

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING
17373 PERKINS ROAD
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70810**

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2021 BOARD MEETING

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by T. Kindall, President, on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, 17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

Dr. Lyon thanked Mr. T. Cotita for his service as president of the Board for 2019-2021 and presented him with his gavel.

Roll Call: The following Board members were in attendance:
Tavell Kindall, PhD, DNP, APRN, FNP, President
Tracey Moffatt, MHA, BSN, RN, Vice President
Jamie Wiggins, PhD-c, MBA, RN, , NEA- BC, FACHE, Alternate Officer
Tim Cotita, RN, BSN, MSHCE
Jennifer Manning, DNS, APRN, CNS, CNE
Jennifer Couvillon, PhD, RN- BC, CNE
Kenneth Alexander, MS, RRT
Ann Carruth, DNS, RN
Wendi Palermo, PhD, RN
Frederick Pinkney, EdD
Mimi Primeaux, MS, BSN, CRNA

The following staff members were in attendance:
Karen C. Lyon, PhD, MBA, APRN-CNS-BC , NEA-BC, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer
Isonel Brown, MS, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer
Wanda Matthews, MPA, Chief Compliance Officer
Jennifer Wright, DNP, APRN, FNP- BC, Chief Nursing Officer
Carrie LeBlanc Jones, JD, MBA, Chief Legal Officer/General Counsel
Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, Licensure and Practice Director
Patricia Dufrene, PhD, RN, Education and Examination Director
Urhonda Beckwith, MSN, APRN, FNP_{BC}, RNP Director
LaQueda Ricks, Human Resource Manager
Jasimiel T. Northern, Paralegal
Suzanne C. Armand, CCR-CVR, Court Reporter

Dr. Lyon stated there was a quorum.

Dr. Lyon stated that Agenda Item 2.1.3 has been postponed due to a request from Dr. Cooksey. This will be placed back on the Agenda for the June 17, 2021, Board meeting.

Dr. Lyon reported that in the Annual Report, the hearing statistics are incorrect. Only March's statistics are reported rather than the entire quarter. The correct statistics will be reported when the Executive Director's Report is presented.

Motion: by Dr. Pinkney, seconded, to adopt the Agenda with changes noted, and with the ability to rearrange the Agenda items for efficiency.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes; T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: by K. Alexander, seconded, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 Board Meeting.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes; T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

1. Consent Agenda Motions

1. LSBN Staff Program Status Reports
 1. NCLEX Report
 2. Accreditation Reports
2. Continuing Education Renewal Request
 1. American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
3. Education Announcements

Motion: by T. Moffatt, seconded, to accept the Consent Agenda Motions.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes; T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

2. Division Reports

Division of Nursing Practice

Agenda Item 2.1.1
Chief Nursing Officer

Dr. Wright presented an updated report on her Division. Per Dr. Kendall's motion, a Task Force was created to address pre-graduation RN permits and the impact on the workforce. The Task Force met on April 8, 2021, and Dr. Wright felt they made a lot of progress and are moving rapidly. Dr. Manning is the Chair. They have been discussing a potential survey to send to those individuals and graduates that were issued the pre-graduate disaster permit. This will enable them to get more information regarding their experience and to move forward with some decisions in terms of the impact on the workforce and what they can do in the future if there is a disaster or other public health emergency. Dr. Wright will soon be setting up her next meeting. Dr. Wright thanked everyone for their support. All educators are members of the Task Force, including Dr. Carruth, and Board staff are attending.

The internationally educated nurses, even though it is a small piece of who they license, the process takes up a huge process for Board staff. Historically, they have been working with the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS). This is an organization through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), and they have been the sole approved provider to give credentials evaluation reports on internationally educated nurses. After working with another company and review and approval from Dr. Lyon, they now have an alternative for their internationally educated nurses to use, and that is Josef Silny & Associates. Staff have updated instructions accordingly to let internationally educated nurses, credentialers and recruiters know that LSBN accepts that second company.

In reply to a question by Mr. Cotita, Dr. Wright stated they have less than 100 internationally educated nurses who apply each year and fewer than 30 were licensed in 2020 as stated in their Annual Report. The process is very time-consuming, and staff are very careful in reviewing the applications.

