



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF PHARMACY



Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

Penny Vaillancourt
Director

Minutes of August 13, 2025, Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting Public Notification and Hearing/Viewing Instructions Provided at the Opening of the Meeting by Board President Edward Kane.

CALL TO ORDER

President Kane called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Edward Kane, Esq., Public Member, Board President
Timothy McCormack, Esq., Public Member
Abdifatah Ahmed, PharmD, R.Ph., Independent Pharmacist
Bradley Hamilton, R.Ph., Chain Pharmacist

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nicholas Haar, PharmD, R.Ph., Hospital Pharmacist
Eric Norberg, RPh, Pharmacist, Vice President and Complaint Officer
Samantha Emmons, R.Ph., Chain Pharmacist

STAFF PRESENT

Penny Vaillancourt, OPOR Director
Reid Hayton-Hull, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Thomas Avery, Chief Field Investigator
Adam Wood, Field Investigator
Meagan McLaughlin, Comprehensive Health Planner II
Clark Phinney, Comprehensive Health Planner II
Celia Robinson, Comprehensive Health Planner II

ADJUDICATION HEARING

Hearing Officer Rebekah Smith, Esq. convened the second day of hearing in case 2025-PHA-20692 at 8:36 a.m. Licensee Benjamin Okafor was represented by Kelly Hoffman and William Campbell. Assistant Attorney General's Nicole Sawyer, Esq. and Katie Warwick, Esq. represented Board Staff. Hearing Officer Smith conducted a roll call vote to confirm that Board Members had access to the hearing exhibits with all members voting in the affirmative.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(F), McCormack moved that the Board go into executive session during witness testimony solely for the purpose of confidentiality by statute pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003-B(1), seconded by Hamilton. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Emmons, Haar and Complaint Officer Norberg absent.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(F), McCormack moved that the Board leave executive session by statute Pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003-B(1), seconded by Hamilton. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Emmons, Haar and Complaint Officer Norberg absent.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(F), McCormack moved that the Board go into executive session on separate occasion when Licensee was testifying solely for the purpose of confidentiality by statute pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003-B(1), seconded by Hamilton. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Emmons, Haar and Complaint Officer Norberg absent.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(F), McCormack moved that the Board leave executive session by statute Pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003-B(1), seconded by Hamilton. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Emmons, Haar and Complaint Officer Norberg absent.

Following the presentation of evidence and witness testimony, the Board concluded that Mr. Okafor engaged in unprofessional conduct by failing to establish and maintain effective controls to prevent prescription misfills and errors and by failing to address or attempt to resolve a prescription error and situation of potential harm which was apparent or should have been apparent to the pharmacist. As discipline for the violations, the Board voted to issue Mr. Okafor a censure, to suspend his license for 30 days, with time already served due to the emergency suspension, and to place Mr. Okafor under probation for a period of 10 years, during which time Mr. Okafor will be required to engage in a Continuous Quality Improvement program.

The hearing adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

President Kane offered public comment, no one had a public comment.

ADJOURN

McCormack made a motion to end the board meeting, seconded by Hamilton. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Emmons, Haar and Complaint Officer Norberg absent.

Prepared By: Celia Robinson, Comprehensive Health Planner II

Board approved: 12/4/2025



