

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration of Chiropractors
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108**

Public Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2025

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Chiropractors (the Board) was held remotely with video and audio conference as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations, signed into law on July 16, 2022.

Attendees were informed that the meeting was being recorded.

Dr. Grosso noted a quorum of members present via video or phone and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Joseph Grosso, Chair
Dr. Jacyn Debs, Vice Chair
Dr. Mary Connors, Secretary
Dr. Kathleen O'Malley, Member
Dr. Sunit Jolly, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

none

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Guglietta, Board Executive Director
Katie Goldrick, Board Associate Executive Director
Sheila York, Esq., Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigations Supervisor
Ellen D'Agostino, Investigator
Jacob Edwards, Investigator
Anastasia Bouikidis, Investigations Intern
Ed Taglieri, URAMP
Mark Waksmonski, URAMP
Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy
Gillian Coffey, Health Communications Manager

ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Grosso took attendance by roll call and a quorum of board members was recorded with the following members present via video conference: *Grosso, Connors, O'Malley, Debs, Jolly*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Dr. Grosso asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. O'Malley, seconded by Dr. Debs and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the March 6, 2025 agenda as drafted.**

in-favor: Connors, Grosso, O'Malley, Debs, Jolly

opposed: none

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Grosso asked for a motion to approve the February 6, 2025 meeting minutes. Dr. Mary Connors stated that she had an amendment to the minutes that she wanted added under Compliance Monitoring. Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Connors, seconded by Dr. O'Malley and VOTED (roll call); **to table the vote on the February 6, 2025 public meeting minutes until the next meeting.**

in-favor: Connors, Grosso, O'Malley, Debs, Jolly

opposed: none

REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

Board Counsel Sheila York discussed the potential expiration of amendments to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. These amendments have been in place since March 2020 and have allowed the board to hold fully remote meetings with all board members participating remotely for the past five years. If the Legislature does not extend these amendments, the Board's ability to hold fully remote public meetings will expire on March 31st. If the amendments are not extended and the pre-Covid requirements for board meetings take effect on April 1st, then for future meetings a quorum of the Board including the person chairing the meeting will be required to meet in person. Under the pre-covid rules, the Chair may authorize remote participation by board members who are not necessary to make a quorum only if the Board has voted at a prior meeting to allow such remote participation under 940 CMR 29.10. Board Counsel advised the board on procedures for remote participation by board members under that regulation. In case the amendments permitting fully virtual meetings are not extended, Board Counsel recommends the Board vote to allow remote participation at future board meetings as permitted in 940 CMR 29.10.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Jolly, seconded by Dr. Debs, and VOTED (roll call); **to allow remote participation as permitted in 940 CMR 29.10 in future board meetings.**

in-favor: Connors, Grosso, O'Malley, Jolly, Debs

opposed: none

UNIFIED RECOVERY AND MONITORING PROGRAM (URAMP)

URAMP Director Mark Waksmonski, Ed Taglieri, and Jonathon Dillon introduced themselves and updated the board. URAMP was approved and started in December. They were attending the meeting to ask the Board to approve the URAMP operational policy and practice restrictions. Thereafter, a motion made by Dr. Jolly, seconded by Dr. Debs and VOTED (roll call); **to authorize and approve the URAMP Operational Policy 24-08.**

in-favor: Connors, Grosso, O'Malley, Jolly, Debs.

opposed: none

Before the second vote, Ed Taglieri informed Board members that they could customize the URAMP practice restrictions for the chiropractic profession at a future board meeting and vote to approve the changes.

Thereafter, a motion made by Dr. Debs, seconded by Dr. O'Malley and VOTED (roll call);
to approve the generic practice restrictions inclusive of supervisor qualifications.

in-favor: Connors, Grosso, O'Malley, Jolly, Debs.

opposed: none

PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAM COMMENTS:

Tracey Lane, Executive Director of Mass Chiropractic Society (MCS), informed the Board that she had met with Dr. John Markham, Preceptor Professor at Life University, to learn about their chiropractic preceptorship program and shared information with board members. Tracey reviewed the P.E.A.K. program which allows senior interns to complete their clinic requirements under the direction of an off-campus doctor. Chiropractic doctors are credentialed through an application process to become a P.E.A.K. doctor. Each doctor will be subject to the laws and rules of their state, regarding preceptorships. Tracey read a list of doctor requirements and responsibilities and intern requirements and responsibilities for the program. Dr. Debs commented that she learned about the Logan and Palmer application process for the preceptorship program and is very excited about it.

