LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS
131 AIRLINE DR., SUITE 301, METAIRIE, LA 70001
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 27, 2026

DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING

On March 27, 2026, the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners met at the New Orleans Marriott Metairie at Lakeway, 3838 N. Causeway Blvd., Orleans Ballroom, Metairie, Louisiana 70002.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 27, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m., with Myra Collins, Chairwoman, presiding.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF/LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT

STAFF	
Christina Costanza	Present
John Becknell	Present
Dana Dazet	Present
Kristen Hill	Present
Kerri Palmer	Present
Jennifer Santangelo	Present
Mary Wooten	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 NOVEMBER 14, 2025, BOARD MEETING	Gwendolyn Dunn moved that the minutes of the board meeting of November 14, 2025, be adopted as printed in the book of reports. SECOND: Connelley YEAS: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 The motion passed.
REPORT OF COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT	
SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE REPORTS	John Becknell presented the summary report from the compliance department of new reports received and action taken from 11/1/2025 – 2/28/2026. No action was needed or taken on these matters
CONSULTING CONTRACT – HEARING OFFICER	Barbara Gibbs moved to approve a consulting contract with Melissa Smith, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, for a period of one year to provide services as a hearing officer to the board relative to disciplinary hearings and adjudications regarding alleged violations of rules and regulations promulgated by the board. SECOND: Prince YEAS: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 The motion passed.
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 March 6, 2026, there are currently 54 schools with 116 ongoing classes and 2,442 enrolled students.
No action was needed or taken.

INITIAL ACCREDITATION

There are no programs on initial accreditation.

PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION

Programs on provisional accreditation include the following:

1. Blue Cliff College – Metairie Campus
   Status: Noncompliance – Violation of LAC

2. Baton Rouge Community College
   Status: Noncompliance – Violation of LAC

3. Delgado – City Park Campus
   Status: Noncompliance – Violation of LAC

4. CLTCC – Alexandria Campus
   Status: Noncompliance – NCLEX Scores
   May 2024 – 70.83%
   May 2025 – 76.19%

5. Healthcare Training Institute – Kenner Campus
   Status: Noncompliance – NCLEX Scores
   November 2024 – 52.63%
   February 2025 – 60%

6. Louisiana Delta Community College – Bastrop Campus
   Status: Noncompliance – NCLEX Scores
   August 2022 – 72.73%
   May 2024 – 75%

No action was needed or taken.

PROGRAM CLOSURE(S)

There were no program closures to report.

NEW PROGRAM REQUEST(S)

There were no new program requests.

PROGRAM(S) CITED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

The following programs were cited for violation of board policy upon review of the Annual Report:

1. Baton Rouge Community College (Violation of LAC)
2. Healthcare Training Institute – Kenner Campus (Failure to respond / Violation of LAC)
3. LSU – Shreveport Campus (Violation of LAC)
4. SoLACC – Morgan City Campus (Violation of LAC)
5. Delgado Community College – Sidney Collier Campus (Violation of LAC)

No action was needed or taken.

SITE VISITS

The following programs had site visits/surveys performed:

1. Advance Nurse Training
2. SoLAcc – Ville Platte Campus
3. Delta College of Arts & Technology – Baton Rouge Campus
4. RPCC – Gonzales Campus
5. SLCC – Gulf Area Campus

No action was needed or taken.

NCLEX-PN ™

Cristina Costanza presented information concerning the NCLEX-PN ™ pass rates for all Louisiana writers and repeat candidates for 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2025 and 1/1/2026 – 3/5/2026.

For 2025, the NCLEX-PN pass rate was 87.70%, with a national average of 86.60%. Year to date for 2026, the NCLEX-PN pass rate for Louisiana was 86.67%, with a national average of 87.57%.
No action was needed or taken.

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REPORT OF ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ACTUAL BUDGET FY 2026	John Becknell presented the fiscal year to date operating budget for fiscal year 2026. No action was needed or taken.
LDH HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE MINI SUMMIT	The LDH healthcare workforce mini summit was organized by LDH and attended by several boards. Topics discussed at the meeting focused on speed of licensure. John Becknell noted that LSBPNE had the fastest processing times reported.
NCSBN MIDYEAR MEETING	The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) held its annual midyear conference in March 2026. John Becknell attended this conference and reported that the focus of the conference was empowering nursing regulatory bodies to challenge tradition and generate bold innovative ideas; analyzing the status quo and adopting changes; and breaking down regulatory barriers while maintaining public protection and trust.
RULE PROMULGATION UPDATE – LAC §1706	John Becknell reported that LAC §1706. Employment of Practical Nursing Students and Unsuccessful Candidates on the NCLEX-PN was finalized and published in the latest February 2026 register. The next step is implementation with programs and associations to ensure guidelines and safeguards are being met and executed accordingly.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HEALTH WORKS COMMISSION

Christina Costanza presented the annual report of the 2025 Louisiana Health Works Commission. Health Works Commission was tasked with coordinating resources across state departments and organizations to address healthcare workforce challenges. The commissioner partnered with a labor market economist to project Louisiana's healthcare workforce needs to 2035. LPNs face a current shortage of approximately 726 workers and an average annual projected shortage of 549 workers. LPNs are critical in both hospital and long-term care settings. Recent initiatives such as expansion of nursing program capacity and dual enrollment pathways have increased the number of LPNs steadily over the past five years, but strategic investment and growth will be essential to maintain adequate regional supply.

NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (NLC) TRAINING

Christina Costanza reported that she attended a recent meeting for the NLC. Ms. Costanza presented a handout with information for students and recent nurse graduates when applying for licensure by exam. The handout covers how to obtain a multistate license, various licensure scenarios, how to navigate nurse licensure by exam and endorsement, and travel nurse frequently asked questions.