Ms. Moffatt reported that Ochsner has contracted with a new company called Karma and it is expected that over the course of this year to bring in as many as 50 internationally educated nurses.

Dr. Wright reported that they continue to work with their stakeholders as the new legislative session gears up and staff are tracking some of the bills as they relate to nursing.

Dr. Wright mentioned some of *The Examiner* articles that are coming up. One is the Louisiana Nurse Honor Guard. They have been contacted by someone to promote the honor guard promoting nurses in a different way rather than just practice and licensure.

There has been a lot going on behind the scenes with post-renewal preparations and attending numerous meetings.

Dr. Wright was available for questions.

Agenda Item 2.1.2
Education and Examination

Dr. Dufrene continues to work remotely and is available to both her staff and constituents via phone, email, or text. Staff continues to work both remotely and in the office. They are working on the clinical applications for summer and fall and graduations for the Spring. Staff has also assisted with the renewal process.

Presentations continue to be scheduled virtually with student groups, both incoming juniors and seniors. Dr. Dufrene has performed two virtual site visits for approval, one joint accreditation virtual site visit and participated in several accreditation site visit exit interviews not requiring board staff participation.

Dr. Dufrene has been attending several meetings: NCSBN, (National Council of State Boards of Nursing), LSNA (Louisiana State Nurses' Association), and Elsevier presentations regarding the NCLEX NGN (Next Generation National Council Licensure Examination) which will be initiated in 2023.

Representing the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, Dr. Dufrene attends the Pre-graduation Permit Taskforce as well as representing LSBN at LaCANE (Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education) and the Statewide Simulation Council.

Dr. Dufrene updated the Board on the Pearson VUE status, stating they have five centers in Louisiana: Two in Baton Rouge, one in Metairie, New Orleans, and Shreveport. There has been some discussion about new centers in Monroe and in the Lake Charles area. Dr. Dufrene continues to investigate the matter. There is a limitation on capacity in these centers due to COVID.

Updating the Board on testing, Dr. Dufrene reported that there are about 124 students in the eligible category, and only about 18 who have not registered and of those, 11 are retakes which means there are seven who have not registered. There are about 484 new registrants. Most have not registered because they are scheduled to graduate in the Spring. There are about 30 of those that graduated before this coming semester who have not registered yet.

Regarding Pearson Vue, Dr. Lyon asked Dr. Dufrene whether the limitation on capacity was due to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing's restriction or whether it was due to Pearson VUE's limitation currently. Dr. Dufrene stated from her understanding it was Pearson Vue's limitations currently. Dr. Dufrene will investigate the matter further as to releasing capacity restrictions on testing and follow up.

Agenda Item 2.1.2.1

Request for New Nursing Programs in Louisiana

Agenda Item 2.1.2.1.1

Chamberlain University – Step III

Summary/Background presented by Dr. Dufrene. Recommended approval.

Dr. Catherine Holton, Sr. Manager Licensure and Accreditation Chamberlain University, was present virtually via Microsoft TEAMS, to provide information and to answer questions by Board members.

Ms. Moffatt requested that Dr. Couvillon give an update to the Board.

Dr. Jennifer Couvillon, President of Chamberlain University New Orleans, provided information regarding Step III to establish a baccalaureate of science in nursing education degree program.

Motion: by J. Wiggins, seconded, that the Board approve Step III to establish a baccalaureate of science in nursing education degree program and grant full approval to Chamberlain University's College of Nursing.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-abstained; T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 2.1.2.1.2

McNeese State University - Post Master's Doctorate of Nursing Practice - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner-Step II

Summary/Background presented by Dr. Dufrene. Recommended approval.

Ms. Moffatt noted that in the initial action requested was for the Board to approve Step III.

Dr. Dufrene clarified that the motion should be to approve Step II. The motion will be modified to read Step II.

Dr. Lyon indicated that the acronym ICSMN should read ICMSN which appears twice in the Summary/Background and should be edited accordingly.

Dr. Ann Warner, Interim Dean of McNeese College of Nursing and Health Professions McNeese State University, was present to provide information and answer questions by Board members.

Motion: by W. Palermo, seconded, that the Board approve Step II to establish a graduate in nursing education degree program and grant initial approval to McNeese State University.