Paul Andrews, LMT and Mark Davini, D.C. submitted a letter with information and considerations for the Board around developing guidance for the preceptor program. Paul Andrews spoke first stating that his perspective is from a billing and compliance point of view. Key topics included insurance reimbursement, the monitoring and alignment of existing preceptorship guidelines from chiropractic colleges to ensure consistency with Massachusetts state law and regulations, establishing a preceptor approval process, requiring students to take a jurisprudence exam, requiring chiropractic students to wear identifiable badges, informed consent forms for patients to work with students, the definition of direct supervision, clarification on students providing radiology services, and documentation.

Dr. Davini congratulated the MCS for their success in the passing of the legislation for preceptorships and the huge achievement it is for the students coming to the state. Dr. Davini stated that his perspective is from a compliance and malpractice point of view. He is strongly in favor of identification of the student doctor in the form of a name badge. Dr. Davini mentioned background checks being required for doctors and students. He posed the question of who would be responsible if a student doctor does something illegal or outside the scope of chiropractic.

PAIN MANAGEMENT AND CHIROPRACTIC CARE COVERAGE COMMENTS

Tracey Lane, Executive Director of Mass Chiropractic Society (MCS), updated the board that Dr. Howard Ewert, MCS's Opioid Campaign Director, created a document outlining some key considerations, perspectives, and specific recommendations for inclusion in opioid prescribing training programs. MCS is trying to meet guidelines and deadlines regarding the division of insurance, DPH, their own board, and including chiropractic so it has a seat at the table. Ms.

Lane requested that Dr. Ewert be added to the Board's agenda to present updates at future meetings. Given time constraints and meeting frequency, there are strict deadlines in H5143 that need to be met and MCS is recommending weekly meetings with the Department of Health and the Board to develop prescriber training programs. Ms. Lane is excited about working in collaboration with the Department of Public Health to educate the public and prescribers about chiropractic's role in helping with pain management. Board Executive Director, Lisa Guglietta, provided MCS with contact information for three Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) policy staff. Ms. Guglietta also provided these staff with Dr. Ewert's March 6, 2025 letter regarding collaboration on prescriber training programs under H5143.

DISCUSSION

Draft Guideline for Preceptor Program

Board members discussed the draft Guideline for Preceptor Program presented by Board Counsel. Students must have passed all the preceptorship requirements of their schools to be a student extern in MA and the Board must provide written authorization. The definition of direct supervision was discussed by the board. The Board prefers the preceptor doctor be on the premises when a student is performing patient care and able to offer assistance. Students performing x-rays was discussed and board counsel will be reaching out to the Radiation Control Program for input. Students must identify themselves to patients as student externs and comply with their school's requirement to wear identification. Preceptor doctors must also verbally disclose to patients if a student will be working with them. Student practice should be properly documented.

Dr. Jolly shared her personal experience of being a preceptor for Tufts Medical School and that she worked for an organization that took students from most of the Physical Therapy (PT) programs. She was vetted by the medical school to be a preceptor. She noted that the state wants to make sure that chiropractors with discipline are not taking students. Dr. Jolly also commented that it was not uncommon for students to lose their preceptorship due to the preceptor doctor leaving due to circumstances like an injury, giving notice, or moving away. She would like to see some flexibility built into the policy in case of situations like these so that students can find another preceptor. Dr. Debs stated that she read in one of the preceptor program pamphlets from Logan and Palmer that if the preceptorship gets cut short for any reason the student had to immediately report back to the student clinic at the school.

Attorney York will make the Board's requested edits to the draft guideline and bring it back for discussion in April.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board discussed the letter dated February 7, 2025 from Roger A. Russell, DC, MS, DIANM President, International Academy of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine regarding Board Certification Integrity. It was taken under advisement by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:02 p.m. a motion was made by Dr. O'Malley, seconded by Dr. Debs and VOTED (roll call); **to end the public session.**

in-favor: Connors, Grosso, O'Malley, Debs, Jolly

opposed: none

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Connors, Secretary
Board of Registration of Chiropractors

Documents used by the Board during open session:

- *Posted agenda 3/6/2025*
- *Draft public meeting minutes of 2/6/2025*
- *URAMP Generic Practice and Supervision Criteria*
- *URAMP Operational Policy 24-08 Staff Action Policy*
- *Letter from Paul Andrews, LMT and Mark Davini, D.C. of TOOLS OF PRACTICE with information and considerations for developing guidance for the preceptorship program*
- *Draft Outline of Preceptorship Policy*
- *Letter from Roger A. Russell, DC, MS, DIANM President, International Academy of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine*