

# T H E E X A M I N E R

a Louisiana State Board of Nursing production

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In This Issue

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From the Chief Executive Officer.....	1-2
Thank a Nurse. Wear a Mask.....	2
Evidence That Pilots Are Increasingly Using Over-the-Counter, Prescription, and Illicit Drugs.....	3
Memo from LDH: Prohibition Against Discrimination in Use of COVID-19 Vaccine Doses.....	4
LSBN Welcomes Our New Board Members.....	5
Increasing Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations: LSBN Passes Emergency Rules to Facilitate Increasing the Nursing Workforce and Allowing Delegation of COVID-19 Vaccines.....	6
Chiefs Corner .....	7-9
APRN Corner .....	10
RNP Corner.....	10
The Nursing Workforce Pipeline: Nurse Leaders Working Together to Ensure Louisiana’s Nursing Students Have Adequate Hands-On Clinical Experiences.....	11-12
Health Care Licensee Should Be Aware of Criminals Posing as Law Enforcement and Licensing Boards.....	12
Major Motions and Other Actions Taken at the August 20, 2020 Board Meeting ..	13-14
Major Motions and Other Actions Taken at the October 15, 2020 Board Meeting..	14-15
New Employee Highlight.....	15
Disciplinary Matters.....	16
2021 State Holiday Schedule .....	16
Future Board Meeting Dates.....	16



## Board Members

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## FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Welcome to 2021. I received a humorous Christmas card over the holidays that read like this: *2020: Let's Not Do That Again.* It was, of course, a humorous comment on the year just past and the ongoing health, economic and social devastation caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic that continues into its 11<sup>th</sup> month. As a celebration of all that we accomplished in

2020 despite COVID-19 and Hurricanes Cristobal, Delta, Sally, Zeta, Marco and Laura, I offer this review of LSBN's work.

### Strategic Priority A: Strengthen the Practice of Nursing Improve processes for regulation of educational programs.

- **Remove redundancy: approval vs. accreditation; use initial and recurring accreditation of pre-licensure and APRN programs as basis for LSBN approval.**
  - RS 37:918(2) requires the Board to approve nursing education programs whose graduates meet the licensing requirements of the board. Additionally, RS 37:920A (1) b requires the Board to issue licenses to a RN or APRN who files an application for licensure and presents evidence that they have completed the requirements of a nursing education program approved by the board. LSBN has incorporated initial visits and follow-up site visits by LSBN with CCNE, ACEN, CNEA, and COA accreditation site visits; in compliance with LRS 37.918.1-21, LSBN continues to establish minimum curricula requirements, approve nursing education programs for RN pre-licensure and APRN programs, establish standards for nursing practice and nursing education and promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this part.

### Strategic Priority B: Implement the Nurse Licensure Compact

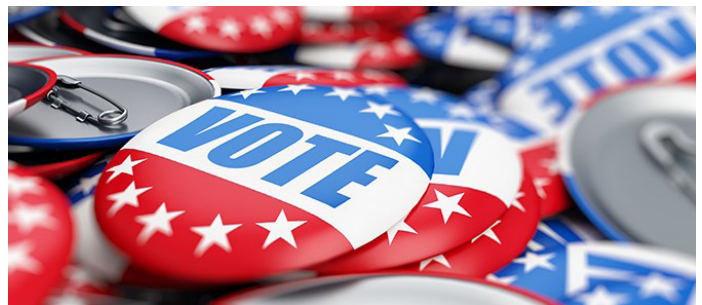
- **The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) was enacted on May 31, 2018. Implementation with the LPN Board occurred on July 1, 2019.**
  - **100% Accomplished.** Currently 8,517 multistate licenses (MSLs) have been issued in Louisiana. There have been 2,398 MSLs issued in the past 12 months.

### Strategic Priority C: Build a Unified Voice with Stakeholders and the Legislature

- **Secure expertise in external relationship-building to es-**

### establish a legislative agenda for 2019 that promotes professional nursing initiatives.

- While this initiative has not been fully accomplished, it is continuing with regular communications between LSNA and LSBN. New leadership at LSNA, Dr. Thea Ducrow, Executive Director, and Dr. Ecoee Rooney, LSNA President, have reached out to LSBN and we have begun discussions for establishment of an APRN Collaborative Group to plan for legislative initiatives in 2021. We have completed our first collaborative effort with LSBN supporting ANA's get out the vote initiative, *Our Voices, Our Vote* through mass email.



### Strategic Priority D: Elevate Awareness of LSBN's Contributions to the Profession

#### Enhance LSBN's image as supportive of the profession.

- Promoted LSBN practice and education initiatives on the website and through *The Examiner*.
- Accepted opportunities to speak at regional and state conferences, hospitals and other healthcare organizations, and professional associations on LSBN's mission, vision, values and initiatives to advance the profession. Over 100 presentations, both face-to-face and virtual, were completed by Directors and Chiefs during 2020.
- Expanded presence with nursing education and practice leaders at the state and national levels.
  - Nurse Licensure Compact Commissioners
  - Louisiana Action Coalition Core Leadership Team
  - Healthworks Commission
  - Louisiana Organization for Nursing Leadership Board
  - NCSBN Virtual Conference on Nursing Education Approval Guidelines.
  - Louisiana Department of Health Boards & Commissions Executive Directors
  - NCSBN Meetings
    - Midyear Meeting, Boston, MA.





