

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition**

**April 26, 2024**

**Attending:**

**Martina Musmeci Salles, MPH, RDN, LDN, FAND, Chairperson  
Monica Pierson-McDaniels, MS, RDN, LDN, Vice Chairperson  
Marie Simpson, BSN, RN, CDE, Secretary/Treasurer  
Jennifer Duhon, MS, RDN, LDN, Board Liaison  
Anita Ferdinand, MS, RD, LDN, Board Member**

**Absent:**

**Dr. Sablaa Ali, Medical Advisor  
Dr. Jack DiGangi, RD, LDN, Board Member  
Vacant, Consumer Member**

Martina Musmeci Salles, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order and read the board's mission statement at 10:08 a.m. via in person meeting. Jolie Jones, Executive Director, and Luke Piontek, Legal Counsel, were present for the entire meeting. Members of the public were allowed to join via electronic means.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Emily Stephens and Mary Austin were present via electronic means; however, no one provided public comment during this portion of the meeting.

**AGENDA:**

**Motion** was made by Monica Pierson-McDaniels, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

**MINUTES:**

**1. Meeting of January 19, 2024**

**Motion** was made by Marie Simpson, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2024 meeting, as presented.

**FINANCIAL:**

**1. Financial Statements for the months ended September 30, 2023 –  
December 31, 2023**

Members of the board reviewed the financial statements prepared by Griffin and Furman, through the months ended December 31, 2023. Monthly budget to actual comparisons are attached.

**2. Professional Contracts FY 2024-2025**

**Motion** was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Marie Simpson and did not carry, to have legal counsel at each meeting, with the contract to remain at current hourly rate. Opposed: Monica Pierson-McDaniels.

**Motion** was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Marie Simpson and unanimously carried, to request that legal counsel join future board meetings via electronic means. If necessary, legal counsel may be requested to participate in person, as needed. The Board will schedule Executive Session at the beginning of each meeting to be fiscally responsible with legal counsel’s time.

**Motion** was made by Marie Simpson, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to offer Roedel, Parsons, Koch, Blache, Fontana, Piontek & Pisano, a legal contract at the rate of \$225.00 per hour for a maximum amount of \$12,000.00 for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

**Motion** was made by Monica Pierson-McDaniels, seconded by Anita Ferdinand and unanimously carried, to offer Griffin and Furman, a CPA contract at the rate of \$300.00 per month for a maximum of \$4,200.00 for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

**3. Covalent Logic Hosting Renewal 2024-2025**

**Motion** was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to renew the Covalent Logic Hosting Agreement for 2024-2025 at the rate of \$800 per month.

**4. Contract renewal for Kathie Pohlmann for FY 2024-2025**

**Motion** was made by Anita Ferdinand, seconded by Marie Simpson and unanimously carried, to renew the Agreement with Kathie Pohlmann for the Practitioners Health Program for 2024-2025, for the maximum contract amount of \$3,000.00.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

**1. Board Operations**

The Board reviewed data by Fiscal Quarter for 2024.

The totals for FY 2024, Quarter 3, are as follows:

LDN Applications Received	66
Provisional LDN Apps Received	8
Reinstatement Requests	6
Upgrade Requests	2
LDN Applications Approved	53
Provisional LDN Apps Approved	0
Reinstatement Requests Approved	4
Upgrades Approved	2
Renewals	N/A
Inactive Renewals	N/A
Delinquent Renewals	3

Delinquent Inactive Renewals	0
Verifications Requested	38
Abandoned Applications	1
Complaints Received	2
Requests to return to Active	1

The totals for FY 2024, Quarter 4 (as of 4/18/2024), are as follows:

LDN Applications Received	14
Provisional LDN Apps Received	0
Reinstatement Requests	4
Upgrade Requests	2
LDN Applications Approved	13
Provisional LDN Apps Approved	2
Reinstatement Requests Approved	3
Upgrades Approved	2
Renewals	132
Inactive Renewals	4
Delinquent Renewals	3
Delinquent Inactive Renewals	0
Verifications Requested	14
Abandoned Applications	1
Complaints Received	1
Requests to return to Active	0

**2. Practitioner Health Program Reports**

No Practitioner Health Program Reports were reviewed at this meeting.

**3. Executive Director Update**

Jolie Jones discussed with Board members that the renewal application was recently revised to remove an expungement question, compliance hearings will now be required to be held in person, the Board passed it's property management annual review, and there was discussion regarding the complaint process. Jolie Jones also reminded board members of the May 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Ethics reporting deadline.

**4. Board Member Updates/Request for Nominations**

Board staff sent a letter on March 28, 2024 to LAND requesting nominations for Monica Pierson-McDaniels, Anita Ferdinand, and Dr. Jack DiGangi's board member positions. The Board was notified that Dr. DiGangi and Dr. Ali's board appointments will not be confirmed by the Senate and they will need to be replaced. A letter was also sent to the Louisiana State Medical Society on March 28, 2024, requesting nominations to fill Dr. Ali's board member position.

## 5. Update on Licensure Compact

Board members discussed updates on the licensure compact. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Wisconsin have introduced compact legislation.

Board members reviewed the results of the compact survey that the Board sent to gauge if our licensees are interested in participating in a licensure compact. Based on the feedback received in the survey, there was definitely interest in participating in the compact.

Board members also reviewed a comparison of other state regulatory boards requirements.

Discussion pivoted to SB60 which is currently in the legislature. Scott Kirkpatrick met with Legislators about why SB60 is not good for dietitians. Individuals must be a resident of Louisiana. The Board could consider offering a jurisprudence exam.

Board members believe that a compact may be beneficial. We will have to figure out the logistics. The survey results were certainly favorable to the licensure compact. Board members will start thinking about how this can be implemented, given that we have some states with very low standards. We will keep the compact conversation going, share the survey results with licensees, look at our application, consider what a dual track looks like, what would we request, what new questions would be added?

The Board will reach out to LAND and let them know that we have gathered information and are prepared to move forward with compact legislation.

## 6. Degree requirement for Provisionals

**Motion** was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Anita Ferdinand and unanimously carried, to add the following policy:

In the instances where the Board issues a Provisional LDN license to those who have completed undergraduate degree and internship requirements, but have not yet obtained a masters degree, board staff will need to request a master's transcript during the upgrade process, if it has not already been received.

## 7. Provisional LDN Supervision Form Discussion

Board staff submitted revised Supervision Forms for board review. The Board would like to remove the checkboxes for addition of supervision, reinstatement, and termination of supervision. Also, remove #10. The Board will add the Annual Report Form for renewal and upgrade; however, we will not include proposed numbers 2 and 3. Number 2 will now be "Expected Exam Date".

**8. Bill Review from the 2024 Louisiana Legislature Regular Session**

Board members reviewed bills of interest in the Louisiana Legislature.

**9. University Presentations**

Recently, Jennifer Duhon gave a presentation, on behalf of the Board, to 11 students at Nicholls State University and also to senior level classmen at Louisiana State University. April Cintron, former board member, also gave a presentation, on behalf of the Board, at Louisiana Tech University to 6 students.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Motion** was made by Monica Pierson-McDaniels, seconded by Anita Ferdinand and unanimously carried, to move into Executive Session at 12:45 p.m. for the following reasons:

to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person, provided that such person is notified in writing at least twenty-four hours before the meeting,

for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or any other matter now provided for or as may be provided for by the legislature.

**Motion** was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Marie Simpson and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:05 p.m. to make the following motions:

**1. Discussion with Legal Counsel re: Adjudications, Compliance Hearings, and Consent Agreement and Orders**

**Motion** was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to revise policy for Consent Agreement and Order #2, where the right to a compliance hearing is not required.

**2. Review of New Complaints**

**a. Complaint #2024-08**

**Motion** was made by Monica Pierson-McDaniels, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to send a letter to the dietitian complained of that the Board has been notified of an ethical issue regarding patient treatment and will be sending the concern to DCFS. Motion was also made to send the whole complaint to DCFS. Motion was also made to send the complainant a letter that the Board has processed the complaint and are forwarding to the authorities who can better handle.

**b. Complaint #2024-09**

**Motion** was made by Anita Ferdinand, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to send a letter regarding the law and rules.

- c. **Complaint #2024-11**  
**Motion** was made by Marie Simpson, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to not accept complaint #2024-11, as it is not in the Board’s jurisdiction.

