



Janet T. Mills
Governor

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

Penny Vaillancourt
Director



Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

Minutes of July 3, 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 8:40 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Edward Kane, Esq., Public Member, Board President
Eric Norberg, RPh, Pharmacist, Vice President and Complaint Officer
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

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
Dominic Cotone, Comprehensive Health Planner II
Celia Robinson, Comprehensive Health Planner II

COMPLAINT PRESENTATION AND BOARD ACTION

2025-PHA-20790

McCormack moved to issue an emergency suspension for case number 2025-PHA-20790 pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 10004(3). The Licensee's ability to practice as a pharmacist will be suspended effective immediately upon issuance of the Order for a thirty (30) day period ending on August 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m., pending further action at an adjudicatory hearing and a Notice of Hearing will be issued. Seconded by Ahmed; Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Norberg abstained; Hamilton recused; Haar absent.

ADJUDICATION HEARING

Hearing Officer Rebekah Smith, Esq. convened the hearing at 9:05 a.m. Benjamin Okafor was represented by Kelly Hoffman and William Campbell and 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. Hamilton recused. Okafor made a motion to dismiss the charge of fraud and deceit. McCormack made a motion to deny motion, seconded by Hamilton. Kane in favor; Ahmed opposed; Norberg recused; Haar absent.

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; Complaint Officer Norberg recused; Haar 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; Complaint Officer Norberg recused; Haar absent.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(F), McCormack moved that the Board go into executive session on separate occasion when Patient 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; Complaint Officer Norberg recused; Haar 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; Complaint Officer Norberg recused; Haar absent.

Following presentation of evidence and witness testimony the hearing adjourned at 2:10 p.m. and will continue a second day to be determined.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Presented by Penny Vaillancourt, OPOR Director

A new board member has been appointed to the board and will be at the next meeting. A review of where the board was at with complaint cases, several upcoming hearings, progress is being made on closing open cases, discussion of delegation order to cut down on amount of cases being presented and there is an outside contract to come in and assist with reviewing cases.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

June 5, 2025

Hamilton moved to approved minutes from June 5, 2025 as written, seconded by Norberg. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Haar absent.

COMPLAINT PRESENTATION(S) AND BOARD ACTION

2024-PHA-20269

Norberg moved to dismiss 2024-PHA-20269 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.

2024-PHA-20072

Norberg moved to dismiss 2024-PHA-20272 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.



2025-PHA-20610

Norberg moved to dismiss 2025-PHA-20610 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.

2025-PHA-20607

Norberg moved to dismiss 2025-PHA-20607 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.

2025-PHA-20608

Norberg moved to dismiss 2025-PHA-20608 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.

2025-PHA-20609

Norberg moved to dismiss 2025-PHA-20609 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.

2025-PHA-20695

Hamilton moved to dismiss 2025-PHA-20695 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Norberg abstained; Haar absent.

2025-PHA-20725

Hamilton moved to dismiss 2025-PHA-20725 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Norberg abstained; Haar absent.

2024-PHA-20272

Norberg moved to schedule 2024-PHA-20272 for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a Consent Agreement to include the following: 1) Admission to violation of 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5) Board Rule Chapter 13 § 3(2) (E) Warning; 3) \$250,00 Civil Penalty, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.

2024-PHA-20068

Norberg moved to table 2024-PHA-20068 pending further investigation by board staff, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.

2024-PHA-19775

Norberg moved to dismiss 2024-PHA-19775 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.



2024-PHA-20255

Norberg moved to schedule 2024-PHA-20255 for an adjudicatory hearing and to offer a Consent Agreement to include the following: 1) Admission to violation of 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5) and Board Rule Chapter 30 § 1(17), 2) Reprimand; 3) Revocation; seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.

2024-PHA-19883

Norberg moved to dismiss 2024-PHA-19883 with no evidence of a violation of the Board's law and rule, seconded by Ahmed. Kane in favor; Complaint Officer Hamilton abstained; Haar absent.

APPLICATION, REVIEW AND BOARD ACTION

Byron Alston

Hamilton moved to approve issue licensure to Byron Alston, license No. PR72547, seconded by Norberg. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Haar absent.

Marina Galli

Hamilton moved to moved to preliminarily deny licensure to Marina Cali, License No. PT60019506 for the following 1) Admission to violation Pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 13742-A(1)(A), the misuse of alcohol, drugs or other substances that has resulted or may result in the applicant or licensee performing duties in a manner that endangers the health or safety of patients constitute grounds for which the Board may impose discipline and is directly related to the occupation. 2) Warning; 3) Evaluation to be completed and present to the board for review; 4) Issue license if evaluation is approved by board, seconded by Norberg. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Haar absent.

Mary Ellen Spear

Hamilton moved to table renewal application for Mary Ellen Spear, seconded by Norberg. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Haar absent.

WAIVER REQUEST

Pen Bay Hospital (HOS20)

Hamilton moved to approve waiver request of Board Rule Chapter 20 subchapter 2 –Automated Pharmacy Systems, seconded by Norberg. Ahmed and Kane in favor. Haar absent.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

President Kane offered public comment, no one participated in public comment.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Norberg moved to adjourn, seconded by Hamilton. Ahmed and Kane in favor; Haar absent.

Prepared By: Celia Robinson, Comprehensive Health Planner II

Board approved: September 4, 2025

