

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

Public Meeting Minutes

April 3, 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.

Lisa Guglietta, Board Executive Director, introduced the new board member, Dr. Janine Pulley.

Dr. Grosso noted a quorum of members present via video or phone and called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Joseph Grosso, Chair
Dr. Jaclyn Debs, Vice Chair
Dr. Mary Connors, Secretary
Dr. Kathleen O'Malley
Dr. Sunit Jolly
Dr. Janine Pulley

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

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, Pulley*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Dr. Grosso asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Jolly, seconded by Dr. Debs and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the April 3, 2025 agenda as drafted.**

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

opposed: none

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Grosso asked for a motion to approve the updated February 6, 2025 meeting minutes. Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Connors, seconded by Dr. O'Malley and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the public meeting minutes of February 6, 2025 as drafted.**

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

opposed: none

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

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

opposed: none

UPDATE FROM MASS CHIROPRACTIC SOCIETY

Preceptorship Program Comments and Discussion

Dr. John Markham, Director of the PEAK Program at Life University, spoke about his involvement with the program and gave detailed information about how the students become eligible to be a preceptorship candidate and the credentialing involved for preceptor chiropractors. He discussed the requirements for Massachusetts chiropractors to participate in the program and shared information with board members. Dr. Jolly asked how long the credentialing process takes for preceptor chiropractors including the background check. Typically, it would be two to four weeks. Dr. Jolly also asked a question about the timeframe for students who complete and pass their Part III exams and start interviewing for preceptorships to be able to start a 16-week program in Massachusetts. At Life University, students will be taking Part III around the 11th or 12th quarter. Students are eligible for the program in the 13th or 14th quarter. Dr. Pulley asked if there was a formal application for the preceptor. The preceptor doctor does complete a formal application, provide supporting documentation, and must be in good standing in their state. Dr. Pulley also asked if students were also required to have a background check. The student will be required to have a background check only if they are going to a certain international destination or a military facility where it is required. Dr. Grosso asked if direct supervision by the clinic doctor was still required for students to perform adjustments on patients and Dr. Markham confirmed that it was.

Tracey Lane, Executive Director of Mass Chiropractic Society (MCS), thanked Dr. Markham and the Board for Dr. Markham's participation in the meeting. She stated that Dr. Saro was the creator behind the preceptorship program. She stated that many chiropractors are aging out of the profession and are not being replaced by new students at the same rate. She also stated that

preceptorships have been occurring in the past 20 years but not at full scope. Students could only observe and not adjust. The new law paves the way for students to adjust as externs.

Dr. Jolly asked about the current number of licensees in Massachusetts practicing chiropractic. Lisa Guglietta stated that currently in the BHPL system the number of active licensees is 1,641. Tracey Lane noted that it is expensive for students to come to Massachusetts, and they may not have family or friends in the state. The Chiropractic Foundation is moving toward a scholarship that could help preceptor students with living costs or a place to stay. Tracey Lane will be going on a Spring college tour and meeting with the doctors in charge of the preceptor programs.

Pain Management c. 285 of the Acts of 2024 An Act Relative to Treatments and Coverage for Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Coach Licensure

Tracey Lane, Executive Director of Mass Chiropractic Society (MCS), updated the board about the meeting she attended with BHPL/DPH staff, Dr. Ewert, MCS Opioid Director, and MCS lobbyist Steven Panagiotakos. She stated that it was a good meeting, and she looks forward to collaborating on the work that needs to be done. Dr. Connors asked Dr. Ewert how he sees board members participating. Dr. Ewert stated that board members were stakeholders and could help the other boards of registration get the job done. The Chiropractors Board could serve as a resource to the other boards. Dr. Ewert stated that based on the meeting he attended, DPH will need to figure out who should be involved in the project. He stated that the law requires prescribing professions to be educated about the treatment options that serve as alternatives to opioid prescribing. Dr. Grosso stated that he was not sure it was within the Board's purview to formulate guidelines for prescriptive providers. Dr. Grosso noted that the Board's primary responsibility is public safety. He also noted that the Board would be happy to address any questions from other boards. Steven Panagiotakos, MCS Lobbyist, stated that he hoped that as DPH moves forward with the prescribing boards in developing this they will utilize MCS's resources, especially Dr. Ewert as a stakeholder.

DISCUSSION

Draft Guideline for Preceptor Program

Attorney York presented the updated draft policy guideline to the Board by sharing her screen. The Board's requested edits from the March meeting were highlighted in yellow. The Board discussed the requirements of the student extern during the preceptorship, including the requirements of wearing a badge or nametag and students not holding themselves out as doctors or D.C.'s who could practice chiropractic without supervision. Dr. Jolly noted that the informed consent required from the patient to work with a student extern should be verbal to match the current regulations. It was suggested that the verbal consent could be documented in the SOAP notes.

The Board engaged in a discussion about direct supervision and the preceptor doctor being in the room during certain procedures such as adjustments. Dr. Grosso brought up public safety as an issue and that the responsibility and liability is on the preceptor doctor. Dr. Jolly stated that she preferred vaguer language as not all procedures required the preceptor doctor to be in the room. Dr. Grosso stated that he preferred black and white language which did not lend itself to interpretation. There was discussion on what constituted a primary procedure. Dr. Jolly pointed out that adjustments may not be primary procedure for some chiropractors. Attorney York stated

that adjustments could be specified in the language if board members agree. In addition, the Board could look into the wording of guidelines for other preceptorship programs.

The Radiation Control Program is being consulted for guidance around student externs performing x-rays. Accreditation standards will be checked to determine how much training the student externs would have received by the start of their preceptorship. Dr. Jolly noted that students who had taken Parts I, II, and III of their exams would have had all the x-ray training.

Dr. Jolly raised the question of whether Board staff would have the capability to handle the volume of incoming applications from preceptor doctors and students in a short period of time. Students in a trimester system would be coming in batches. Attorney York stated that the screening of the preceptor chiropractor is very brief. Board staff would check if they were recognized by a school and a chiropractor of record of a facility. Executive Director, Lisa Guglietta, stated that checking whether a preceptor doctor is chiropractor of record at a facility was easy to do. She also stated that if the Board did not require a formal application, then it was a matter of tracking the students. The chiropractic schools would have vetted the students and ensured they completed all the requirements to be externs. The Board would track information such as the chiropractor facility address and the start and end dates of the preceptorship for each student. Dr. Jolly suggested that the schools receive the Board's preceptorship requirements and guidelines and notify the Board when students get placed. The burden would not be on DPH, and the schools would be responsible to make sure the preceptor student and doctor meet the requirements and communicate with the Board. Attorney York stated that it was a resource issue and senior leadership would need to weigh in on how the agency will support this. Direction was given to staff to get feedback from BHPL senior leadership for the next meeting.

REACTIVATION APPLICATION **CHIRA100033 Marc Cohen CHI2186**

The Board took the application under advisement.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:01 p.m. a motion was made by Dr. Debs, seconded by Dr. O'Malley and VOTED (roll call); **to end the public session.**

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

opposed: none

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Connors, D.C., Secretary
Board of Registration of Chiropractors

Documents used by the Board during open session:

- *Posted agenda 4/3/2025*
- *Draft public meeting minutes of 2/6/2025*

- *Draft public meeting minutes of 3/6/2025*
- *Life University PEAK program information*
- *Mass Chiropractic Society Request for Presentation about H.5143*
- *Draft Guideline for Preceptorship Program*
- *Reactivation Application CHIRA100033 M.C.*