

**INDIANA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS**  
**Indiana Government Center South**  
**302 West Washington St.**  
**Conference Center, Room C**  
**Indianapolis IN 46204**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2025**

Diane Vuotto, D.C., Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and declared a quorum in accordance with IC 25-10-1-1.5(f), pursuant to public notice posted at the principal office for the Board, online at the board's website and on the state calendar at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time of the meeting.

Member(s) Present:	Diane Vuotto, D.C., Chair Richard Mason, D.C., Member Emily Shoemaker, Consumer Member Derek Dyer, D.C., Vice Chair
Staff Present:	Jody Edens, Board Director Professional Licensing Agency James Green, Assistant Board Director Professional Licensing Agency Clarence Leatherbury, J.D., Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

The Board voted to APPROVE the Agenda.

Dyer/Shoemaker, 4/0/0  
Motion carries

The following board members voted aye:  
Diane Vuotto, Richard Mason, Derek Dyer, Emily Shoemaker  
The following board members objected: none  
The following board members abstained: none

The Board voted to APPROVE OCTOBER 10, 2024, minutes as written.

Mason/Dyer, 4/0/0  
Motion carries

The following board members voted aye:  
Diane Vuotto, Richard Mason, Richard Mason, Emily Shoemaker  
The following board members objected: none  
The following board members abstained: none

## **ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

### **Derek Jordan, D.C., License No 08002750A, Cause No. 2023 IBCE 0004**

Respondent did not appear in person and was not represented by counsel regarding an Administrative Complaint scheduled before the Board. The State of Indiana was represented by Carah Rochester, Deputy Attorney General and the court reporter sworn in for this matter was Lindy Meyer with Accurate Reporting Services.

Ms. Rochester requested the Board issue a Notice of Proposed Default since the respondent did not appear.

After having considered the evidence presented, and taking official, judicial notice of the pleadings, evidence, and orders in this matter, the Board moved to ISSUE a NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEFAULT.

Mason/Shoemaker, 4/0/0  
Motion carries

The following board members voted aye:  
Diane Vuotto, Richard Mason, Derek Dyer, Emily Shoemaker  
The following board members objected: none  
The following board members abstained: none

## **PERSONAL APPEARANCES**

### **The following personal appearance was continued:**

- **Brittin Beaulieu, License No. 08002280A, Reinstatement Application**

### **Tara Horrall, D.C., License No 08002205A, Reinstatement Application**

Dr. Horrall appeared virtually on camera and was not represented by counsel regarding a reinstatement application.

Her license has been expired since 2006. She stated that she had opened a practice in Illinois and worked there until 2018 and then moved to Florida, where she was not employed as a chiropractor. She then obtained her Florida license. She has now moved back to Indiana and wants to work in Indiana and Illinois.

After discussion, the Board moved to APPROVE Dr. Horrall's reinstatement application.

Dyer/Mason, 4/0/0  
Motion carries

The following board members voted aye:  
Diane Vuotto, Richard Mason, Derek Dyer, Emily Shoemaker  
The following board members objected: none  
The following board members abstained: none

**Christopher Carter, D.C., License# 08001742A, Reinstatement Application**

Dr. Carter appeared virtually on camera and was not represented by counsel regarding a reinstatement application.

He stated that his practice had become almost all Medicare & Medicaid patients so it wasn't very lucrative.

He decided to go to welding school and then worked as a welder, but found he missed seeing his patients, so he decided to get his license renewed.

He has been working with Dr. Gallion for the last two (2) weeks following him around watching him practice.

Before closing his practice, he practiced chiropractic for twenty-two (22) years.

The Board suggested he should get more hands on continuing education.

After discussion, the Board moved to APPROVE Dr. Carter's reinstatement application.

Mason/Dyer, 4/0/0  
Motion carries

The following board members voted aye:  
Diane Vuotto, Richard Mason, Derek Dyer, Emily Shoemaker  
The following board members objected: none  
The following board members abstained: none

**Nicholas Westfall, Initial Application, Positive Response**

Dr. Westfall appeared virtually on camera and was not represented by counsel regarding a positive response on his initial application.

He stated he had action taken on his North Carolina license in July 2020.

He left his practice in November 2024 and moved to Fort Wayne to be closer to his family. The doctor he will be in practice with is aware of the issues.

This issue in North Carolina was an online dating of a fifteen (15) year old boy. The boy showed up at the doctor's place of work and was not fifteen (15) years old and had called the police.

He did two (2) EBAS tests but has not gotten any further evaluations.

He treated around five (5) to ten (10) minor kids after he entered into the consent agreement. He did not have to disclose the issue to the parents.

After discussion, the Board moved to APPROVE Dr. Carter's reinstatement application.

Dyer/Shoemaker, 3/1/0  
Motion carries

The following board members voted aye:  
Diane Vuotto, Derek Dyer, Emily Shoemaker  
The following board members objected: Richard Mason  
The following board members abstained: none

### **PROBATION APPEARANCE(S)**

#### **James Pucka, D.C., License No.08001350A, Cause No. 2021 IBCE 0004**

Dr. Pucka appeared in person for his probation appearance and was not represented by counsel.

His order states the following:

- James Pucka is ordered to complete his four (4) hour continuing education requirement in public health or risk management, as specified under 846 Ind. Admin. Code 1-8-1, focusing on courses that address professional boundaries.
- James Pucka shall appear for QUARTERLY appearances before the Board.
- James Pucka is ordered to never treat female patients without a non-family female staff member being present in the treating room at all times. The staff member shall sign a document created by the Spine Worx Company that affirms their oversight for each female patient James Pucka treated. The affirmations for each treatment shall be available for the board to review at each quarterly appearance.
- Any complaint associated with inappropriate comments or touching by James Pucka made on the Spine Work Patient Experience form or the Employee Complaint Form or analogous form shall be submitted to a neutral party not associated with the Spine Worx business and said neutral party shall submit the Complaint to IPLA Board Director Jody Edens. Any complaint can be emailed to [clerk@pla.in.gov](mailto:clerk@pla.in.gov) or mailed to the Indiana Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Room W072, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Dr. Pucka state he treats anywhere from seventy (70) to one hundred (100) patients per day including female patients.

Dr. Pucka indicated that they have not received any complaints from patients, but has it been set up that they will be send to Jody Edens should they get any.

Dr. Pucka said the form was complete that the person that is with him at all times will initial show he was accompanied by staff. The Board indicated that the form was not in compliance with what they asked for and gave him some suggestions for changes.

He indicated that he has not completed the continuing education and Dr. Mason requested that it be completed by his April 2025 appearance.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Det James, D.C., License No. 08001191A, Cause No. 2020 IBCE 0002 – Probation Appearance:**

Dr. James did not appear in person and was not presented by counsel regarding his probationary appearance scheduled before the Board.

Dr. James has been informed that he no longer needs to appear but must email in reports for the Board to review.

The Board reviewed his report. The report indicated that he has not had any changes, he is still working with his brother. Things are going well.

There being no further business, the Board ADJOURNED at 11:10 a.m.

Diane Vuotto, D.C., Chair