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- NLC COVID-19 planning
- Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly
- NLC Compliance Committee
- LACANE
- Louisiana Action Coalition 2020 Culture of Health Summit Planning
- Louisiana State Nurses Association, Finance Committee

Hearings documents/evidence.

- Legal department created a case log for tracking all cases submitted to the Hearings Department.

COVID isn't done with the world yet, but the vaccine has arrived and with continued vigilance and adherence to mask-wearing, social distancing and vaccinations, we should soon emerge in to a brighter, healthier world. In closing, I offer these words:

*Pain makes you stronger, fear makes you braver and Heartbreak only makes you wiser. - Unknown*

For the Public Trust and Wishing to All a Happy New Year,

Karen C. Lyon, PhD, MBA, APRN, NEA<sub>BC</sub>  
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

### Thank a Nurse. Wear a Mask.

Thank you. From the bottom of our hearts. Thank you. In honor of all you have sacrificed this year, we wanted to share a little New Year's gift.

Through a collaboration with country music stars Brown & Gray and the Thank A Nurse Wear A Mask movement from NursesEverywhere, Louisiana State Nurses Association and Louisiana State Board of Nursing are supporting the sharing of the music video for the single, **You Didn't Have To**. It is our hope that through this song and its powerful music video your voice will be heard. This one goes out to you. For your courage, commitment, and the expertise you share with all of us.



If the video moves you, please consider sharing it with your family and friends (maybe even a few strangers, too) to help amplify your voice.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR2NLM5crORunCj0hwMs7YRnjSKTO5ptiDixp9\\_TACpBByecrR1alx\\_aUa4&v=7JT\\_G2T5nVQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR2NLM5crORunCj0hwMs7YRnjSKTO5ptiDixp9_TACpBByecrR1alx_aUa4&v=7JT_G2T5nVQ&feature=youtu.be)

### Strategic Priority E: Demonstrate Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

- Promote improved communication and collaboration across departments.
- Demonstrate improved responsiveness and customer service.
  - Customer service training successfully completed.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of systematic onboarding and training for Board members.
  - Daylong orientation developed with Chiefs and Department Heads.
  - Chief Carrie Jones developed a Hearings Orientation manual to orient Board members to their most important role in Disciplinary Hearings.
- Continue to evaluate ongoing quality improvement based on above metrics and those provided by Division Chiefs.
  - Processing investigations for Priority 1-4 cases.
  - Completed Arrest/Conviction Record Screening Guidelines.
  - Completed revision of 3331 misdemeanor/felony crimes and guidelines for disciplinary action.
  - Operations
    - Completed five external audits by ORM, SCS, State Travel, LLA and LPAA. All recommendations implemented.
    - Developed a SafeWork Playbook and Safety Manual.
    - Developed e-investigation process for pilot testing with Compliance Division.
    - All payroll and time sensitive processes completed effectively and on time, even during remote work time.
    - Worked collaboratively with Chief Matthews & Lean Six consultant to develop and implement consultant's recommendations for Compliance Division.
  - Nursing Practice Division has cross-trained licensing analysts and administrative coordinators in all departments to eliminate silos and allow for employees to perform work requirements in any department when needed.
  - Nursing Practice has transitioned to receipt of all nursing transcripts electronically.
  - Chief Jones implemented a fully electronic workflow for all legal documents including disciplinary orders and





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## Louisiana State Board of Nursing

*The following article was created, and its publication in this newsletter has been requested by the NTSB. Since nursing is a safety-sensitive profession, it is essential that RNs and APRNs routinely discuss with patients the effect their diagnosed medical conditions or recommended drugs may have on the patient's ability to safely operate a vehicle in any mode of transportation.*

### **Evidence That Pilots Are Increasingly Using Over-the-Counter, Prescription, and Illicit Drugs**

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recently analyzed toxicology tests from 6,677 pilots who died in a total of 6,597 aviation accidents between 1990 and 2012. The results demonstrate a significant increase in the use of a variety of potentially impairing drugs.

The study found significantly increasing trends in pilots' use of all drugs, potentially impairing drugs (those with a US Food and Drug Administration warning about sedation or behavior changes in routine use), controlled substances, and illicit drugs (those defined as Schedule I by the US Drug Enforcement Administration). The final report, *Drug Use Trends in Aviation: Assessing the Risk of Pilot Impairment*, is available on the NTSB's [Safety Studies](#) web page under report number SS-14/01.

In this study, the pilot was considered to be positive for a drug if it could be qualitatively or quantitatively identified in blood or tissue; drugs identified only in urine or used as part of resuscitative efforts were excluded.

Overall, 98% of the study pilots were male and 96% were flying privately rather than for commercial purposes. The average age of study pilots increased from 46 to 57 years over the study period.

Over the course of the study, for fatally injured pilots, the following was found:

The proportion of pilots testing positive for at least one drug increased from 10% to 40%.

More than 20% of all pilots from 2008-2012 were positive for a potentially impairing drug, and 6% of all pilots were positive for more than one potentially impairing drug.

Overall, the most common potentially impairing drug pilots had used was diphenhydramine, a sedating antihistamine (the active ingredient in many Benadryl and Unisom products).