Dr. Lyon inquired if this was for a post-master's certificate program only. Dr. Warner clarified that they are granting a DNP in nursing practice.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes; T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 2.1.2.2

Excelsior College

Summary/Background presented by Dr. Dufrene. Recommended acceptance.

Dr. Mary Lee Pollard, Dean School of Nursing Excelsior College, was present virtually via Microsoft TEAMS, to provide information and to answer questions by Board members.

On April 14, 2021, Dr. Dufrene communicated with Dr. Pollard regarding the status of the students in the program. There were 52 in the capstone to be completed, which is the clinical portion. Also, there are 20 that remain that are anticipated to complete and have their degree conferred prior to the cessation of the accreditation.

There were 16 in Phases 3, 2 and 1, which is now down to 9. These are the different levels of courses prior to getting to the ability to do their capstone.

Dr. Pollard had indicated that they are working individually with these students and working on options.

Motion: by J. Wiggins, seconded, that the Board accept the updated report of currently enrolled Louisiana students in the Excelsior College LPN-ASN program.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes;
T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes;
M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

Dr. Pollard thanked Dr. Dufrene for her work regarding Excelsior College.

Dr. Manning stated that when they closed out 2020, they did not have any schools with an NCLEX pass rate of less than 80%. In looking at today's Consent Agenda, it was noted that they have three in the first quarter. Dr. Manning inquired if Dr. Dufrene had any concerns going forward that this may be reflective of COVID and the changes in education delivery in 2020.

Discussion ensued regarding these concerns.

Dr. Dufrene and her staff are monitoring the trends going forward including not just those seniors that graduated but also underclassmen that were beginning in nursing programs.

Dr. Manning was agreeing and noting that we need to monitor sophomore and other students that had a disruption in education delivery. She asked that for the next meeting, Dr. Dufrene consider adding the 2020 school spreadsheet and trending for review at the next meeting if she felt that would be useful since we will have two quarters of data available for 2021.

Agenda Item 2.1.2.3

Second Time NCLEX-RN Pass Rate

This Agenda Item has been deferred to the June 2021 Board meeting.

Agenda Item 2.1.3
Licensure and Practice

Dr. Calmes presented an updated report on Licensure and Practice. They have completed renewal while most staff remain working remotely. Dr. Calmes stated she was proud of how her staff worked as a team and responded to the increased inquiries.

In moving forward with their strategic planning regarding Licensure and Practice and promoting safe practice in the nursing profession, Dr. Calmes stated she has provided three presentations since February to schools of nursing graduate programs. She also attended NSCBN's (National State Boards of Nursing) mid-year meeting, the Scientific Symposium, the APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse) Round Table virtually.

Also, regarding APRNs, they complied with SB 55, Act 76 during this past renewal season by collecting the required CE (Continuing Education) documents that were warranted for controlled substance prescribers and will continue to collect those documents for 2021.

Dr. Calmes introduced Ms. Whitney Sullivan as the new APRN compliance officer and stated she is excited to welcome her aboard.

Dr. Calmes was available for questions.

Agenda Item 2.2.
Compliance Division

Ms. Matthews gave an updated report regarding the Compliance Division, stating that the Compliance Division continues to improve their work processes.

Compliance is working with Chief Brown to update all of staff's position descriptions.

On April 27th, Ms. Jones and Ms. Matthews will meet to finalize the revisions to the Consent Order template.

Chief Matthews hired a new RNCO (Registered Nurse Compliance Officer), Dr. Jennifer Bernard.

A RNCO will be attending the NCSBN's Board of Nursing Investigations training. This will be the last full time RNCO to attend the training; however, new hires will be required to attend the training.

Agenda Item 2.2.1
Chief Compliance Officer

Ms. Matthews reported Compliance currently has 35 open Priority 1 investigations. A total of 11 of the investigations are out of compliance with a 31% out of compliance rate. Last report there were 50 open investigations with a 20% out of compliance rate. However, the number of months investigations are out of compliance has decreased from the last report Nine investigations are out of compliance 1 to

3 months and two investigations are out of compliance 4 to 6 months. The percentage increase is due to the decrease in the number of open investigations.

