

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

Public Meeting Minutes

May 1, 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 10:07 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Joseph Grosso, Chair
Dr. Jacyn 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
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. Debs, seconded by Dr. O'Malley and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the May 1, 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 draft April 3, 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 April 3, 2025 as drafted.**

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

opposed: none

COMMENTS FROM MASS CHIROPRACTIC SOCIETY (MCS)

Preceptor Program and Pain Management

Tracey Lane, MCS Executive Director, Steven Saro, D.C., MCS Legislative Chairman, and Howard Ewert, D.C., MCS Opioid Director attended the meeting. Dr. Saro stated that he has been a volunteer for MCS for 30 years. He said that the passing of the new Preceptor Law and Opioid Law were great achievements for MCS. Dr. Saro gave a brief history of how the Preceptor Program came to be and noted that eight years ago chiropractic students in Massachusetts were limited because they could not adjust. Dr. Saro stated that the state lost a lot of young talent due to this. He shared that former Senator Steven Panagiotakos assisted greatly in getting the legislation passed. He further commented that the chiropractic schools do all the heavy lifting for the doctors and the students in the Preceptor Program and make sure that all the clinical requirements of the program are met. Dr. Saro stated that he did not understand the need for a private, for-profit compliance group to manage the program and he is not sure there is a big need for compliance. Dr. Ewert commented that MCS has not had a second meeting with DPH yet and that Massachusetts was on the national news for the Opioid Law. Tracey Lane noted that the Chiro Congress congratulated Massachusetts for the Opioid Law.

Chiropractor License Application Processing

Tracey Lane thanked the Executive Director and Associate Executive Director for assisting chiropractor applicants who contact MCS with the licensure process.

COMMENTS FROM TOOLS OF PRACTICE

Chiropractic Preceptors

Paul Andrews, LMT and Mark Davini, D.C. of Tools of Practice attended the meeting. The first topic in their letter to the Board was concerning direct supervision of student externs. Dr. Davini is a medical malpractice expert witness and noted that it is important to have a chiropractor in the room with a student during a primary procedure. Dr. Davini stated that they are a compliance company and are not trying to insert themselves into the Preceptorship Program. Dr. Davini stated that compliance is needed and plays a big part. He further commented that they work on compliance to protect individual practitioners across the country and are not part of the decision making for the preceptor program. Dr. Grosso stated that the Board would take the information under advisement.

DISCUSSION

Draft Guideline for Preceptor Program

The Board reviewed the *Draft Guidance for Chiropractic Practice in Massachusetts by Students Enrolled in Their Final Academic Year of Chiropractic College*, which had been updated with the Board's suggestions from the April meeting. Attorney York informed the Board that the Radiation Control Program (RCP) requested and was sent information about the amount of radiology training the student externs would have prior to beginning the preceptorship program. There are two versions of the NBCE Part III exam. One version includes the Diagnostic Imaging Interpretation (DXI) component, and one does not. If a student had already passed Part IV with the Diagnostic Imaging (DIM) domain then they will take Part III without the DXI component. All other students will take Part III exam with DXI. Therefore, all student externs would have passed either Part III with DXI or Part III plus Part IV with DIM prior to their preceptorship. RCP was also sent a list of radiology courses offered by one chiropractic college, which has been provided to the Board by Dr. Markham of the Life University PEAK Program.

Under the new Preceptorship Law, student externs can perform the full scope of chiropractic practice. The Board agreed that the draft guideline was ready for administrative review. The only outstanding item was a response from the RCP. The Board also discussed informed consent and whether to add a sentence to the guideline that the Board recommends obtaining written consent from a patient to be treated by a student extern. Dr. Connors felt strongly that the current draft policy which calls for verbal informed consent documented in the patient record was not enough to protect the doctor and it is in the doctor's best interest to obtain a form consenting to student treatment signed by the patient. The draft policy is in line with the current regulations allowing verbal informed consent so long as it is documented in the patient record. The Board has proposed changing the regulations in the future to require written informed consent. Dr. Connors was happy that the Board was discussing informed consent again given that a new member had recently joined. A majority of Board members agreed that a sentence recommending written informed consent would not be added to the draft preceptorship policy. Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Jolly, seconded by Dr. O'Malley and VOTED (roll call); **to submit for administrative review the *Draft Guidance for Chiropractic Practice in Massachusetts by Students Enrolled in Their Final Academic Year of Chiropractic College***.
in-favor: Grosso, O'Malley, Debs, Jolly, Pulley
opposed: Connors

COMPLIANCE MONITORING

Swiatoslaw A. Paduchak - License No. CHI1689 - Docket 2020-000985-IT-ENF

The Board discussed the Monitoring Report for Dr. Paduchak which was the first report submitted by his new monitor, Dr. Mark Elfman. Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Connors, seconded by Dr. Pulley and VOTED (roll call); **to accept the monitoring report.**

in-favor: Connors, Grosso, O'Malley, Debs, Jolly, Pulley
opposed: none

The Board discussed the Corrective Action Report submitted by Dr. Paduchak. Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Connors, seconded by Dr. Debs and VOTED (roll call); **to accept the corrective action report.**

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

opposed: none

REACTIVATION APPLICATION

Gregory Gordon – License No. CHI368 – Application CHIRA100034

Dr. Gordon's license expired on 4/7/2023 and 24 CEUs were required. The board discussed the application. Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Connors, seconded by Dr. Debs and VOTED (roll call); **to accept the application.**

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

opposed: none

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:01 a.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 5/1/2025*
- *Draft public meeting minutes of 4/3/2025*
- *Letter dated 4/8/2025 from Tools of Practice*
- *Draft Guidance for Chiropractic Practice in Massachusetts by Students Enrolled in Their Final Academic Year of Chiropractic College dated 5/1/25*
- *Monitoring Report and Corrective Action Report Swiatoslaw A. Paduchak*
- *Reactivation Application CHIRA100034 Gregory Gordon*