During the most recent 5 years studied, 8% of all pilots tested positive for controlled substances; hydrocodone and diazepam each accounted for 20% of the positive findings.

The percentage of pilots testing positive for marijuana use increased to about 3% during the study period, mostly in the last 10 years.

The large increase in the proportion of fatally injured pilots with evidence of potentially impairing drugs suggests an increasing risk of impairment in general aviation. Aviation is the only transportation mode in which a fatally injured operator (pilot) routinely undergoes extensive toxicology testing; no similar testing is routinely performed for fatally injured operators of boats, trains, trucks, or cars. Given the general increase in drug use in the population, it is likely that there has been a similar trend in drug use among operators across all modes of transportation.

These results highlight the importance of routine discussions between health care providers and pharmacists and their patients about the potential risks that drugs and medical conditions can create when patients are operating a vehicle in any mode of transportation.







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## Memo from LDH: Prohibition Against Discrimination in Use of COVID-19 Vaccine Doses

John Bel Edwards  
GOVERNOR



Dr. Courtney N. Phillips  
SECRETARY

### State of Louisiana Louisiana Department of Health Office of Public Health

#### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Louisiana Hospitals, pharmacies, and other recipients of Operation Warp Speed (OWS) COVID-19 vaccine doses  
**FROM:** Joseph Kanter, MD  
State Health Officer  
**DATE:** January 19, 2021  
**RE:** Prohibition against patient/non-patient discrimination in use of OWS COVID-19 vaccine doses

\*\*\*\*\*

The Department of Health has recently received indications that certain vaccine providers in the state are reserving their excess doses (i.e., doses that exceeds hospital, clinic, or pharmacy staff uptake) of OWS COVID-19 vaccine for existing patients of their clinic, pharmacy, system or institution (e.g., only for persons who have been patients of the hospital or clinic within the last x months). While recent LDH guidance to Hospitals authorized the administration of excess vaccine doses to individuals aged 70 and above, and certain other enumerated classes of individuals, it was the intent of that guidance that providers do not discriminate between current patients and non-current patients, or other similar metrics, in administering such excess doses. To the extent that such discrimination is occurring, it must immediately cease.

OWS COVID-19 vaccine providers are required to ensure discrimination based on prior commercial relationship with the provider, or any other type of relationship, does not occur. This includes discrimination based on "existing" or "prior" patients of a particular provider.

All providers are reminded that distribution of OWS COVID-19 vaccine doses are subject to after-action audits and adverse action could be considered if improper discrimination by a provider is determined to have occurred.

Sincerely,

Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH  
State Health Officer





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## LSBN Welcomes our New Board Members



LSBN is pleased to announce the reappointment of **Dr. Wendi Palermo** to the Board. She has been reappointed for a full 4-year term following her first term, which was only seven months completing the term that was vacated by Dr. Jacqueline Hill. Dr. Palermo is the Executive Director of Nursing and Healthcare Initiatives for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). She has over 15 years of full-time experience in higher education at both undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition to her full-time position, she served as adjunct faculty in both Doctoral and Master programs at Northwestern State University.

LSBN is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mrs. Mimi Primeaux** as the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) representative on the Board. She is currently the System CRNA Director for the Ochsner Health System and brings over 13 years of CRNA management experience to her Board position.

Mrs. Primeaux earned a Baccalaureate of Science from Mississippi State University in 1987, a Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing from The Johns Hopkins University in 1989, and a Master of Science with an anesthesia major from the Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1995. Her expertise includes:

- Managing and coordinating system CRNA practices of more than 100 CRNAs
- Centralizing operations of system anesthesia and
- Developing an ICU transport system with ICU and surgery leadership to safely transport patients to surgery.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, she managed a team at Ochsner that focused on reallocation of scarce resources and compliance with financial initiatives. Another accomplishment in her current role as the Ochsner System CRNA Director is the establishment of anesthesia programs at new facilities in 2019. She is currently a board member of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Her passion and love for helping people inspired her to participate in medical missions to Haiti and Guatemala.





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## Increasing Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations: LSBN Passes Emergency Rules to Facilitate Increasing the Nursing Workforce and Allowing Delegation of COVID-19 Vaccines by Jennifer Wright, DNP, APRN, FNP, BC, FAANP Chief Nursing Officer

Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation Number 7 JBE 2021, “Extension of Emergency Provisions Due To COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” effective January 13, 2021. LSBN staff worked with the Governor’s office to include provisions that increase access to the COVID-19 vaccination by expanding RNs and APRNs’ delegation authority and by creating a provision for a temporary, limited license for individuals with an inactive or retired RN license to be authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccinations. On January 18, 2021, the LSBN Board passed two (2) emergency rules. One rule allows individuals with an inactive or retired RN license, previously issued by LSBN, to apply for a temporary, limited license that allows solely for tasks directly related to the administration and delegation of COVID-19 vaccinations.

An additional emergency rule allows RNs and APRNs to delegate administration of COVID-19 vaccines to unlicensed assistive personnel. See LSBN’s emergency rules at [LSBN COVID-19 Emergency Actions > Louisiana State Board of Nursing](#). All individuals administering the vaccine must be competent in the informed consent process, COVID-19 vaccine administration, vaccine reconstitution, storage requirements, side effects, emergency management of adverse reactions, record-keeping, waste and disposal and all other aspects of vaccine administration and delegation. The board’s emergency actions are intended to increase the number of healthcare providers and services available to care for Louisianans during this public health emergency.