Dr. Lyon asked if the numbers included the cases held up by the DEA. Ms. Matthews stated there were five held up by the DEA which were not included. One of those cases, one was closed which leaves a total of 4 cases that remain open waiting for DEA information.

Dr. Couvillon and Ms. Moffatt thanked Ms. Matthews for the major improvement in the percentage of Priority 1 cases closed.

Agenda Item 2.2.2
RNP/Monitoring

Ms. Beckwith gave a brief report on the RNP/Monitoring Department. They have been collaborating with the Bureau of Community Preparedness and the Louisiana Department of Public Health with their Opioid to Action Grant to increase the awareness of the RNP. This is in the amount of \$25,000. The grant money will be used in a media campaign to include several billboards in the New Orleans and Shreveport area, posters, and pamphlets, and to create an informative video regarding the Recovering Nurse Program including contact information.

Ms. Beckwith shared a positive exit interview from an RN, who completed the requirements of the program and is now being released.

Ms. Beckwith was available for questions.

Mr. Cotita inquired about the Nurses Foundation as it applies to helping nurses financially going through the RNP.

Dr. Lyon reported that she and Ms. Jones have been working with the Foundation to develop a Memorandum of Understanding and applications regarding a \$2,000 scholarship that will be offered to nurses who qualify. They have completed their work with the Nurses Foundation. Ms. Jones sent back the final drafts of these scholarship applications and the MOU. Ms. Jones has gone through the language to ensure that both the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Louisiana Nurses Foundation were protected.

Ms. Jones presented an overview of how the process would work for potential participants. The Foundation has had at least one applicant that would qualify.

Discussion was had regarding the Foundation receiving donations.

Discussion ensued regarding having nurses sharing their own individual stories regarding the RNP on an informative video and on the LSBN's website.

Agenda Item 2.2.3
Compliance

Ms. Carter updated the Board on the Investigations Department Current Caseload.

Currently, they have 708 cases open. Fifty-eight of these cases are from 2018 which are expected to be closed by June.

For 2019, there are 365 cases open.

For 2020, there are 201 cases open.

For 2021, there are 84 cases open.

Ms. Carter was available for questions.

Dr. Kindal thanked Ms. Matthews and the Compliance Division for their hard work.

Dr. Lyon commended Ms. Matthews for her accomplishment in reorganizing her division and getting cases closed. Dr. Lyon honored everyone working in Compliance, especially Ms. Matthews.

(Break taken)

(Dr. Kindall called the Board Meeting back to order)

Agenda Item 2.3

Division of Administration

Agenda Item 2.3.1

Chief Administrative Officer

Ms. Brown presented a brief update on the Division of Administration, highlighting what they do to support the Agency in the implementation of all their initiatives and projects.

They have hired five new employees, four of which are full time staff. There have been several promotions within the agency in the last quarter. Ms. Katrina Duncan has applied and been selected as Ms. Brown's new administrative program manager.

For IT, they are supporting their work on the website. They are implementing the new computer rollout. By June, the new computers should be fully rolled out to the employees.

They are getting ready for their upcoming audit. This upcoming quarter will be the finalization of everything as they prepare for the end of their Fiscal Year.

The forecast budget will not be presented today as some information is not complete from external sources. This will be presented at the June 17, 2021, Board meeting.

Ms. Brown reminded the Board that the deadline is May 15 to submit the disclosure report to the Board of Ethics. She will be sending out the link. Also, the sexual harassment and ethics training is also due which can be done any time in the calendar year.

Agenda Item 2.3.1.1

Contract Amendments for Professional Legal Services

The Division of Administration is requesting the Board's approval in the acceptance of two legal contracts. The proposed board resolution will amend the terms of the current legal contracts as follows:

Shows, Cali & Walsh's current contract is for 12 months for \$100,000. Ms. Brown is requesting the Board to extend an additional year to the contract and increase it by \$50,000. The new contract will be for a total of \$150,000 over a two-year period.

The Rutledge Law Firm, LLC contract is currently \$45,000 for one year. Ms. Brown is requesting to add an additional year with an additional \$45,000 for a total of \$90,000 for a two-year contract.

Motion: by K. Alexander, seconded, that the Board accept and approve the LSBN Board Resolution to amend its contract for legal services with Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP as presented.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes; T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

Motion: by W. Palermo, seconded, that the Board accept and approve the LSBN Board Resolution to amend its contract for legal services with Rutledge Law Firm, LLC as presented.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes; T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

Ms. Brown will modify and update the Resolutions with names and motions to prepare for signature.

Agenda Item 2.3.2

Information Technology

Nothing presented.

Agenda Item 2.3.3

Human Resources

Nothing presented.

Agenda Item 2.3.4

Financial Records Management

Nothing presented.

Agenda Item 2.4
Division of Legal Affairs

Agenda Item 2.4.1
Chief Legal Officer

Agenda Item 2.4.1.2
Hearings

Ms. Jones reported that the Board had a full day of disciplinary cases yesterday. There was an expert witness that testified, Dr. Barry Lubin, who is the MRO (Medical Review Officer) for Affinity who regularly works with the Monitoring Department and testifies as an expert witness on the effect of alcohol hand sanitizer and the PEth test. At the February Board Hearing Panel, this issue was raised, and the panel expressed needing additional information regarding this issue. Ultimately, the Board ratified the Automatic Suspension and determined that the licensee did violate her Consent Order. Ms. Jones stated that they plan on having Dr. Lubin at a future Board meeting to do an in-service presentation to educate the Board on the issues of addictionology and what services his organization provides to the agency.

Several hearings were settled yesterday which avoided a very long day. Ms. Jones thanked Ms. Matthews and her staff in helping resolve those cases.

Ms. Jones, Ms. Matthews, and Dr. Lyon conducted a two-day cross-divisional in-person training between the Hearings Department and the Compliance Department in March. They were able to provide helpful information to staff in helping them do their job better as well as improve the process for closing cases. Ms. Jones thanked staff who helped put on a very effective useful training.

An update was given regarding upcoming training. Ms. Jones is currently doing the prerequisites for the BONIT (Board of Nursing Investigator Training) and will be doing a virtual training next week.

It was discussed at the February meeting to undertake doing a revision on the language of the consent orders. Ms. Matthews and Ms. Jones are close to completing the language revision.

Also, at the February Board meeting, there was a discussion among Board members as to when consent orders are effective. Board members expressed they would like these consent orders effective when ratified by the Board. Ms. Jones wanted to ensure that the Board understood what effect that that decision would have before the revision is finalized. Ms. Jones requested feedback from the Board.

After a discussion ensued, it was concluded by Board members that the language regarding consent orders be left unchanged.

Ms. Jones was available for questions.

3. Office of the Executive Director

Agenda Item 3.1
Center for Nursing

The Center for Nursing has been moved into the Executive Director's Office. Dr. Lyon has taken over representing the Center on the Nursing Supply and Demand Council and will be representing the LSBN on the national forum meetings as well.

Dr. Lyon introduced Ms. Sarah Luneau who works with Dr. Lyon attending to Center for Nursing matters which now comes under the Office of the Executive Director. Dr. Lyon thanked Ms. Luneau, stating that she is very competent regarding Center for Nursing matters. Ms. Luneau is also now serving as Dr. Lyon's Executive Assistant while Ms. M. Carter is out.

Agenda Item 3.2
2020 LSBN Annual Report

The Annual Report has been sent out to Board. Dr. Lyon complimented the Divisions on the statistics that they provided. Dr. Lyon also thanked Ms. Luneau for editing and putting the Report together. Upon approval of the Board, the Annual Report will go forward to the Governor's office, the Senate and House leaders and all other interested parties.

Dr. Kindall requested Board members to ensure that their credentials are correct on the Report as of the time the Annual Report was created.

Dr. Manning stated the PhD needs to be removed. She has a DNS.

Mr. Wiggins requested that the DNS be taken off and the MS be used as he is in the candidate status. Dr. Lyon stated that on their website, they do have the subtext c for the DNS candidate.

Motion: by J. Manning, seconded, that the Board accept the 2020 Louisiana State Board of Nursing Annual Report as corrected.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes;
T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes;
M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 3.3
LSBME Resolution

The LSBME's (Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiner) Resolution entitled: Resolution to Preserve Appropriate Scope of Practice Limitations to Ensure Patient Safety and Improve Health Outcomes was received by Dr. Lyon from individuals in the LANP (Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners) who are working on HB 495 regarding APRN Full Practice Authority. The Resolution was made available to Board members.

