



LBEDN Mission Statement:

Our mission is to assure the consumer of qualified licensed professionals. In pursuing our goal, we provide a process by which consumers may file complaints against our licensees or persons practicing dietetics/nutrition without a license.

LBEDN NEWS

April 2022

Licensing Updates

Primary Source Verification

If you became licensed as an LDN after August 2016, you may have wondered why you were required to submit an official transcript and an official Internship Verification Statement. Many applicants inquire about this since CDR requires these documents prior to becoming an RD or RDN. Since LBEDN and CDR are not affiliated, LBEDN cannot accept a CDR card in lieu of these official application documents. LBEDN requires primary source verification of all educational and licensure information. By verifying firsthand that each licensee has met the requirements and qualifications for licensure, the Board is better able to fulfil its purpose of protecting the consumer.

Upcoming Events

- Board Meeting - April 8, 2022
- Renewals open - April 15, 2022
- Board Meeting - July 29, 2022
- Board Meeting - November 4, 2022

BOARD OPERATIONS

LBEDN continues to grow!
We are continuing to see an increase of licensees each fiscal year.

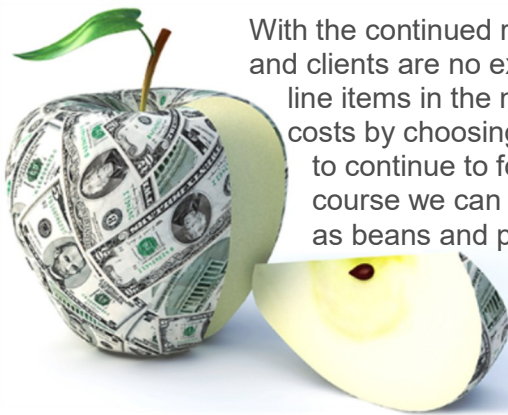
	07/01/2018 through 06/30/2019	07/01/2019 through 06/30/2020	07/01/2020 through 06/30/2021
New LDNs	86	94	96
Reinstated Licenses	11	18	20
Provisional LDNs	30	26	39
Upgraded Licenses	26	22	26
FISCAL YEAR TOTAL	153	160	181

DID YOU KNOW?

Advocacy organizations promote the profession, and Regulatory organizations protect the public. This is not to put advocacy or regulation in a good or bad light. Organizations have different missions and stakeholders – which is completely appropriate. Promotion of the profession and protection of the public are both necessary.

Nutrition on a Budget

by: Meghan T. Kavanaugh, APRN, FNP-C, RD, LDN, CDE, BC-ADM



With the continued rise of cost of living, we are all looking for ways to save money, and our patients and clients are no exception. For many families, the grocery budget makes up one of the largest line items in the monthly budget. Unfortunately, in times of hardship, many people look to reduce costs by choosing lower quality food purchases. How can we encourage our patients and clients to continue to focus on high quality food choices while also being mindful of their budgets? Of course we can encourage our patients to choose low-cost, high-quality protein sources such as beans and peas, canned tuna, canned chicken breast, and watching the sales advertisements to stock up when possible. A loose weekly meal plan is very beneficial, allowing the client to consider their weekly schedule in planning the meals, which will reduce being ill-prepared and running through the drive thru. There is also a big push on social media for “zero food waste”, where it is encouraged to shop what is at home in the pantry, the freezer, and the refrigerator

first and creating meal plans based off of what is already at home. This not only helps to save money, but also reduces waste. Another great way to help show the difference in cost comparisons is to actually take a recipe and calculate the cost per serving. With restaurants and fast food establishments constantly advertising “steals and deals” and dollar menu specials, seeing the cost per serving of a homemade meal can really help open one's eyes to the potential savings of eating from home. It can be quite difficult for one to conceptualize the long-term cost of chronic illnesses that can be partially attributed to less than adequate nutrition. But it is helpful to gently remind patients that some investment (while not breaking the bank) up front for good nutrition can help save money in the long term.



The purposes of regulatory bodies and professional associations can be confusing and can sometimes lead to frustration from licensees/practitioners feeling like they are not being adequately represented. The table below will help to identify the roles of the regulatory board and the professional association. While the organizations have different missions and different stakeholders, promotion of the profession and protection of the public are equally necessary.

REGULATORY BOARD

ASSOCIATION

Acts in the best interest of the public/ protects the consumer.	MANDATE	Acts in the interest of the members.
Is accountable to the state to uphold the enabling statute.	ACCOUNTABILITY	Is accountable to its members and/or practitioners.
Sets the scope of practice, Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice and entry-to-practice requirements.	ACTIVITIES	Serves and supports its members through research, education, advocacy, and member benefits such as networking opportunities, job boards, etc.
Licenses individuals based on legislated criteria. Licensure is mandatory to practice.	LICENSURE VS MEMBERSHIP	Accepts and credentials members based on association determined criteria. Membership is voluntary. Issues certification to individuals who have met standards for competency to practice.
Sets educational and testing requirements for individuals to enter/practice the profession.	QUALIFICATIONS	Creates and facilitates certification examinations.
Requires licensees to complete continuing education to ensure continuing competence.	CONTINUING EDUCATION	Provides members with opportunities for continuing education.
Sets legal standards of practice to ensure safe, competent and ethical service for the public.	STANDARDS OF PRACTICE VS ENHANCEMENT OF PRACTICE	Provides opportunities to increase competency for members seeking to expand their knowledge.
Establishes professional titles protected in legislation that inform the public of authorized practitioners -- e.g. Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist (LDN), Provisional LDN (PL-LDN). Licensees must use these titles in their practice.	PROTECTED TITLES VS CREDENTIALS	Issues credentials to those who have completed the certification requirements -- e.g. Registered Dietitian (RD), Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN). Practitioners choose to use these titles in their practice.
Has a legislated complaint and disciplinary process in place to address complaints from the public and professional conduct issues.	ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARDS	Establishes and enforces standards for certification, recertification, and the Code of Ethics.
Performs no advocacy work. Legislates to protect the public interest.	ADVOCACY	Advocates for the profession in order to effect changes to service delivery, to develop specialty certifications and to increase public awareness of professional services. Legislates to advance the professions of dietetics and nutrition.

LBEDN Board Members

What does a Board Member do, and how are Board Members appointed?

by: **Jolie Jones, Executive Director and Jennifer Jackson, EdD, RDN, LDN**

The Board is always looking for dietitians/nutritionists who are interested in serving on the LBEDN Board. The LBEDN Board was statutorily created in 1987 to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by providing for the licensure and regulation of persons practicing the professions of dietetics and nutrition.

The Practice Act delineates LBEDN's board membership, terms, vacancies, etc. The Board is composed of eight board members, which are appointed by the Governor, and subject to Senate confirmation.

BOARD MEMBER POSITIONS

Four LDN's will be selected from a list submitted by LAND. These members must be residents of the state who have an unrestricted license to practice in the field of dietetics or nutrition or a related field for not less than 5 years.

Other board members consist of: (1) licensed registered nurse, (1) person with a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a major course of study in human nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics, or food systems management, (1) licensed physician, and (1) consumer member.

TERMS AND MEETINGS

Each board member is appointed for a term of three years. The Board holds four regular meetings annually, which typically begin at 10:00 a.m. and lasts for 2-3 hours. According to the Open Meetings Laws, the Board must meet in person, with one exception being the current declared state of emergency. Members of the board serve in their capacity as a board member without compensation but are reimbursed for mileage. The LBEDN board is financially self-sufficient and receives no state funds.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Job descriptions of board members include attending/participating in board meetings, reviewing applications for licensure to determine if individuals meet the requirements, communicating with board members and staff in between board meetings. Depending on position (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer), may sign license certificates and Minutes, may serve on the personnel committee to conduct Executive Director's annual performance evaluation, may run board meeting, may review bill pay and financial statements, may attend LAND board meetings as a Liaison, and/or may be asked to present on behalf of the Board.

Additionally, board members are required to complete the state's annual training for ethics, sexual harassment, and defensive driving, as well as submit a financial disclosure to the Louisiana Board of Ethics by May 15th annually.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Months prior to a position being vacated, LAND will send out a request for nominations for the LBEDN board positions to the LAND membership. The LBEDN Board will follow up with an email to all licensees regarding the LBEDN nominations; however, all questions and applications will be handled by LAND. Once all timely nominations are received, the LAND Board will submit a list of names to the Governor for consideration for appointment.

The Board would like to invite each one of you to consider board service. Serving as a board member is truly an eye-opening yet rewarding experience. Regulatory board service differs from other board service since the Board is here to protect the public. This can be challenging for board members at times because they are required to switch hats from that of a dietitian/nutritionist or "active market participant" to that of a regulator who enforces the law and rules, and whose main mission is to protect the consumers of Louisiana.

Jennifer Jackson, EdD, RDN, LDN recently rotated off of the board after serving for 3 years. Dr. Jackson shared the following regarding her experience on the board:

"Like many licensed dietitian/nutritionists, I mistakenly thought I had to be a member of LAND in order to be nominated on the board. When I reached out to a LBEDN board member, she informed me that was not the case. I simply had to express interest to LAND and submit an application and resume. Needless to say how excited I was when I was appointed to the board!

Being on the LBEDN board has reenergized me as a dietitian. I am surprised that every time the board meets, we are constantly fighting for our profession as we review cases from people claiming to be a dietitian or providing nutrition information without the proper licensure that we all worked so very hard to obtain. This newfound passion from being on the board has greatly enriched me as a dietitian and caused me to be a much stronger advocate."

What is the DTR/NDTR's Role in Dietetics/Nutrition in Louisiana?

by: **Martina Musmeci Salles, MPH, RDN, LDN, FAND**

Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs) and Nutrition and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (NDTRs) are educated and trained at the technical level of nutrition and dietetic practice for the delivery of safe, culturally competent, quality food and nutrition service. DTRs and NDTRs are an integral part of healthcare and foodservice management teams.

Education Requirements

Option 1—Associates Degree

- Completion of an associate degree program granted by U.S. regionally accredited college/university or foreign equivalent
- Completion of an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) Accredited Dietetic Technician Program (includes coursework with a minimum of 450 supervised practice hours)

Option 2—Bachelor's Degree & Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

- Completion of a bachelor's degree granted by a U.S. regionally accredited college/university or foreign equivalent
- Completion of an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) Accredited Didactics Program in Dietetics (DPD)

Licensure/Credentialing of DTRs and NDTRs

- No licensure for DTRs and NDTRs in Louisiana
- Nationally credentialed by CDR (DTR or NDTR)

LDNs can utilize the DTR or NDTR in Dietetic/Nutrition practice in Louisiana

DTRs and NDTRs may work under the supervision of a Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist (LDN) when in direct/client nutrition care in the practice areas such as:

Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, hospice, home health, research facilities and retirement centers conducting patient/client screens, gathering data and performing assigned task to assist LDNs in providing medical nutrition therapy (MNT)

DTRs and NDTRs Can Work Independently

DTRs and NDTRs may work independently performing services such as:

Managing employees, purchasing food, food preparation, and maintaining budgets within the operations of foodservice, assisting licensed dietitians with the implementation of programs and presentation of classes for the public, developing menus, conducting nutrient analysis and data collection, and overseeing foodservice sanitation and food safety

For credentialing information on DTR and NDTR refer to the **Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) website at www.cdrnet.org**, as the LBEDN regulates licensure for Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionists (LDNs) and Provisional Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionists (PL-LDNs).

Meet the Board

Monica Pierson-McDaniels, MS, RDN, LDN
Board Chairperson

Martina Musmeci Salles, MPH, RDN, LDN, FAND
Board Vice Chairperson

Anita Ferdinand, MS, RD, LDN
Secretary/Treasurer

April Cintron, MS, RD, LDN
Board Liaison

Jennifer Duhon, MS, RD, LDN
Board Member

Meghan Kavanaugh, APRN, FNP-C, RD, LDN, CDE, BC-ADM
Board Member

Susan Julius, M.D.
Medical Advisor

Consumer Member
Vacant

BOARD PRESENTATIONS:

Is your group interested in having a Board member present information regarding licensure law, board activities or related topics? The Board is interested in addressing your needs. We especially welcome the opportunity to speak with student groups, interns, and district associations. To request a presentation, please email Tracy at tjeanmarie@lbedn.org. We ask that you make your request three months in advance if possible. We want to meet with you to share about our law and rules, and to answer your questions.

This process makes that possible!