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

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27, 2026 BOARD MEETING

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by A. Bulliard, President, and Presiding Officer, on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, 17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

Roll Call:

The following Board members were in attendance:
Amie Bulliard, MSN, RN, CPHQ, President, and Presiding Officer
Ann Carruth, DNS, RN, Alternate Officer
Michelle Collins, Ph.D., CNM, RNC-EFM, FACNM, FAAN, FNAP
Gilbert G. Humbert, MSN, RN
Sarita V. James, PhD, RN, CNE Paul Molbert
Melissa Nunn, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC, CNE, NEA-BC, CNEcl
Katrina O'Con, PhD, DNAP, CRNA, FAANA
Fredrick Pinkney, EdD (was not present during roll call)

The following Board member were not in attendance:
Deborah Spann, MSN, RN-BC, CEN, FAEN, Vice President
Teresita McNabb, RN, MHA

The following staff members were in attendance:
Shawn Wolkart, MSN, RN, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer
Isonel Brown, MS, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer
Alicia Edmond Wheeler, JD, Chief Regulatory Officer/Executive Counsel
Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP_C, Chief Credentialing Officer
Urhonda Beckwith, MSN, APRN, FNP, Director of RNP/Monitoring
Geneva Carter, DNP, APRN, FNP, RNCO-TL
Donald M. Bowman, JD, Hearings Director
Chancelor Fontenot, MSN, RN, RN Program Consultant
Carl Nagin, BSCS, IT Manager
Jerome Skrandel, IT
Scott Bonnette, IT
Larry McGee, IT
Sarah Luneau, Public Information Director/Interim Executive Administrative Assistant
Suzanne C. Armand, CCR (virtually)
Stacey Jones, Licensing Analyst Director
Katrina Duncan, Account Manager

Whitney Peltier, APRN Compliance Officer

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: by K. O'Con, seconded, to adopt the Agenda as presented.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; Dr. Carruth-yes; Dr. Collins-yes; Mr. Humbert-yes S. James-yes; McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; Pinkney-present; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: by K. O. Con-yes; seconded, to adopt the Minutes of the June 25, 2026 Board Meeting.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; Dr. Carruth-yes; Dr. Collins-yes; Mr. Humbert-yes S. James-yes; McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-present; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Unfinished Business

LACANE /LSBN Workgroup Web Survey

Dr. Calmes gave an update on the LACANE/LSBN Workgroup. This is an ongoing Workgroup to address the student clinical approval process.

Dr. Alaina Daigle was put in charge of this workgroup by LACANE and has done an outstanding job. The workgroup was well represented across all areas of nursing.

As requested by Dr. Carruth, Dr. Daigle received an adequate response rate and has been putting the results together. The results were in alignment with what Dr. Daigle expected to receive from the workgroup. The results are being compiled, and she will have those results ready for the next fall LACANE meeting and will give an update.

Dr. Calmes was available for questions.

1. **Consent Agenda Motions**

   a. LSBN Staff Program Status Reports
      i. NCLEX Reports
   b. Education Announcements
      i. Baton Rouge Community College
      ii. Loyola University New Orleans
      iii. Louisiana Christian University

iv. Louisiana Delta Community College
v. Nicholls State University
vi. Louisiana State University Eunice
vii. Baton Rouge Community College

c. Continuing Education Provider - Reapproval
i. Akula Foundation

Motion: by K. O'Con, seconded, to accept the above Consent Agenda Motions.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

2. Division Reports

Agenda Item 2.a
Division of Nursing Practice

Agenda Item 2.a.i
Chief Credentialing Officer - Dr. Monique Calmes

Dr. Calmes reported they have completed the Annual CE Audit. The statistics will be shared under Licensure and were in alignment with what they normally see.

Dr. Calmes attended the NCSBN's Annual Meeting earlier this month.

For the next month, they will be preparing for their renewals beginning in October.

Dr. Calmes was available for questions.

Agenda Item 2.a.ii
Education and Examination - Mr. Chancelor Fontenot

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.1
New Louisiana Program

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.1.a
River Parishes Community College

Summary/Background presented by Mr. Fontenot - Recommended approval

Ms. Gretchen Schmidt, Dean of Health Sciences, River Parishes Community College, was present to provide information and answer questions by the Board.

Motion: by M. Nunn, seconded, that the Board accept the letter of intent and feasibility

study from River Parishes Community College and approve Step I to establish an Associate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.2
Request for Permanent Board Approved Program

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.2.a
Bossier Parish Community College

Summary/Background presented by Mr. Fontenot - Recommended approval

Ms. Angela Preimesberger, Assistant Dean of Nursing, Bossier Parish Community College, was present to provide information and answer questions by the Board.

Ms. Bulliard received comment cards from the following individuals to express their full support and strong endorsement of the BPCC LPN to RN Apprenticeship transitioning from pilot to permanent Board-approved program:

Aimee Cloyd representing LHA, Dr. Wendi Palermo, Dr. Rick Bateman, Wes Hataway representing Louisiana Nursing Home Association, and Jennifer Dickson representing Ochsner LSU Shreveport AMC.

