

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS  
 131 AIRLINE DR., SUITE 301, METAIRIE, LA 70001  
 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 27 AND 28, 2023

DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING                      On July 27, 2023, the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners met at 131 Airline Drive, Suite 301, Metairie, LA 70001.

CALL TO ORDER                              The meeting was called to order on July 27, 2023, at approximately 1:12 p.m., with Myra Collins, Chairwoman, presiding.

ROLL CALL

| MEMBERS   |         |
|---|---------|
| Patricia Artieta, Consumer                                | Present |
| Celeste Cogswell, LPN                                     | Absent  |
| Myra Collins, LPN<br>Chairwoman of the Board              | Present |
| Roberta Connelley, RN                                     | Present |
| Janie Cypret, LPN   | Present |
| Gwendolyn Dunn, LPN                                       | Present |
| Barbara Gibbs, RN   | Present |
| Matthew McQueen, MD                                       | Present |
| Candace Melancon, LPN<br>Secretary/Treasurer of the Board | Present |
| Albertha Prince, LPN                                      | Present |
| Rodney Tregle, MD   | Present |

STAFF/LEGAL  
 COUNSEL  
 PRESENT

| STAFF              |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Lynn Ansardi       | Present |
| Christina Costanza | Present |
| John Becknell      | Present |
| Tammy Labit        | Present |
| Kristen Hill       | Present |

DECLARATION OF  
 QUORUM

The Chair declared that a quorum was present.

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MOTION TO  
ENTER  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Roberta Connelley moved that the board convene in executive session for reports on litigation; and consideration of reports of the hearing officer related to cases before the board for disciplinary action against licensees and applicants for licensure, and personnel matters.

SECOND: Cypret

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Artieta, Collins, Connelley, Cypret, Dunn, Gibbs, McQueen, Melancon, Prince, Tregle

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

The motion passed and the board went into executive session at 1:16 p.m.

MOTION TO EXIT  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Myra Collins moved that the board exit executive session.

SECOND: Connelley

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Artieta, Collins, Connelley, Cypret, Dunn, Gibbs, McQueen, Melancon, Prince, Tregle

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

The motion passed and the board came out of executive session at 2:32 p.m.

LAC, TITLE 46,  
PART XLVII,  
SUBPART 1,  
SECTION 303 A.1.

Roberta Connelley moved to approve the promulgation of rule change LAC, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Section 303.A.1 as printed on the handout.

SECOND: Cypret

YEAS: 10

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

The motion passed.

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PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO  
OPERATING  
BUDGET FY 2023

Candace Melancon moved that the proposed amendments to the operating budget for FY 2023 be adopted by the board as printed on the handout.

SECOND: Collins  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

ACTUAL BUDGET  
FY 2023 AS OF  
6/30/2023

Lynn Ansardi presented the actual operating budget for fiscal year 2023 as of 6/30/2023.  
No action was needed or taken.

ELECTION OF  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICERS

Dr. McQueen moved to open nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

SECOND: Melancon  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

Myra Collins, LPN, was nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

Candace Melancon moved to close nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

SECOND: Cypret  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

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Dr. McQueen moved to appoint Myra Collins, LPN, as Chairperson of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

SECOND: Prince  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

Dr. McQueen moved to open nominations for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

SECOND: Dunn  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

Barabra Gibbs, RN, was nominated for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

Candace Melancon moved to close nominations for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

SECOND: Prince  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

Candace Melancon moved to appoint Barbara Gibbs, RN, as Secretary/Treasurer of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

SECOND: Cypret  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

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MOTION TO  
RECESS

Roberta Connelley moved that the board recess and reconvene tomorrow morning at 10AM at the New Orleans Marriott Metairie at Lakeway.

SECOND: Cypret

YEAS: Artieta, Collins, Connelley, Cypret, Dunn, Gibbs,  
McQueen, Melancon, Prince, Tregle

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

The meeting recessed at approximately 3:02 p.m.

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DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING                      On July 28, 2023, the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners met at the New Orleans Marriott Metairie at Lakeway, 3838 N. Causeway Blvd., Jefferson Ballroom, Metairie, Louisiana 70002.

CALL TO ORDER                                      The meeting was called to order on July 28, 2023, at approximately 10:00 a.m., with Myra Collins, Chairwoman, presiding.

ROLL CALL

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| MEMBERS   |         |
| Patricia Artieta, Consumer                            | Present |
| Celeste Cogswell, LPN                                 | Absent  |
| Myra Collins, LPN<br>Chairwoman of the Board          | Present |
| Roberta Connelley, RN                                 | Present |
| Janie Cypret, LPN                                     | Present |
| Gwendolyn Dunn, LPN                                   | Present |
| Barbara Gibbs, RN<br>Secretary/Treasurer of the Board | Present |
| Matthew McQueen, MD                                   | Present |
| Candace Melancon, LPN                                 | Present |
| Albertha Prince, LPN                                  | Present |
| Rodney Tregle, MD                                     | Present |

STAFF/LEGAL  
 COUNSEL  
 PRESENT

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| STAFF               |         |
| Lynn Ansardi        | Present |
| Christina Costanza  | Present |
| John Becknell       | Present |
| Tammy Labit         | Present |
| Kerri Palmer        | Present |
| Kristen Hill        | Present |
| Jennifer Santangelo | Present |
| Janette Patterson   | Present |

DECLARATION OF QUORUM                                      The Chair declared that a quorum was present.

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WELCOME

Roberta Connelley welcomed the audience.

MOTION TO  
ADOPT MINUTES  
OF MARCH 9 AND  
10, 2023, BOARD  
MEETING

Candace Melancon moved that the minutes of the board meeting of March 9 and 10, 2023, be adopted as printed in the book of reports.

SECOND: Dunn  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

MOTIONS  
RELATED TO  
DISCIPLINE

Gwendolyn Dunn moved that in the case of (Jackie Binford) **License #250588**, the board adopt the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions of law without exception and that the respondent be issued a **Letter of Concern** with the stipulations as written in the board order.

SECOND: Cypret  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

Janie Cypret moved move that in the case of (Jasmine Bryant) **S.S. ending with 9220**, the board adopt the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions of law without exception and that the applicant for licensure be **denied** licensure in the state of Louisiana; including the privilege to practice on any multi-state license.

SECOND: Dunn  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

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Albertha Prince moved that in the case of (Kirk Dunn) **S.S. ending with 6007**, the board adopt the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions of law without exception and that the applicant for licensure be issued a practical nursing license on **probation** for no less than **one (1) year** with stipulations as written in the board order.

SECOND: Melancon  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

Patricia Artieta moved that in the case of (Terrionne Heim) **S.S. ending with 1125**, the board adopt the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions of law without exception and that the applicant for licensure be **denied** licensure in the state of Louisiana; including the privilege to practice on any multi-state license.

SECOND: Tregle  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

Candace Melancon moved that in the case of (Natalie Henderson) **License #20110946**, the board adopt the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions of law without exception and that the respondent's practical nursing license **be suspended** with the stipulations as written in the board order. Upon completion of suspension stipulations, license will be **probated** for no less than **two (2) years** with the stipulations as written in the board order.

SECOND: Connelley  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.



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Candace Melancon moved that in the case of (April Mason) **License #990958**, the board adopt the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions of law without exception and that the respondent's practical nursing license be placed on **probation** for no less than **one (1) year** with the stipulations as written in the board order.

SECOND: Connelley  
 YEAS: 10  
 NAYS: 0  
 ABSTENTIONS: 0  
 The motion passed.

Barbara Gibbs moved that in the case of (Annette White) **License # 941290**, the board reconsider the action adopted at the March, 2022, board meeting, and adopt the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions of law without exception and that the respondent's practical nursing license be reinstated, after providing evidence of completing a board approved refresher course. Upon successful completion of said course, the respondent shall be granted an unencumbered practical nursing license.

SECOND: Connelley  
 YEAS: 10  
 NAYS: 0  
 ABSTENTIONS: 0  
 The motion passed.

Roberta Connelley moved that the following consent agreements be accepted by the board without exception:

|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>S.S. ending with #0986</b> | <b>Alfred, Jhavonne</b>  |
| <b>S.S. ending with #3020</b> | <b>Allen, Brittney</b>   |
| <b>License #20100606</b>      | <b>Barton, Cody</b>      |
| <b>License #20182404</b>      | <b>Bertrand, Amanda</b>  |
| <b>License #20160558</b>      | <b>Bordelon, Rebecca</b> |
| <b>License #930347</b>        | <b>Bourgeois, Nicole</b> |
| <b>License #20160114</b>      | <b>Branch, Carrie</b>    |
| <b>S.S. ending with #7903</b> | <b>Brown, Venecia</b>    |
| <b>License #20180299</b>      | <b>Caples, Charlslyn</b> |

