilly, Certified Clinical Perfusionist, Vice Chair
Thomas Stapleton, Certified Clinical Perfusionist

Board Members

Not Present: Prem Shekar, M.D., Cardiovascular Surgeon

Staff Present:

James Lavery, Director, Division of Health Professional Licensure
Edmund Taglieri, PSUD Supervisor, BHPL, DPH
Tracy Ottina, Board Council, Office of the General Counsel
Kayla Mikalauski, Acting Executive Director, Multi-Boards 2, BHPL,
Tracy Tam, Acting Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL 1, 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. Lavery introduced Kayla Mikalauski to the Board as the new Acting Executive Director as well as expressing his appreciation to the Perfusionist board members. Ms. Mikalauski introduced the new Board Council, Tracy Ottina to the Board. Ms. Ottina gave the Board a brief summary of her background.

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; Nelson Thaemert: present; Kevin Lilly: present; Thomas Stapleton: present.
Absent: Prem Shekar

II. Approval of General Session Agenda | Conflict of Interest

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Spear asked the board members to disclose any recusals with the March 5, 2024, General Session Agenda. There were no recusals noted.

ACTION:

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

Document: March 5, 2024, 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.

ACTION:

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

Document: December 5, 2024, General Session Minutes

IV. Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program

A. Operational Policy 24.08, Staff Action Policy

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Mikalauski introduced Mr. Taglieri to go over updates in the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program. Mr. Taglieri introduced Mark Waksmonski, SARP Coordinator. Mr. Taglieri stated he is giving an update on the Unified Recovery and Monitoring program and is requesting a few votes from the Board, stating as a reminder that the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program is a result of Chapter 177, the acts of 2022 requesting the Department of Public Health to establish a voluntary program to monitor health care professionals seeking support for mental health or substance abuse disorders or having been referred by a licensing board. Mr. Taglieri stated the program is under the full stewardship of the Bureau of Health Professional Licensure, which is managed by Mr. Lavery and consists of 21 boards including the Board of Perfusionists. Mr. Taglieri stated that the program has been up and running since December 2024. Mr. Taglieri stated he wanted the Board to take two votes,

first being the operational plan. Mr. Taglieri explained that to get to the operational plan, there was a work group from the Bureau of Professional Licensure led by Mr. Lavery that met weekly and used practices of SARP nursing and PCF programs and did a national search of programs and found the best practices. Mr. Taglieri stated the work group met with an advisory committee established under law. Mr. Taglieri stated that after all steps were completed the group formalized an operational plan and presented it to the Commissioner of DPH , who approved the plan and the plan was also reviewed by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and it was approved, and the program was given permission to move forward mid- December 2024. Mr. Taglieri is asking the board to ratify and approve the URAMP operational policy 24-08.

Mr. Lilly asked how licensees are referred? Mr. Taglieri responded that typically a complaint has been filed against a licensee, and the complaint could be mental health or substance abuse related. During triage, the Board would assess the complaint and would decide if it should be referred to URAMP staff and the licensee would be given information on the program, and they could reach out to apply. Mr. Lilly asked if it was voluntary? Mr. Taglieri responded yes, it helps the licensee to recover and lets the program monitor them, and they can return to safe practice. Mr. Taglieri also stated that if the licensee completes the program, the complaint is dismissed without prejudice and the complaint will not appear on their license record, also stating that the program is completely confidential. Mr. Lilly asked if the licensee refused the program, what would happen? Mr. Taglieri stated that the licensee would then appear before the Board. Mr. Lilly asked if a licensee only had one DUI would they be eligible for the program? Mr. Taglieri stated that if they didn't have a diagnosis or treatment of mental health or substance abuse disorder, they wouldn't qualify for the program. Mr. Lilly asked who would make that diagnosis? Mr. Taglieri stated that it would have to be a qualified mental health professional, and it is a fairly in-depth application and mental health evaluation. Mr. Taglieri stated that the applications would then be reviewed by a specialized committee like the Board's rehabilitation and reevaluation committee. Mr. Taglieri stated that they have staff action authority to approve applications based on the application and mental health evaluation. Mr. Lilly stated that he was sure that the purpose was to have a uniform policy across all boards? Mr. Taglieri stated yes, and that the policy had been broad for mental health and substance abuse disorders and wanted to provide a confidential program that would allow licensees to go back to safe practice and this program was originally only available to the Nursing and Pharmacy Boards. Ms. Ottina stated it is not only the diagnosis of mental health or substance abuse disorders, but the conduct observed that's bring the issue to our attention versus the issues revealed by the licensee.

ACTION:

Mr. Thomas Stapleton made a motion to approve and authorize the URAMP operational policy 24-08 as written, which was seconded by Mr. Kevin Lilly, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Kyle Spear: approve; Nelson Thaemert: approve; Kevin Lilly: approve; Thomas Stapleton: approve.

Absent: Prem Shekar

B. Practice and Supervision Criteria

DISCUSSION

Mr. Taglieri asked for a vote on the General Practice Restrictions as the program would like to get started with the Perfusionist Board. Mr. Taglieri stated that the General Practice Restrictions could be customized by the Board and changed as needed. The topic could be brought up at a later meeting and if changes need to be made in the future, the changes will be voted on and given to Ms. Mikalauski and she will forward the changes to Mr. Taglieri.

ACTION

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

Absent: Prem Shekar

Documents: Operational Policy 24.08, Staff Action Policy Practice and Supervision Criteria

V. Flex Session

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Mikalauski stated that there are two board seats open at this time, a Perfusionist seat as well as a public member seat. Ms. Mikalauski asked if anyone knew of someone interested in applying for the board, to please refer them to the Board website on mass.gov. Ms. Mikalauski informed the Board that as of 3/31/2025, board meetings would potentially no longer be held online. Ms. Mikalauski stated that there has not been a definite answer, but please keep it in the back of your mind for the June meeting. Ms. Mikalauski stated that the June meeting could potentially be at 250 Washington Street. Ms. Mikalauski stated that she would reach out by email and text when she has a definite answer. Ms. Ottina stated that if the meeting is in person, there must be a quorum of four seated at the meeting and other members can be online. Mr. Thaemert asked, who is this being driven by? Mr. Thaemert also stated that getting down to headquarters while working clinically is almost an impossibility. Ms. Mikalauski stated that she understood, at this time it is not Bureau driven and that she knows it is not realistic, especially for this board, and she will have an answer before the next meeting. Ms. Ottina stated this is a legislative decision whether they will allow hybrid or virtual to be extended. Ms. Ottina also stated that the legislature has been hearing from the Bureau especially because of the healthcare boards and the need for their involvement and many are involved in clinical practice with patients. Ms. Ottina also stated that healthcare Boards do not have the flexibility to drop everything and come to Boston. Mr. Thaemert stated that the legislature has to understand that they are voluntary members of this Board. Ms. Ottina stated apologized stating yes, that goes without saying.

VI. Adjournment

There being no other business before the board Ms. Mikalauski asked for a vote to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kevin Lilly motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Thomas Stapleton, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Kyle Spear: adjourn; Nelson Thaemert: adjourn; Kevin Lilly: adjourn; Thomas Stapleton: adjourn.
Absent: Prem Shekar

Let the records show the meeting adjourned at 8:28 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Perfusionists is scheduled for June 5, 2025, via Zoom at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Board of Registration of Perfusionists