### Temporary, Limited License for Individuals with Inactive or Retired RN License

The temporary, limited license will be issued as a disaster permit and allows solely for tasks directly related to the administration and delegation of COVID-19 vaccinations in Louisiana. The temporary, limited license does not authorize the licensee to practice to the fullest extent or scope of practice of the RN. The RN disaster permit application is accessible in the nurse portal.

To be eligible for a temporary, limited license, the applicant must:

- have a retired or inactive RN license previously issued in Louisiana;
- be eligible for reinstatement of the retired or inactive RN license previously issued in Louisiana;
- have previously held an unencumbered RN license at the time of retirement or inactivation;
- complete the RN Disaster Permit Application;
- not be currently enrolled in an alternative to discipline program or have discipline on a license in another jurisdiction.

The temporary, limited license will be valid for one year from the date of issuance and is valid for practicing in Louisiana. Individuals who have been issued the temporary, limited license may refer to themselves as a “RN” after signatures on records.

After the temporary, limited license is issued, the permit can be verified, including its expiration date, on LSBN’s licensure verification page: [License Lookup \(boardsofnursing.org\)](#).

### Delegation of Administration of COVID-19 vaccinations to Unlicensed Personnel

The emergency rule that supplemented Proclamation Number 7 JBE 2021, allows for RNs and APRNs to delegate the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to unlicensed personnel during a public health emergency in all healthcare settings in which such agents are administered according to current guidelines and recommendations. Reconstitution is allowed as is measuring of a prescribed amount of the vaccine dose. In addition, formal training of unlicensed personnel must be performed or confirmed and otherwise validated by a RN or APRN.

When allowing such delegation, RNs and APRNs must practice within their scope of practice subject to their knowledge, skill and ability, as is expected when providing any service or task under the authority of their license. In addition, notwithstanding rules to the contrary, all other aspects of and rules related to delegation must be adhered to such as the provisions in LAC XLVII.3709.





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## Chiefs Corner

Division of Nursing  
Jennifer Wright, DNP, APRN, FNP, BC, FAANP  
Chief Nursing Officer

### **Reflections on the Division of Nursing**

The New Year is usually a time of review and reminiscence. Staff in the Division of Nursing have risen to the challenges of the times and continued to provide services while in the office and working remotely. The Division of Nursing within the Louisiana State Board of Nursing includes the Department of Licensure & Practice, the Department of Education & Examination and the Louisiana Center for Nursing. The Louisiana Center for Nursing staff maintained the Center's vision and completed its surveys and reports, updated the Forecast Model, and continued its workforce initiatives as well as its duties with the Louisiana Action Coalition. The Department of Education & Examination worked closely and participated with nursing education programs to address the unexpected and evolving needs of the programs while continuing its usual work of approving and monitoring programs, gathering data, and credentialing students and other applicants. The Department of Licensure & Practice remained responsive to the needs of applicants and inquiries of licensees, employers, and other stakeholders and remained engaged and aware of the (sometimes sudden) effects of current events on practice and credentialing.

In 2020, more than 3,400 RNs and over 800 APRNs were licensed and almost 3,500 RN students were approved to begin clinical experiences in Louisiana. In addition, just over 3,700 RNs converted their Louisiana single state license to a multistate license. Staff that assist with and manage credentialing and licensure have kept up the responsibilities that directly impact the nursing workforce at the state and national level.

This is an extraordinarily brief summary and small sample of highlighted tasks that represent a vast depth of work and activities that staff have invested in the agency, the workforce, and the profession. I'm deeply grateful for the hard work and commitment of the staff to serve the state and those called to the profession of nursing.

### **Spotlight: Louisiana Center for Nursing**

The Director of the Louisiana Center for Nursing, Dr. Cynthia Bienemy, has retired from her position recently. We deeply appreciate that Dr. Bienemy shared her valuable expertise with the Board and the Louisiana Center for Nursing! Her dedicated years of service have been a great contribution to the profession at the local, state and national levels. We congratulate Dr. Bienemy on her retirement as the next chapter unfolds.

### **Tips and Facts about the Multistate License (MSL)**

- Nurses issued a MSL by LSBN have declared that Louisiana is their "home state"/primary state of residence (PSOR).
- Nurses are expected to apply for licensure in a new PSOR without delay if another state becomes their PSOR. They may provide services temporarily on the privilege to practice (PTP) while the application is under review.
- The PSOR is typically the state reflected on your driver's license and voter registration card.
- Nurses with a MSL issued by LSBN must disclose to LSBN if they become a participant in an alternative to discipline program in any jurisdiction within 10 days of enrollment in the program.
- Nurses with a MSL are authorized to practice in any compact state provided no discipline or restriction is taken on the license or PTP.
- Nurses with a MSL are not authorized to practice in any non-compact states without being properly licensed in that state.
- Nurses with a MSL must apply for single state licensure in another state if they wish to practice in a non-compact state.
- Nurses may only hold one active MSL; thus, your Louisiana RN license will be inactivated if you are issued a MSL in another compact state.
- Nurses may determine if they hold an MSL by verifying the license(s) through Nursys.com. Employers and members of the public also have access to this information and utilize it for verification if needed.







