



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
Thursday, May 14, 2026
12:00 pm 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

Other Attendees

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Zach Beavers (Board Chair) at 12:04 pm CST.

Rollcall: Zach Beavers performed a roll call of the meeting attendees.

Review of March 31, 2026 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the minutes from the previous board meeting.

Motion: Michael Sims
Vote: 3-0

2nd: Nicholas Ortiz

Financial Report: Russell Burns presented the March to April 2026 Financial Reports. 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. 40 Active Licenses – The licensure report showing one (1) additional licensee since the last meeting was presented to the board by Russell Burns (Board Director).
2. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the licensure application for Ellie R. Amirova.

Motion: Nicholas Ortiz
Vote: 3-0

2nd: Michael Sims

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. He informed the Board of the two preset board meeting dates and times. Also, he informed the Board of the proposed rule changes going before the Medical Board on June 4, 2026 for approval. After the proposed rule changes were approved by the Medical Board, they would be set for review and vote by the legislative subcommittee. Russell is to inform the Board when the proposed rule changes have been set for review by the legislative subcommittee.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 17, 2026 at 12:00 pm (Noon) CST.

Adjournment: Zach Beavers adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m. CST.