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|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| S.S. ending with #2994 | Coleman, Keiara            |
| License #230759        | Coleman, K'Tisaka          |
| License #270808        | Comeaux, Hope              |
| S.S. ending with #8730 | Conner, Crystal            |
| S.S. ending with #6247 | Cooper, Consuelo           |
| License #980955        | Craig, Debra               |
| License #290004        | Darden, Donna              |
| S.S. ending with #9732 | Eugene, Dana               |
| License #20100872      | Evans, Kim                 |
| License #20110426      | Fontenot, Lauren           |
| License #920142        | Fuselier, Margaret         |
| S.S. ending with #3928 | Yoshua Gibbs               |
| S.S. ending with #2143 | Guynes, Carlie             |
| License #20180262      | Hilliard, Rodnesha         |
| License #20102534      | Howard, Johanna            |
| License #291007        | Howard, Kim                |
| License #30000795      | Hughes, Maiya              |
| License #20180064      | Irby, Jennifer             |
| License #20170742      | Jafferries, Brooke         |
| License #20100284      | Johnson, Courtney          |
| License #941525        | Johnson, Lana              |
| S.S. ending with #2666 | Johnson, Pamela            |
| License #220747        | Landry, Kimberly Boudreaux |
| S.S. ending with #7957 | Lejeune, Lacey             |
| License #30001991      | Long, Kelsea               |
| S.S. ending with #2023 | Maxie, Pha'nya             |
| License #290465        | Mc Kinley, Ashley          |
| S.S. ending with #9515 | Patel, Hardikbhai          |
| License #252550        | Pete, Kyra                 |
| S.S. ending with #2026 | Petrey, Yvette             |
| License #210717        | Picou, Lidia               |
| License #920399        | Pierre, Norlet             |
| License #981022        | Pollard, Sabrina           |
| License #271135        | Randall, Shelley           |
| License #200531        | Ross, Robin                |
| S.S. ending with #5246 | Shelvy, Rachel             |
| License #20101150      | Sims, Latrecia             |
| License #20160402      | Smith, Kellie              |
| License #20121199      | Smith, Valerie             |
| License #20130516      | Sonnier, Abbie             |
| License #20170525      | Stoker, Laura              |
| S.S. ending with #0146 | Tate, Diamond              |
| S.S. ending with #7321 | Tippit, April              |
| S.S. ending with #3122 | Warden, Tina               |

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|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>License #960636</b>   | <b>Watley, Renee</b>    |
| <b>License #20130707</b> | <b>Watts, Robert</b>    |
| <b>License #20130370</b> | <b>Williams, Latoya</b> |

SECOND: Gibbs  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

REPORT OF  
COMPLIANCE  
DEPARTMENT

PROJECT  
NIGHTINGALE

John Becknell reported that project nightingale was a FBI operation that investigated the distribution of over 7,600 fraudulent nursing diplomas and transcripts through the state of Florida. FBI informants were able to secure a list of all individuals who were issued fraudulent diplomas and transcripts. NCSBN matched this list with the national databank in each state so that alerts would be generated for these individuals. Mr. Becknell reported that from this list, there were about 15 individuals listed in Louisiana, none of whom were working or had obtained a license to work in the state. The lists are constantly being updated by the FBI and monitored by board staff.

NCSBN  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONFERENCE

John Becknell reported on NCSBN's recent discipline case management conference held in May. The conference topic was reimagining discipline, which discussed the psychiatry involved when nurses are facing discipline and how we can better protect the public by encouraging that nurse to comply with their board orders with monitoring and drug testing.

MULTISTATE  
LICENSE  
DISCIPLINE AUDIT

John Becknell reported that when a nurse has disciplinary action on their single state license, they are ineligible for a multistate license in another jurisdiction. It was discovered that nurses in Louisiana who possess single state licenses with disciplinary action were obtaining multi state licenses in other states, allowing them the ability to continue working in Louisiana. NCSBN is aware of this and is in the process of developing an audit tool to assist in reporting these cases to the appropriate state boards for investigation of improper issuance of multistate licenses.

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INITIATIVES

John Becknell reported that the compliance staff will be meeting to discuss how improvements can be made to stay in line with best practices. Additionally, moving forward disciplinary cases will be considered for a consent order instead of a formal hearing when appropriate.

Mr. Becknell informed the board that LSBPNE is still working towards establishing credit card payments for disciplinary fines and fees.

REPORT OF THE  
EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT

PN PROGRAM –  
STATUS OF ALL  
PN SCHOOLS

Christina Costanza presented a summary status of all practical nursing programs, reporting on current cohorts, enrollment numbers, graduating classes, and the number of students that have successfully completed the program from each campus. As of June 28, 2023, there are currently 51 schools with 114 ongoing classes and 1581 enrolled students. No action was needed or taken.

INITIAL  
ACCREDITATION

Currently there are no programs on initial accreditation.

PROVISIONAL  
ACCREDITATION

Programs on provisional accreditation include the following:

1. Blue Cliff College  
STATUS: Noncompliance – NCLEX scores  
Initial Provisional Accreditation  
January 2022 – 66.67% failure rate  
October 2023
2. Jefferson Campus, DCC – LCTCS  
STATUS: Noncompliance – NCLEX scores  
December 2021 – 34.78% failure rate  
February 2022 – 25% failure rate  
December 2022 – 22.22%

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3. Minden Campus, NLTC – LCTCS  
STATUS: Noncompliance – NCLEX scores  
December 2021 – 27.27% failure rate  
December 2022 – 27.03% failure rate  
December 2023 –
4. Sullivan Campus, NTCC – LCTCS  
STATUS: Noncompliance – NCLEX scores  
May 2022 – 37.5% failure rate  
December 2022 – 26.32% failure rate
5. Tallulah Campus, LDCC – LCTCS  
STATUS: Noncompliance – NCLEX scores  
July 2020 – 23.53% failure rate  
May 2022 – 34.62% failure rate  
May 2024 –
6. Reserve Campus, RPCC – LCTCS  
STATUS: Noncompliance – NCLEX scores  
May 2021 – 50% failure rate  
December 2022 – 26.67% failure rate  
May 2024 –
7. Southern University – Shreveport Campus  
STATUS: Noncompliance – NCLEX scores  
September 2020 – 38.4% failure rate  
February 2022 – 37.5% failure rate  
August 2023 –

No action was needed or taken.

PROGRAM  
CLOSURE(S)

There were no program closures to report.

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NEW PROGRAM  
REQUEST(S)

1. Medial Training College Inc. (phase I request for approval)

Candace Melancon moved that the phase I request to start a program at Medical Training College, Inc., be approved and the program be permitted to proceed to Phase II with modifications to course requirements. Once Phase II meets staff satisfaction, the program will be allowed to admit the first class of students and will be placed on initial accreditation effective on the date of enrollment of the first cohort.

SECOND: Prince

YEAS: 10

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

The motion passed.

PROGRAM(S)  
CITED FOR NON-  
COMPLIANCE

There were no programs cited for notices of non-compliance.

SITE VISITS /  
SURVEYS

Site visits were conducted at the following schools:

1. Hammond Campus, NTCC – LCTCS
2. Walker Campus, NTCC – LCTCS
3. Gonzales Campus, RPCC – LCTCS

NCLEX-PN™

Cristina Costanza presented information concerning the NCLEX-PN™ pass rates for all Louisiana writers and repeat candidates for 2021, 2022, and 1/1/2023 – 6/14/2023.

The pass rate for Louisiana in 2021 was 82.63%, with a national average of 79.6%; 2022 pass rate was 80.04% with a national average of 79.93%. Year to date, NCLEX-PN pass rate for Louisiana is 87.55%; however, since the inception of the next generation NCLEX-PN test that began April 1, 2023, the pass rate for Louisiana has increased to 94.35%.

No action was needed or taken.

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2023 LEGISLATIVE  
SESSION

John Becknell reported on two bills from the 2023 legislative session.

Senate Bill 20 allows licensed practical nurses scholarship opportunities, from private hospitals as well as public hospitals, in exchange for signing a contract to practice nursing or an allied health profession in the facility once licensed. Each scholarship shall be awarded for the purpose of defraying the costs of tuition, fees, and other related expenses and cost for attendance at nursing or allied health school.

House Bill 320 would allow graduates of registered nursing programs approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing the ability to apply for and take the NCLEX-PN. The application process for taking the NCLEX-PN would remain the same for both practical nurses as well as registered nurses.

LAC, TITLE 46,  
PART XLVII,  
SUBPART 1,  
SECTION 1701

Roberta Connelley moved to approve the promulgation of rule change LAC, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Section 1701 as printed on the handout.

SECOND: Melancon  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

LAC, TITLE 46,  
PART XLVII,  
SUBPART 1,  
SECTION 1703

Janie Cypret moved to approve the promulgation of rule change LAC, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Section 1703 as printed on the handout.

SECOND: Dunn  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

REPORT OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS  
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LPN RENEWAL  
STATISTICS AND  
EMPLOYMENT  
DISTRIBUTION

Lynn Ansardi presented statistics regarding employment distribution and renewal data regarding active LPNs for 2014 – 2023. Ms. Ansardi noted that since 2020, the number of active LPNs continues to increase.  
No action was needed or taken.

LOUISIANA AUDIT  
COMPLIANCE  
QUESTIONNAIRE

Lynn Ansardi presented the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire from fiscal year 2023.

Janie Cypret moved that the completed compliance questionnaire from fiscal year 2023 be adopted as printed in the book of reports.

SECOND: Melancon  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

TRAVEL  
REGULATIONS

Candace Melancon moved that all board members received a copy of the Louisiana travel policy for 2023 – 2024, as printed in the book of reports.

SECOND: Connelley  
YEAS: 10  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
The motion passed.

UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business that was discussed.

FUTURE MEETING  
DATES

The proposed board meeting dates for the next board meeting are November 2 and 3, 2023. Location of the next meeting has yet to be confirmed.  
No action was needed or taken on this matter.



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PUBLIC  
COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MOTION TO  
ADJOURN

Barbara Gibbs moved that the meeting be adjourned.

SECOND: Melancon

YEAS: 10

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.



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Myron Collins, LPN, Chairwoman