**3. Review of Pending Complaints**

- a. **Complaint #2024-02**  
**Motion** was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to release respondent from the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order, based on successful completion.
- b. **Complaint #2024-04**  
**Motion** was made by Monica Pierson-McDaniels, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to offer a Consent Agreement and Order and draft a revised final Decision and move forward to complete discovery questions and cancel disciplinary hearing previously scheduled.
- c. **Complaint #2024-05**  
**Motion** was made by Anita Ferdinand, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to release respondent from the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order, based on successful completion.
- d. **Complaint #2024-06**  
**Motion** was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to refer Complaint #2024-06 to the Attorney General’s office, as the Board has received no response.

**Motion** was also made to send a letter to McNeese University informing them what Respondent says she is doing and based on her job description, she may be practicing dietetics without a license.

**3. Review of Applications**

**Motion** was made by Anita Ferdinand, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to accept and approve the applications for the **LDN License** for the following:

Taylor, Kirsten	3713	Canterman, Sarah	3715
Welker, Callie	3716	Kinchen, Jensen	3717
Mick, Tiana	3718	Miller, Cassie	3719
Hamilton, Jill	3720	O’Malley, Keelia	3721
Alexander, Olivia	3722	Madsen, Emily	3723
Rostek, Lisa	3724	Hnat, Jennifer	3726
Calianos, Audrey	3727	Oglesby, Emily	3728
O’Connell, Alyssa	3729	Hirshenson, Joan	3731
Parvis, Andrea	3732	Vaz, Megan	3733
Knight, Alison	3734	Douglass, Pauline	3735
Dupre, Kaylee	3736	Acosta, Morgan	3737

James, Kim	3738	Puhlman, Kristen	3739
Washington, Rose	3740	Kearse, Kirsten	3741
Creppel, Haleigh	3742	Collins, Sarah	3744
Carrick, Taylor	3745	MacDonald, Hanna	3746
Lavelle, Tara	3747	Vinson, Kimberly	3748
Ebersole, Madison	3749	Rhodes-Smith, Sarah	3750
Garretson, Sara	3751	Wright, Isaac	3752
Erwin, Heidi	3753	Barnes, Kayla	3754
Hedlund, Melissa	3755	McMillen, Jenna	3756
Nickel, Jacquelyn	3757	Turi, Rachel	3759
Christie, Miriam	3760	Hart, Carly	3761
Wolf, Lisa	3762	Becker, Michael	3763
Moore, Katelyn	3764	Harrell, Joyce	3765
Garcia Zeda, Mayra	3766	Livingston, Kaitlyn	3767
Zamzam, Nora	3769	Courtney, Samantha	3770
Landry, Adrian Marcel	3771	Passalacqua, Liana	3772
Kruzan, Jessica	3773	Chan, Li	3775
Cavalier, Mallory	3776	Case, Kimberly	3777
Maus, Emily	3778	Caltabiano, Luiza	3779
Myers, Paige	3780	Burford, Brittney	3781
Kern, Desiree	3782		

**Motion** was made by Marie Simpson, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to accept and approve the applications for the **Provisional LDN License** for the following:

Moran, Nichole	3725	Brown, Brittnee	3730
Simmons, Raven	3743	Gautreaux, Riley	3758
Peters, Ashley	3768	Crochet, Cameron	3774

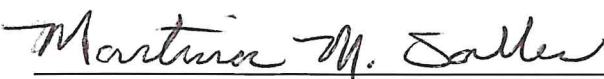
**Motion** was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Anita Ferdinand and unanimously carried, to **upgrade** the following licenses:

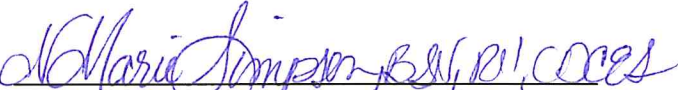
Scott, Sierra	3664	Heitritter, Halie	3693
Davis, Joshua	3560	Haugh, Kennedy	3634

**Motion** was made by Marie Simpson, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to **reinstate** the following licenses:

Sayal, Kanika	3378	Folks, Helen	1282
Redondo, Paulina	3081	LeBlanc, Marlayna	1035
King, Jamie	1891	Gandolfo, Danielle	1708
Schaub, Dana	2772	Quantz, Yvette	1813

**Motion** was made by Marie Simpson, seconded by Anita Ferdinand and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

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

  
Marie Simpson, BSN, RN, CDCES  
Secretary/Treasurer