2026 RENEWAL STATISTICS

Christina Costanza presented data showing the total number of active LPNs by parish for the end of the 2026 renewal season. The parishes with the largest number of LPNs are Lafayette, East Baton Rouge, and St. Tammany. The total number of active LPNs as of 3/5/2026 was 21, 319.

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Christina Costanza presented and discussed required information needed and deadlines for turning in Personal Financial Disclosure Statements (Tier 2.1) with all board members.

Myra Collins moved that all board members received a copy and were presented with the required information needed and deadlines for turning in Personal Financial Disclosure Statements (Tier 2.1).

SECOND: Gibbs
YEAS: 8
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
The motion passed.

CIVIL SERVICE ETHICS, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, AND CYBER SECURITY TRAINING

Christina Costanza reported to all board members that the civil service training concerning ethics sexual harassment, and cyber security must be completed every calendar year.

Myra Collins moved that all board members were presented with the requirements for completion of civil service training concerning ethics, sexual harassment, and cyber security.

SECOND: Gibbs
YEAS: 8
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
The motion passed.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Christina Costanza presented the driver authorization form and the required civil service defensive driving training requirements to all board members.

Myra Collins moved that all board members were presented with the requirements for completion of the defensive driving course.

SECOND: Gibbs
YEAS: 8
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 date for the next board meeting is July 24, 2026. No action was needed or taken on this matter.
PUBLIC COMMENT	There were no requests for public comment.
MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION	Barbara Gibbs 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. SECOND: Dunn A roll call vote was taken. YEAS: Collins, Connelley, Cypret, Dunn, Gibbs, McQueen, Prince, Tregle NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 The motion passed and the board went into executive session at 10:27 a.m.
MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION	Roberta Connelley moved that the board exit executive session. SECOND: Prince A roll call vote was taken. YEAS: Collins, Connelley, Cypret, Dunn, Gibbs, McQueen, Prince, Tregle NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 The motion passed and the board came out of executive session at 11:42 a.m.

MOTIONS RELATED TO DISCIPLINE

Roberta Connelley moved that in the case of (Zacapa Walker-Alexander) **S.S. ending with 7779,** the board adopt the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions of law without exception, and that the applicant be denied licensure in the state of Louisiana with the stipulations as written in the board order.

SECOND: Tregle
YEAS: 6
NAYS: McQueen, Dunn
ABSTENTIONS: 0
The motion passed.

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

License # 20160113	**Alford, Amber**
S.S. ending with # 5310	**Alford, Korie**
License # 30005677	**Alsabrook, Tristen**
License # 240622	**Bareswill, Jessica**
License # 20150771	**Battiste, Gothalin**
License # 30005044	**Best, Mary**
S.S. ending with # 1938	**Blanton, Margaret**
S.S. ending with # 7209	**Brister, Lakeisha**
License # 200517	**Broussard, Kalisha**
License # 280204	**Brown, Cherokee**
S.S. ending with # 6373	**Brown, Samantha**
S.S. ending with # 9054	**Brown, Sidmekia**
License # 30001068	**Burns, Tiffanie**
License # 270147	**Carroll, Valerie**
S.S. ending with # 4426	**Chanthavongsy, Kelly**
License # 20160832	**Clark, Christy**
S.S. ending with # 6982	**Collins, Jamaria**
S.S. ending with # 5775	**Dawson, Adalias**
S.S. ending with # 5199	**Dominic, Jamika**
S.S. ending with # 6827	**Flournoy, Ju'mecia**
License # 30005593	**Gaines, Kendra**
License # 20160557	**Gilliam, Magan**
License # 20170503	**Green, Trishell**
License # 20100898	**Hall, Elizabeth**
S.S. ending with # 5507	**Henderson, Ashley**
License # 20180266	**Holden, Roshonda**
S.S. ending with # 3193	**Johnson, Alexia**
S.S. ending with # 7319	**Johnson, La Toya**
S.S. ending with # 5819	**Jones, Randeisha**

S.S. ending with # 1897	**King, Ta'Keiya**
S.S. ending with # 3401	**Love, Jeneh**
License # 291207	**Madere, Misha**
License # 30002649	**Mine, Hunter**
License # 260555	**Morgan, Kendra**
License # 880233	**Morris, Tammy**
S.S. ending with # 1728	**Muse, Toriontе'**
S.S. ending with # 3245	**Neal, Kelona**
License # 30004994	**Pea, Jasmen**
License # 20170745	**Pierce, Jessica**
License # 20100905	**Poche, Ciere**
S.S. ending with # 4758	**Robinson, Jacquelle**
License # 30004194	**Smith, Erika**
License # 20120222	**Swanner, Andrea**
S.S. ending with # 8653	**Verret, Raquel**
S.S. ending with # 3358	**Walker, Sade**
S.S. ending with # 5041	**Wellington, Ce'Nisha**
License # 20170488	**Wiggins, Brittiany**
S.S. ending with # 0137	**Williams, Jatyra**
License # 20140796	**Williams, Leslie**
S.S. ending with # 6999	**Williams, Victorian**

SECOND: Gibbs
YEAS: 8
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
The motion passed.

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

License # 30000038	**Candies, Brittany**

SECOND: Prince
YEAS: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: McQueen, Tregle
The motion passed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Gwendolyn Dunn moved that the meeting be adjourned.

SECOND: Cypret
YEAS: 8
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

M. Collins

Myron Collins, LPN, Chairwoman