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- The compact status of the RN license is not a separate license but rather reflects the “type” of RN license held (i.e. single state vs multistate).
- In order for licensees and the regulatory agency to remain compliant with the current rules and regulations of the Nurse Licensure Compact, LSBN’s renewal application will not allow licensees to proceed to renew a license in Louisiana if they hold a MSL in another compact state.

### **Updates and Reminders Regarding Renewal**

The current renewal season began October 1, 2020 and is winding down as we complete the late renewal season in 2021 from January 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>. Licensees whose licenses expire January 31, 2021 are charged a late fee for renewal during this time period. **Keep in mind that the last two days of renewal, January 30 and January 31, 2021, occur on a weekend when offices are closed.** Contact the board office before this date if you need assistance with renewal.

The final deadline and closure of the renewal season is midnight (central standard time) January 31, 2021. If you have not renewed before this time and your license(s) expire(s) and you do not hold a multistate RN license in another compact state, you are not authorized to practice as a RN. You must then apply for reinstatement and be approved in order to hold active licensure and be authorized to resume practicing in Louisiana. Currently, there is no APRN compact license available, thus APRNs must renew their APRN license in order to be authorized to practice in Louisiana as an APRN.

Please contact our office if you have any questions. Call the LSBN office at 225-755-7500 during business hours or send a message in the message center of your nurse portal account (<https://lsbn.boardsofnursing.org/lsbn>) or email [renewals@lsbn.state.la.us](mailto:renewals@lsbn.state.la.us).

### **Upcoming Audit Around the Corner**

With the current renewal season coming to a close, we will begin the annual audit in March, 2021. RNs who worked a minimum of 900 practice hours during the two-year licensure period as verified by the employer meet the requirements for the audit. You read that correctly. No CEs are needed if you meet the practice hour requirement.

Further details regarding CE and practice hour requirements for license renewal were in the previous edition of *The Examiner* in October, 2020, which can be viewed through LSBN’s website and at [ExaminerNo42020.pdf \(state.la.us\)](#). RNs and APRNs must ensure that their email addresses are up to date, as we send notifications to individuals selected for the random audit to the email address of record.

### **APRNs with a RN MSL in another Compact State**

To be eligible to renew your APRN license issued by LSBN, you must either have a current RN license issued by LSBN or have a RN MSL issued by another compact state. If you are a Louisiana licensed APRN and hold a RN MSL in another compact state which is your primary state of residence (PSOR), do not renew the Louisiana RN license. See the instructions in the Spring, 2020 issue of *The Examiner* for instructions: <http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/Portals/1/Documents/Examiners/ExaminerNo32020.pdf>. The steps you need to take are time sensitive and need your immediate attention.





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Division of Compliance  
Wanda Woods-Matthews, MPA  
Chief Compliance Officer

As I reflect on the year 2020 and the challenge of achieving LSBN's mission to safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana and LSBN's initiative to optimize responsiveness and customer services, while working remotely during the COVID pandemic, I am proud of the accomplishments achieved by staff. The Compliance Department reviewed 897 complaints, opened 426 new investigations, and closed 409 investigations. The RNP/Monitoring Department successfully managed a caseload of 457 participants (133 monitoring and 324 RNP participants).

During the year 2020, as Chief Compliance Officer, I often questioned whether the glass was half empty or half full. As the year 2021 begins, the answer to the question is that the glass is half full and the Division's goal for 2021 is to ensure that the glass gradually fills.

Thank you, staff, for your commitment and dedication. I am proud of your accomplishments and look forward to a successful New Year.

Division of Legal  
Carrie LeBlanc Jones  
Chief Legal Officer / General Counsel

**LSBN Disciplinary Hearings in the Middle of a Pandemic!**

The LSBN Legal Division is responsible for disciplining nurses in violation of the Nurse Practice Act. Disciplinary hearings are scheduled monthly and typically involve testimony from multiple witnesses. Before the COVID-19 public health emergency, hearings were conducted entirely onsite. To accommodate Respondents, attorneys, and witnesses during the pandemic, participation may be available virtually via Microsoft Teams. If you are scheduled for a hearing or subpoenaed to testify at a hearing, you may contact the Hearings Department to request a virtual accommodation. All requests are considered on a case by case basis and at the discretion of the Executive Director.





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APRN Corner  
by Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC  
Director, Licensure and Practice

**APRNs with Controlled Substance Authority**

During this year's renewal season LSBN implemented collection of the continuing education (CE) required by Senate Bill 55 (Act 76). This bill mandates that prescribers of controlled substances in Louisiana obtain three credit hours of CE as a one-time prerequisite of license renewal. Content of the CE must include drug diversion training, best practices for the prescribing of controlled substances, appropriate treatment for addiction, and any other content deemed appropriate by the regulatory agency. LSBN has an approved list of courses that can be found at the following link

<http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/Portals/1/Documents/Audit/CDSCEApprovedCourseList.pdf>

APRNs who have not submitted these documents to LSBN previously in response to a request from staff will not be able to renew until after the documents have been submitted, reviewed, and approved. LSBN will be collecting these documents during renewal this year and next renewal season. Your documents can be mailed to LSBN at the boards address. It is your responsibility to submit the documents in a timely manner to allow enough time for review and approval. If you have completed CE courses that are not on the approved course list, additional time is needed for review and approval of the course is not guaranteed. If you do not complete the requirement prior to January 31<sup>st</sup> your APRN license will become inactive.

