



Arkansas Department of Health Arkansas State Board of Acupuncture & Related Techniques

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ASBART Arkansas State Board of Acupuncture and Related Technique Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 31, 2026 11:30 am CST

Zach Beavers / Professional Member
Michael Buffington M.D. / Ex-Officio Member
Michael Sims / Public Member
Nicholas Ortiz / Public Member

Members Present

Nicholas Ortiz
Zach Beavers
Michael Sims
Dr. Michael Buffington

Other Attendees

Russell Burns (ADH)
Tawnie Hughe (AG)
Martin Eisele

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Board Director, Russell Burns, at 11:35 am CST.

Review of August 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the minutes from the previous board meeting with a correction showing one (1) additional licensee since the last board meeting..

Motion: Michael Sims
Vote: 3-0

2nd: Nicholas Ortiz

Financial Report: Russell Burns presented the August 2025 to February 2026 Financial Reports. It was noted that an \$80.00 deposit made late in November 2025 was not reflected on the financial reports until December which resulted in an \$80.00 shortage for November 2025 and an \$80.00 overage in December 2025. A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the reports.

Motion: Michael Sims
Vote: 3-0

2nd: Zach Beavers

Licensure Report & Application Vote:

1. 39 Active Licenses – The licensure report showing one (1) less licensee since the last meeting was presented to the board by Russell Burns (Board Director). The reduction was due to Jana Brady's retirement of her license.
2. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the applications of licensure for Lexy J. Diaz.

Motion: Michael Sims
Vote: 3-0

2nd: Zach Beavers

Election of Board Officers:

1. A motion was made and approved to elect Zach Beavers as Board President.

Motion: Michael Sims
Vote: 3-0

2nd: Nicholas Ortiz

2. A motion was made and approved to elect Nicholas Ortiz as Board Secretary.

Motion: Michael Sims
Vote: 3-0

2nd: Zach Beavers

2025 Licensure Renewals: Russell Burns explained that the licenses that came up for renewal last year (2025) were checked by the Board Director (Russell Burns) to ensure the required documentation was submitted and that the licenses met licensure renewal requirements. Since the Board did not have a quorum at that time, the licenses up for renewal were issued temporary licenses until such time as the Board has a working quorum. A motion was made and unanimously approved to renew the licenses that came up for renewal in 2025.

Motion: Michael Sims
Vote: 3-0

2nd: Nicholas Ortiz

Control Self-Assessment: Russell Burns explained that the Control Self-Assessment (CSA) is an internal audit done by the ADH Boards & Commissions that looks at security processes, procedures, and practices every two (2) years. Also, Russell explained that the CSA Letter in the meeting packet would be signed by both the Board Director and the Board President.

Proposed Rule Changes: Russell Burns explained that the certifying board for acupuncturists had sent the Board a notice in February of a change to their name and a change to one (1) of their certification's name. This resulted in the need to amend the Board Proposed Rules Changes to reflect the name changes. Russell informed the board members that he would inform them when the proposed rule changes were set for the Arkansas legislative sub-committee docket. A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the Board Proposed Rules Changes.

Motion: Michael Sims
Vote: 3-0

2nd: Zach Beavers

Additional Business: Russell Burns informed the Board that the Governor's office was continuing to work on appointing additional members to the Board, but there was no set timeframe for the appointments to be made. Also, Russell is to issue a ZOOM invite for the next scheduled meeting.

Next Meeting: May 14, 2026 at 12:00 pm (Noon) CST.

Adjournment: Russell Burns adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m. CST.