Dr. Lyon directed Board members to areas of concern within the Resolution.

Discussion ensued regarding these concerns.

Dr. Ecoee Rooney, Director of Nursing Leadership Development Ochsner Health New Orleans, was present virtually to provide information and to answer questions by Board members.

(Break taken)

(Dr. Kindall called the meeting back to order.)

Agenda Item 3.4
2021 Legislative Tracking

Agenda Item 3.4.1
HB 270 Telemedicine/Telehealth

Dr. Lyon's only concern regarding HB 270 is the differentiation of the terms Telemedicine and Telehealth.

Agenda Item 3.4.2
HB495 APRN Full Practice Authority

HB 495 will go before the Legislature on April 22, 2021. The Louisiana State Board of Nursing's role is not to lobby but to provide information to the Legislative body. Dr. Lyon will be at the Capitol to educate and provide data.

Agenda Item 3.4.3
SB 136 Emergency Rules

Dr. Lyon reported on SB 136, which provides for promulgation of emergency rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. (8/21/21). This Bill is being proposed by Senator Fred Mills.

Agenda Item 3.4.4
HB 398 Occupational Licensing Board Review within AG's Office

Dr. Lyon received a call from Deputy Attorney General Emily Andrews regarding HB 398 indicating that this bill arrived from the Board of Medical Examiners. This bill creates an occupation licensing Board review program within the Office of the Attorney General. Dr. Lyon expressed concerns regarding this Bill.

Ms. Jones reported that based on her review of the proposed legislation, after the Board ratifies a consent order or rendered a final order in a case, before it becomes effective, it would then have to go to the AG's office through the Occupational Licensing Board Review Program. This would further delay the disciplinary process if it does not become effective until the AG's office gives their approval. A

phone call is scheduled for tomorrow with the Attorney General's office to discuss. Presently, this Bill is optional and has a fee associated with it. Ms. Jones will be monitoring this Bill very closely.

Discussion ensued regarding the Board's concerns.

4. Reports

Agenda Item 4.1

Report of the President

Report Posted.

Agenda Item 4.2

Report of the Vice President

Report Posted

Agenda Item 4.3

Report of the Executive Director

Dr. Lyon reported an edit in the Annual Report as to the first quarter hearing statistics. The actual number of total hearings during the first quarter of 2021 was 7. There were 69 discipline files reviewed, 73 total actions taken, and 14 education disciplinary actions including the NCLEX RN applicants and students.

The Report from the Nursing Supply and Demand Council is attached. There continues to be a shortage of faculty and a shortage in clinical facilities, which limits the number of students that they can admit, and the lack of funding for nursing education. There are challenges related to increasing diversity. There has been an increase of 123 percent in Hispanic nurses.

Report Posted.

Motion: by J. Wiggins, seconded, to accept the report of the President, Vice President, and the CEO/Executive Director with edits.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes;
T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes;
M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

Motion Carried

5. Professional Development

Ms. Robin Huet gave a presentation to the Board regarding the investigation process.

Ms. Huet was available for questions.

6. National Council State Boards of Nursing

Nothing presented.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

8. Executive Session

Motion: by T. Cotita, seconded, to go into Executive Session for the purposes of hearing the Report on Litigation and Personnel Issues.

Voice Vote: K. Alexander-yes; T. Cotita-yes; A. Carruth-yes; J. Couvillon-yes; T. Kindall-yes; J. Manning-yes; T. Moffatt-yes; W. Palermo-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; M. Primeaux-yes; J. Wiggins-yes

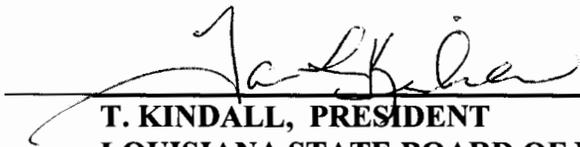
Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

After returning from Executive Session, the Board Meeting was adjourned.

Motion: by T. Cotita, seconded, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.



T. KINDALL, PRESIDENT
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING