

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE

**THIS AGENDA CONSTITUTES NOTICE OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF RESPIRATORY CARE
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING LAW, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20**

Thursday, July 17, 2025

1:00 p.m.

General Session is open to the public and will be held via Zoom at:

<https://zoom.us/j/92741290905?pwd=oq9aFYiV91t5ilGDvNaabpaNn4XOSH.1>

Call-In Telephone number: 1-929-436-2866

Webinar ID: 927 4129 0905

Agenda

All votes must be via roll call

Time	Item #	Item	Staff Contact
1:00p.m.	I	Call to Order & Introductions Determination of Quorum Notice of Electronic Recording	Board Chair
	II	Approval of Agenda	Board Chair
	III	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of June 26, 2025, General Session Minutes.	Board Chair
	IV	Discussion on Regulation Amendments A. 261 CMR 2.00: Purpose and definitions B. 261 CMR 3.00: Documentation of license C. 261 CMR 4.00: Investigations, Complaints and Board actions D. 261 CMR 5.00: Continuing Education	Board
	V	Limited License Guidance Memo	Board Counsel

Board of Registration of Respiratory Care

ADA Compliance Notice: If you need reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the meeting, contact Stacy Hart the DPH ADA Coordinator at phone number 857-274-1120 in advance of the meeting. While the Board will do its best to accommodate you, certain accommodations may require distinctive requests or the hiring of outside contractors and may not be available if requested immediately before the meeting.

	VI	Flex Session A. Who will attend the next board meeting? B. Topics for next agenda	Executive Director
	VII	Executive Session The Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(1) for the purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, individuals, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. 1. Specifically, the Board will consider approval of prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, § 22(f) and review a good moral character matter for licensure. The Board will not reconvene in open session subsequent to the closed session.	Board Chair
	VIII	Adjournment: Next meeting scheduled for August 21, 2025.	Board Chair

Board of Registration of Respiratory Care

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE

**250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108**

**Thursday, July 17, 2025
Via Zoom**

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES (OPEN SESSION)

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Jason Morin, Respiratory Therapist, Board
Chair William Beal, Consumer, Board Vice
Chair Brian Bloom, MD
Daniel Fisher, Respiratory Therapist
Meaghan Kaplan, Consumer
Adrian Velasquez, MD

BOARD MEMBERS

NOT PRESENT:

Ms. Adelline Ntatin, Nurse

STAFF PRESENT:

Tracy Tam, Executive Director, Multi-Boards 1, BHPL
Kayla Mikalauski, Acting Executive Director, Multi-Boards 2,
BHPL
Danielle Macfarland, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards,
BHPL
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel, BHPL

I. CALL TO ORDER | DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

At 1:02 p.m., Mr. Jason Morin, Board Chair, called the General Session meeting to order. Mr. Morin reminded Board members the meeting was being recorded and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

Roll call as follows: Mr. William Beal: present, Dr. Brian Bloom: present, Mr. Daniel Fisher: present, Ms. Meaghan Kaplan: present, Mr. Jason Morin: present.

II. APPROVAL OF GENERAL SESSION AGENDA | CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Discussion: The Board reviewed the General Session Agenda.

Dr. Adrian Velasquez entered the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Action:

Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Mr. William Beal, seconded by Dr. Brian Bloom, and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Mr. William Beal: yes, Dr. Brian Bloom: yes, Mr. Daniel Fisher: yes, Ms. Meaghan Kaplan: yes, Mr. Jason Morin: yes, Dr. Adrian Velasquez: yes.

Document: July 17, 2025, General Session Agenda

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion: The Board reviewed the drafted General Session Minutes.

Action:

Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Dr. Brian Bloom, seconded by Mr. Daniel Fisher, and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Mr. William Beal: abstain, Dr. Brian Bloom: yes, Mr. Daniel Fisher: yes, Ms. Meaghan Kaplan: abstain, Mr. Jason Morin: abstain, Dr. Adrian Velasquez: yes.

Document: June 26, 2025, General Session Minutes

IV. DISCUSSION ON REGULATION AMENDMENTS

A. 261 CMR 2.00: Purpose and definitions

Discussion: Mr. Jason Morin proposed an amendment for section 2.02 to remove the word certificate from the definition of Respiratory Care Program because there is no longer a certificate program in Massachusetts. The Board also decided to amend the draft by removing the definition of AMA PRA because that term will not be used in the regulations. All Board members were in agreeance.

B. 261 CMR 3.00: Documentation of license

Discussion: Ms. Tracy Tam directed the Board to the drafted amendment in section 3.06. License by Credential was removed while License by Examination and License by Reciprocity left as is. Ms. Tam stated the main key difference is if the Applicant ever held a license in another state, extra documentation should be required to ensure their license is in good standing. All Board members were in agreeance.

Mr. Jason Morin stated there are two different passing scores that are acceptable for licensure, a lower threshold score which issues the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential and a higher threshold score which issues the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential. Mr. Morin asked the Board whether the passing score should be raised to the RRT threshold or left as is. Dr. Brian Bloom stated the Board

had a guest speaker attend a Board meeting to argue why the RRT be the only acceptable credential in the Commonwealth. The Board acknowledged there is still a shortage of the RRTs in the field, however CRTs still need to be employed, so it would not be in the best interest of the Commonwealth to make changes to the regulation.

Mr. Morin asked if the Board were to differentiate between CRT licenses and RRT licenses, would current license holders be grandfathered in and allow the Board a pathway to establish these two license types going forward. Ms. Tracy Ottina stated it would be burdensome on employers and have a harmful effect on fulfilling the needs of the community. Mr. Daniel Fisher stated the NBRC cannot get rid of the CRT because it is a requirement in some states, and there are no CRT only schools, rather RRT qualification schools. Mr. Fisher stated he believes there is a difference between Knowledge based and experience between a CRT and an RRT thus resulting in having an effect on the health and wellbeing of the Commonwealth. Dr. Brian Bloom stated the number of enrollees in the Respiratory programs is half of what the Board would like, and a number of those students are not passing with a cut score at the RRT level. Dr.

Brian Bloom stated until the problem of creating more high-quality Respiratory Therapist is solved, making the regulation stricter is not going to help the issue.

Ms. Tracy Tam asked the Board if they would like to clarify with legal, because in Massachusetts there is only one license type, regardless of whether it is a CRT or RRT, thus making it difficult to have two different scopes of practice. Mr. Jason Morin stated he feels as though having the two different license requirements would be useful in the field and eliminating the CRT would take time and be done as a phased in approach. Ms. Ottina stated this change would require a budget, possibly another Board, and team under Ms. Tam to review applications that are divided between CRTs, and RRTs. Ms. Tracy Ottina stated at the legal end she would need to do extensive research on a functional and pragmatic level to create and ensure the standard of care in essence creating a separate license. Dr. Brian Bloom stated if the job of the Board is to set one low bar, then we have that currently, and does not think it's reasonable to just raise the bar, however, would like to explore having the duality of CRT and RRT. Ms. Ottina stated she would work with Ms. Tracy Tam, Ms. Kayla Mikalauskis, Board counsel for the Nursing Boards, and for Board members to send her any documentation they think may be helpful in ensuring this rule could be implemented.

C. 261 CMR 4.00: Investigations, Complaints and Board Actions

Discussion: The Board did not have any amendments for 261 CMR 4.00: Investigations, Complaints and Board Actions.

D. 261 CMR 5.00: Continuing Education

Discussion: Mr. Morin proposed an amendment to remove the term “Continuing

Education Unit” (CEU) from the regulations or redefine it to state 1 CEU = 1 contact hour. Ms. Tracy Ottina stated she would research the Mass General laws for any clarity so that any recommendations from the Board are appropriate.

Mr. Morin proposed to amend the computations in section 5.02(6). Mr. Jason Morin suggested simplifying the computation to state the successful completion of a course is equal to a certain number of contact hours.

Mr. Jason Morin asked if the language in section 5.02(7) of the regulations should be changed so that acceptable contact hours are not simply limited to AARC or MSRC approved activities and could include other professional medical associations. Ms. Tracy Tam proposed an amendment to update the language to accept continuing education programs and activities that have been approved by a certifying agency as long as it falls within the subject matter of respiratory care. All Board members were in agreeance.

V. LIMITED LICENSE GUIDANCE MEMO

Discussion: Ms. Tracy Tam shared the Limited License Guidance Memo with the Board. Ms. Tracy Ottina stated the language has been updated to maintain consistency with other Boards.

Action:

Motion to approve the Limited License Guidance Memo was made by Mr. Daniel Fisher, seconded by Dr. Adrian Velasquez and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Mr. William Beal: abstain, Dr. Brian Bloom: yes, Mr. Daniel Fisher: yes, Ms. Meaghan Kaplan: abstain, Mr. Jason Morin: abstain, Dr. Adrian Velasquez: yes.

VI. FLEX SESSION

Discussion: Mr. Jason Morin asked for the attendance at the next Board meeting scheduled for August 21, 2025. Mr. William Beal, Dr. Brian Bloom, Mr. Daniel Fisher, Mr. Jason Morin and Dr. Adrian Velasquez stated they would be in attendance. Ms. Meaghan Kaplan stated she would not be in attendance. Ms. Tracy Tam stated there would be quorum, and she would reach out to Ms. Adelline Ntatin.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion: The Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(1) for the purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, individuals, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. 1. Specifically, the Board will consider approval of prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, § 22(f) and review a good moral character matter for licensure. The Board will not reconvene in open session subsequent to the closed session.

Action:

At 2:05 p.m., motion to move into Executive Session was made by Mr. William Beal, seconded by Ms. Meghan Kaplan and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Mr. William Beal: abstain, Dr. Brian Bloom: yes, Mr. Daniel Fisher: yes, Ms. Meghan Kaplan: abstain, Mr. Jason Morin: abstain, Dr. Adrian Velasquez: yes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:18 p.m., motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Brian Bloom, seconded by Mr. Adrian Velasquez, and unanimously passed by roll call vote as follows: Dr. Brian Bloom: yes, Mr. Daniel Fisher: yes, Dr. Adrian Velasquez: yes.

Let the record show that the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
The Board of Respiratory Care