If you are no longer prescribing controlled substances, you may be excused from the CE requirement upon submission of a certification attesting that you have not prescribed, administered or dispensed any controlled substances during the entire year covered by the prescriber's expiring license. See the LSBN website <http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/Licensure.Renewals/AdvancedPracticeRegistered-Nurse.aspx>.

If you have questions you may call the APRN department directly at 225-755-7521 or send a message through your nurse portal account. Ensure your email and address is current in order to remain informed and in compliance with the mandates of LSBN's rules. Stay tuned to your emails and LSBN's website for further information regarding these matters.

RNP Corner  
by Urhonda Beckwith, MSN, APRN, FNP  
Director, RNP/Monitoring

**Reporting an Impaired Nurse**

As we enter 2021, I would like to remind nurse administrators of their responsibility to report an impaired nurse. An impaired nurse is a registered nurse or student nurse who has demonstrated the actual or potential inability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to individuals because of the use of alcohol or drugs or has demonstrated the inability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to individuals because of illness or as a result of any mental or physical condition.

When a nurse calls the RNP and self-reports a work-related incident, employers are advised to submit a formal complaint to the board. Nurse administrators should submit a complaint if an individual has engaged in, or is engaging in, any conduct proscribed in the Nurse Practice Act (NPA) or LSBN rules and regulations. To file an official complaint, visit the Louisiana State Board of Nursing website, click on File a Complaint and complete the form. Every complaint received is thoroughly reviewed for sufficient information about the nurse's identity, the Board's jurisdiction and if proven would it constitute a violation of the Nurse Practice Act (NPA).

If you are interested in learning more about the RNP, visit the LSBN website at <http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/Discipline,Complaints,MonitoringRNP/RecoveringNurseProgram.aspx>





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## The Nursing Workforce Pipeline: Nurse Leaders Working Together to Ensure Louisiana's Nursing Students Have Adequate Hands-On Clinical Experiences

by Cynthia Bienemy, PhD, RN  
Director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing - Center for Nursing

One of the major challenges impacting the future nursing workforce pipeline during the COVID-19 pandemic has been ensuring that the education of students enrolled in Louisiana's nursing programs was uninterrupted. The need for a nursing workforce that is well prepared to provide high quality, patient-centered, culturally sensitive nursing care to the citizens of our state has never been more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Having graduates that have received the highest level of didactic and clinical educational experiences within their various nursing programs is essential if Louisiana is to have a well-prepared nursing workforce, ready and equipped to provide care to a population that is growing older, becoming more diverse, and experiencing complex co-morbidities requiring the use of ever-changing technological diagnostic treatments and interventions.

Accredited nursing programs must provide a certain number of clinical hours for students enrolled in their programs to give them the opportunity to observe and participate in hands-on care delivery (Berry and Bitton, 2020). Nursing education programs must obtain the permission of healthcare facilities to allow their students to have clinical experiences within their institution based on certain guidelines and/or policies of both the school of nursing (SON) and the healthcare facility. Prior to the pandemic, a shortage of clinical placement facilities was seen as one of the most significant nationwide constraints on the growth of the nursing workforce (Berry and Bitton, 2020). Over the last ten years, the lack of clinical and skills lab space has been reported by the Deans and Directors of Louisiana's pre-RN programs as one of the top six reasons for not admitting qualified nursing students into their programs (LCN, 2019). When Louisiana began to feel the detrimental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, clinical training of nursing students within numerous healthcare facilities came to a halt. Many SONs were no longer allowed to bring students into clinical facilities because of institutional restrictions imposed by healthcare facilities due to the pandemic. Multiple reasons for these restrictions were given by healthcare facilities: to save scarce supplies of PPE for those that were on the frontline caring for patients that were positive for the COVID-19 virus; to protect the safety of students and patients; and the lack of available nursing personnel to adequately supervise students (Redden, 2020).

It was inspiring to see the immediate coming together of academic nurse leaders led by the Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education (LaCANE) and clinical nurse leaders led by the Louisiana Organization for Nursing Leadership (LONL), along with regulatory guidance provided by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) to carve out a plan of action to ensure that there was little, if any interruption, in the education of students enrolled in Louisiana's nursing programs. During the height of the surge of the pandemic, SONs turned to alternative forms of clinical experiences such as simulation, while always acknowledging that there was no substitute for in-person hands-on patient contact (Redden, 2020). When the number of hospitalized COVID-19 positive patients began to go down within Louisiana's healthcare facilities, hospitals began to open up their doors to SONs again. It was exciting to see academia, practice, regulation, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana Nursing Home Association, the Nursing Supply and Demand Council and the Health Works Commission begin to have conversations about the importance of ensuring that nursing students have adequate hands-on clinical experiences, even in the midst of a pandemic. More and more discussions about academic-practice partnerships that meet the needs of the SONs and healthcare facilities have taken place. There continues to be discussions across the state about the need for adequate PPEs for both students and frontline healthcare providers and the need to allow students to safely resume clinical in the states' psychiatric facilities and nursing homes while protecting both students and our most vulnerable populations.

Now that we have vaccines that are available to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Much has been learned during this public health crisis and I feel confident that Louisiana will be on the forefront in establishing protocols and procedures that will prepare academia and practice for similar challenges that may occur in the future. It will take the two entities working together along with regulatory bodies and other stakeholders to ensure that Louisiana maintains a well-prepared nursing workforce pipeline that will meet the healthcare needs of Louisiana's families, children and individuals experiencing health disparities that plague our state in disproportionate numbers.

2020 will go down as not only the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, but a year in which nursing education,







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nursing practice, and nursing regulation have faced unprecedented challenges but have continued to persevere, putting the needs of patients and students ahead of their own. Nurses have never backed down from a challenge, so why should 2020, with its unprecedented challenges, be any different?

#### References

Berry, D. M. and Bitton, J. R. (2020). *Not working well: Clinical placement for nursing students in an era of pandemic*. Portland, OR: Oregon Center for Nursing. Retrieved from [COVID-Era-Clinical-Placement-Assessment.pdf \(oregon-centerfornursing.org\)](#).

Redden, E. (2020). *Clinical education starts to resume, haltingly, in many health-care fields*. [Clinical education starts to resume, haltingly, in many health-care fields \(insidehighered.com\)](#)

## Health Care Licensee Should Be Aware of Criminals Posing as Law Enforcement and Licensing Boards

by Carrie LeBlanc Jones  
Chief Legal Officer / General Counsel

Health care workers, including nurses, should be aware of mass marketing fraud schemes targeting medical providers for financial gain. There have been reports from multiple sources that indicate criminals impersonating law enforcement agencies and regulatory boards advised victims that they were under investigation.

In one instance the medical provider was contacted by an unknown individual who stated the medical provider's license was suspended. The provider was also sent fraudulent documents from the licensing board and U.S. Department of Justice instructing the provider to wire money to avoid legal action. In another instance, a medical provider returned a phone call that was made to her place of employment. The caller claimed to be from the licensing board and stated the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wanted to suspend the professional license. The caller contacted the medical professional multiple times asking for bank account information. Another provider received fraudulent documents from the state licensing board and the FBI containing the provider's license number claiming the license had been suspended and indicated that a refundable bond was due to ensure the provider's cooperation with the authorities.

In the above-described schemes, the criminals knew the medical providers' information such as name, phone number, license number, etc. The criminals also used multiple methods to contact victims, including mail and telephone.

The FBI identified the following best practices for health care professionals to identify related suspicious activities and similar scams.

- Be wary of requests from alleged law enforcement agencies or regulatory entities requesting money or other forms of payment regarding investigations.
- Verify the authenticity of communication from alleged regulatory board officials or alleged law enforcement through known means such as official websites for phone numbers or physical office locations. In addition, independently contact the respective entity/agency to confirm the identity of those contacting you.
- Do not provide personal identifying information, such as social security number or date of birth, financial information, or professional information, such as license numbers in response to suspicious e-mails, letters or phone calls.

Luckily, none of these scenarios above involved Louisiana nurses. However, the board encourages Louisiana nurses to be mindful of potential criminal activity. Also, the LSBN does NOT ask licensees to wire money, post bonds, or to provide personal banking information. We communicate to licensees via the Nurse Portal as well as their official address, telephone number and e-mail address of record. All of which can be updated in the Nurse Portal. If you believe that you are the victim of a mass marketing fraud or scam, please contact your local law enforcement.





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## Major Motions

### Major Motions and Other Actions Taken at the August 20, 2020 Board Meeting

**Motion to Adopt** the Agenda with the ability to rearrange the Agenda items for efficiency.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to Approve** the Minutes of the June 18, 2020 Board Meeting.

**Motion Carried.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. Consent Agenda Motions

1. LSBN Staff Program Status Reports
  1. NCLEX Report
  2. Accreditation Report
2. Akula Foundation - Continuing Education Approval
3. Education Announcements

**Motion to accept** the Consent Agenda Motions.

**Motion Carried.**

#### EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION

**Motion to accept** Louisiana College’s report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the Baccalaureate of Science in nursing education degree program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** the request of Bradley University to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana until August 20, 2023 for the following roles/populations:

Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN, PMC, DNP)

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** the request of Simmons University to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana until August 20, 2023 for the following roles/populations:

Nurse Practitioner (RN-MSN, BSN-MSN)

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** the letter of intent and feasibility study from McNeese State University and approve Step I to establish a graduate nursing education degree program.

Dr. Peggy Wolfe, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions McNeese State University, was present to provide information and answer questions by Board members.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** the Initial Site Visit Report of William Carey University at Baton Rouge General, grant full approval to the Baccalaureate of Science in nursing degree program and approve the program to initiate articulation of the LPN-RN.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to receive** a report at the October Board meeting regarding the ACEN appeal by Excelsior College and have further discussion.

**Motion Carried.**

#### LOUISIANA CENTER FOR NURSING

**Motion to accept** the Louisiana’s 2019 Nursing Workforce Demand Report.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** the 2019 Nurse Supply Addendum Report.

**Motion Carried.**

#### ADMINISTRATION

**Motion to accept and approve** the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept and approve** the LSBN Board Resolution with one edit to change the date from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** IT expenditure for 69 laptops





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with the addition of a monitor, mouse, and a keyboard for each laptop.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** the support for the LAC Culture of Health Summit (Virtual) to be held October 27 & 28, 2020.

**Motion Carried.**

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO**

**Motion to accept** reports of the President, Vice President and CEO/Executive Director.

**Motion Carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to go into Executive Session** for the purposes of hearing the Report on Litigation and Personnel Issues.

**Motion Carried.**

**Major Motions and Other Actions  
Taken at the October 15, 2020 Board Meeting**

**Motion to Adopt** the Agenda with the ability to reorder the Agenda items for efficiency.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to Approve** the Minutes of the August 20, 2020 Board Meeting.

**Motion Carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Consent Agenda Motions**

1. LSBN Staff Program Status Reports
  1. NCLEX Report
  2. Accreditation Reports
2. Louisiana Department of Health – Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities – Continuing Education Re-approval.

**Motion to Accept** the Consent Agenda Motions.

**Motion Carried.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Motion to accept and approve** the FY2020 Financial and Compliance Audit Report.

**Motion Carried.**

**EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION**

**Motion to accept** Louisiana College’s report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** the major substantive change request to add the accelerated pre-licensure option to the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing program at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** the request of the University of South Alabama to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana until October 15, 2023 for the following roles/populations:

- RN-MSN, MSN, PGC, BSN-DNP, PM DNP, DNP
  - Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
  - Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGNP)
  - Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP)
  - Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (PNP)
  - Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (PNP-AC)
  - Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP)
  - Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP)
  - Family Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (FMHNP)
  - Family Nurse Practitioner/Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (FNP/AGACNP)
- CNS
  - MSN - Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (ACNS)
  - DNP and PMC - Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AGCNS)

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** the Site Visit report and Step II from Loyola University to establish a baccalaureate of science in nursing education degree program and grant initial approval.

**Motion Carried.**





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**Motion to approve** the termination of the Excelsior College LPN to RN program effective May 10, 2021 the day at which ACEN accreditation terminates.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to direct** staff to use Option A for Dillard University: Consider the described students as a cohort of the phased-out program.

Effectuated students graduated out of sequence.

Effectuated students were not initially admitted to and did not have opportunity to experience full implementation of the entire curriculum under the newly developed program and revised teaching strategies.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to direct** staff to use Option B for Chamberlain University: Consider the future group of students that complete the full curriculum as the initial cohort and first class of graduates of the new program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to rescind** the Motion regarding Excelsior College LPN to RN Program terminating effective May 10, 2021 the date at which ACEN accreditation terminates.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to amend** based on new information that Excelsior will lose its ACEN accreditation effective May 11, 2021, that the board amend the board action on June 14, 2018 which allowed that Excelsior College’s students who are LPNs enrolled in the college prior to June 14, 2018 AND who take the NCLEX prior to July 1, 2022 are eligible to apply for licensure by examination. The motion to amend is to change the NCLEX date to May 11, 2021, and the revised action would provide that Excelsior College’s students who are LPNs enrolled in the college prior to June 14, 2018 AND who take the NCLEX prior to May 11, 2021, are eligible to apply for licensure by examination. In other words, the eligibility to sit for the NCLEX-RN through approval from LSBN terminates contemporaneously with the termination of the ACEN accreditation.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** the 2021 Board Meeting and Board Hearing Panel Meetings Calendar.

**Motion Carried.**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO**

**Motion to accept** the reports of the Vice President and the CEO/ Executive Director.

**Motion Carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Motion not to accept** the C.E. Broker Proposal for monitoring Continuing Education.

**Motion Carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to go into Executive Session** for the purposes of hearing the Report on Litigation and Personnel Issues.

**Motion Carried.**

**New Employee Highlight**

**Ashley Rome-Ezeff** serves as a Compliance Investigator in the Compliance Department. She was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is a 2009 graduate of the University of New Orleans, where she majored in Psychology. After college, Ashley worked for Jefferson Parish as a Community Services Counselor and then as a Juvenile Probation Officer; for the Office of Juvenile Justice as a Juvenile Justice Specialist; and the City of Baton Rouge as a Juvenile Probation Officer P.O.S.T Certified, a Juvenile Probation Counselor II and a Senior Juvenile Probation Officer P.O.S.T Certified.



Juvenile Probation Officer P.O.S.T Certified.

Ashley prides herself on being a dedicated employee who takes her job very seriously. She is regarded as dependable, flexible, honest, and one who carries herself with utmost respect and professionalism.







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### Disciplinary Matters

The LSBN took a total of 21 actions at the August 19, 2020 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[August 19, 2020](#)

The LSBN took a total of 6 actions at the September 9, 2020 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[September 9, 2020](#)

The LSBN took a total of 35 actions at the October 14, 2020 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[October 14, 2020](#)

The LSBN took a total of 27 actions at the November 18, 2020 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[November 18, 2020](#)

The LSBN took a total of 6 actions at the December 2, 2020 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[December 2, 2020](#)

### 2021 State Holiday Schedule

Mardi Gras Day.....	February 16
Good Friday.....	April 2
Memorial Day.....	May 31
Independence Day.....	July 5
Labor Day.....	September 6
Veterans Day.....	November 11
Thanksgiving Day.....	November 25
Christmas Day.....	December 24

### Future Board Meeting Dates

- February 11, 2021
- April 15, 2021
- June 17, 2021
- August 19, 2021
- October 14, 2021
- December 2, 2021