Motion: by K. O'Con, seconded, that the Board approve the request from Bossier Parish Community College to transition the LPN-to-RN Apprenticeship Program from pilot status to a permanent Board-approved program.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.3
Out of State Clinical Approval

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.3.a
Herzing University

Summary/Background presented by Mr. Fontenot - Recommended approval

Dr. Tricia Wagner, Dean of Nursing, Herzing University, was present (virtually) to provide information and answer questions by the Board.

Motion: by K. O'Con, seconded, that the Board approve the request from Herzing University for continued approval to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana until August 27, 2029.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.3.b
Simmons University

Summary/Background presented by Mr. Fontenot - Recommended approval

Dr. Laura Behm, Director of Advanced Practicer Simmons University was present (virtually) to provide information and answer questions by the Board.

Motion: by K. O'Con, seconded, that the Board approve the request from Simmons University for continued approval to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana until August 27, 2029.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.3.c
University of South Alabama

Summary/Background presented by Mr. Fontenot - Recommended approval

Dr. Heather Hall, Dean College of Nursing, University of South Alabama, was present (virtually) to provide information and answer questions by the Board.

Motion: by F. Pinkney, seconded, that the Board approve the request from the University of South Alabama for continued approval to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana until August 27, 2029.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Dr. Collins challenged the Board to put the matter on the Agenda for further discussion. Dr. Collins

further stated that this may start with a survey of the Louisiana programs to see what the difficulty is in placing students from instate programs clinically.

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.4
Probationary Status Report

Agenda Item 2.a.ii.4.a
Dillard University

Summary/Background presented by Mr. Fontenot - Recommended approval

Dr. Brandy Johnson, Interim Dean Nursing, Dillard University, was present to provide information and answer questions by the Board.

Motion: by M. Nunn, seconded, that the Board accept Dillard University's probationary report related to the probationary status of the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing degree program.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 2.a.iii
Licensure – Stacey Jones

Ms. Jones reported that the CE audit has been completed and they are now getting ready for renewal. A report was given on the results of the CE audit findings.

Ms. Jones was available for questions.

Ms. Bulliard thanked Ms. Jones for their hard work.

Agenda Item 2.b
Compliance Division/Office Executive Counsel

Agenda Item 2.b.i
Executive Counsel – Ms. Alicia Edmond Wheeler

Agenda Item 2.b.i.1
Notice of Public Hearing

Ms. Wheeler reported they have been working on reviewing rules, promulgating new rules. Two areas to be discussed today regarding rules.

Ms. Wheeler stated that back in April, they discussed the need to have a Public Hearing that will allow

any interested party to come and give comments on any rule they believe is contrary to the law, outdated, unnecessary, overly complex, or burdensome. October 22nd is the scheduled date for the October Board Meeting and immediately following the meeting, they will have the hearing to allow the public to come in and submit their comments. They can submit written comments up to October 16th and submit oral comments at the hearing itself. A copy of that notice is attached to the Agenda, which will be filed with the Louisiana Register, and will be published on September 20th. The deadline for written comments will be the Friday proceeding the October 16th meeting.

Agenda Item 2.b.i.2.
Telehealth Rules

The Louisiana Telehealth Access Act requires a copy of the rules. It requires each occupational board to promulgate any rules necessary to provide for the promotion and regulation of the use of telehealth in the delivery of health care services within the scope of practice regulated by the entity.

Currently, they do not have any rules regarding Telehealth and Ms. Wheeler wanted to bring this to the Board's attention for discussion and consideration, to consider promulgating rules regarding telehealth.

Ms. Wheeler was available for questions.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Bulliard stated the Board will have to bring the item back up to have further discussion in order to come to some resolution.

Agenda Item 2.b.i.3.
Nutrition and Metabolic Health CE Rule

Summary/Background presented by Ms. Wheeler.

Ms. Wheeler was available for questions.

Motion: by M. Nunn, seconded, for the Board to promulgate proposed revisions to Rule 4516 to comply with Act 463 of the 2025 legislative session**.**

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 2.b.ii
RNP/Monitoring – Ms. Urhonda Beckwith

Ms. Beckwith reported that RNP staff continues to increase awareness of the boards program by providing presentations upon request. They email nursing schools and employers to offer these presentations.

Ms. Beckwith updated the Board on presentations that were made regarding RNP/Monitoring throughout the state. They will continue to strive to reach more students and licensed nurses.

Ms. Beckwith stated that as LSBN's designee for the safe haven, consortium and advisory council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education, also known as the HOPE Council, she continues to attend their meetings.

They continue to stay abreast of RNP/Monitoring best practices and processes by attending discipline case conferences and Collaborating with other state boards of nursing.

Ms. Beckwith is also serving on the National Organization of Alternative Programs, also known as NOAP, Membership and Outreach Committee and attend virtual monthly meetings.

Ms. Beckwith continues to schedule meetings with the Board's recognized treatment centers to provide the board staff updates.

As of July 30th, RNP/Monitoring had a total of 446 participants. This consists of confidential and disciplinary participants. Confidential has 102 in RNP, Disciplinary has 123.

Ms. Beckwith was available for questions.

Ms. Bulliard commented that the outreach that RNP/Monitoring is doing across the state is tremendous and thanked Ms. Beckwith and her team.

Agenda Item 2.b.iii
Compliance – Dr. Geneva Carter

Dr. Carter gave an update on the Compliance Department

They have 459 cases open, 44 are Priority 1s, 75 Priority 2s, 65 Priority 3s and 275 Priority 4s.

The Compliance Department conducted two site visits and has two upcoming presentations to two schools of nursing.

They have continued to focus on staff development, regulatory education, and process development.

Dr.. Carter reported on recent courses, training and programs Compliance has participated in and completed.

Dr.. Carter recognized Tram Fruge and Raven Jackson, who were honored at the Nightengale Awards for their accomplishments.

Dr. Carter was available for questions.

Agenda Item 2.b.iv
Hearings – Mr. Donald Bowman

An update was given by Mr. Bowman on the Hearings Department, reporting on areas where they have made progress.

The hearing and disciplinary case load continues to remain continually active. They are managing cases at multiple stages at the same time.

In addition to their regular docket, they are seeing an influx of more complex and contested matters that require significant prehearing preparation, research, witness prep and exhibit review and coordination with other departments.

Mr. Bowman reported on the changes and improvements they have made throughout the Hearings Department with an emphasis on training and improved institutional consistency.

Mr. Bowman commented that he is proud of the work being done by the Hearings Department.

Mr. Bowman was available for questions.

Ms. Bulliard thanked Mr. Bowman and his staff for their daily efforts.

Agenda Item 2.c.
Division of Administration

(Break)

Agenda Item 2.c.i
Chief Administrative Officer - Ms. Isonel Brown

Ms. Brown reported they have completed their State Property Audit for TAG assets. A physical inventory of all their TAG assets was conducted and accounted for, which totaled 1.1 million dollars and a report was submitted to State Property.

Four new personnel have been hired since the last Board meeting. A new executive assistant for Ms. Wolkart has been selected who will be starting next week. They have three vacancies that have not been posted yet.

The HR Department conducted a review of the 2025 mandatory training courses and are 92% in compliance.

The HR and Accounting Department work together to process the merit increases for eligible staff by the July 15th due date. The average increase awarded was 4%, which is set by State Civil Service. This exceeded the original budget amount of 3%. They will monitor the impact of that variance on the budget and if necessary, they will be coming back with a budget amendment in the future.

With the support of Ms. Wolkart, they reviewed and revised four position descriptions that were sent over to State Civil Service for final approval.

There are four contacts they are actively working on and are in various stages of completion.

In the last 45 days they have been working with their external auditors for their Fiscal and Compliance

Audit. This will be presented by the auditor at the October Board meeting.

To follow up from the last Board meeting, the Division of Administration drafted an article in the Examiner and sent out an email Blast in response to an increase in the number of calls and notifications regarding an increase in scamming attempts on licensees.

Ms. Bulliard thanked staff for doing that.

Ms. Brown was available for questions.

Agenda Item 2.c.ii
Information Technology – Mr. Carl Nagin

Mr. Nagin reported that the server and storage equipment have been replaced after successful installation. They have sanitized the old servers, storage devices and old laptops and sent those back to the state as surplus. They renewed their hardware and software subscriptions for the new fiscal year.

They have a new student worker, who is an LSU student with a degree in cyber security.

They are losing one of their IT employees and will now be searching for a replacement.

Mr. Nagin was available for questions.

2.c.iii
Human Resources – Ms. Isonel Brown

(See Agenda Item 2.c.i)

Agenda Item 2.c.iv
Administrative Services – Ms. Katrina Duncan

Ms. Duncan gave a brief report on Administrative Services.

Ms. Duncan stated to contact her if there is anything that the Board would need.

Two of their employees attended the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) Conference in April in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Accounting is now trying to streamline their processes.

They are in the process of trying to improve the exterior of the building.

Ms. Duncan was available for questions.

Ms. Bulliard thanked Ms. Duncan and Ms. Luneau for their efforts regarding the Annual Conference in supporting staff and the Board.

3. Office of the Executive Director

4. Reports

Agenda Item 4. a.
Report of the President

Report Attached.

Agenda Item 4.b
Report of the Vice President

Report attached

Ms. Bulliard thanked Dr. Carruth for representing the LSBN at the Human Trafficking Meeting in August at the Capitol. Dr. Carruth's comments regarding the meeting were included in her report. A commentary was given by Ms. Bulliard on the meeting in her report.

Report attached.

Agenda Item 4.c.
Report of the Executive Director

Report attached

Regarding Nutrition and Metabolic Health CE Rule; Dr. O'Con brought to Ms. Wheeler's attention that "for licensing expiring in 2027," it should say, "for licenses renewing in 2027."

Motion: by K. O'Con_, seconded, to approve the Reports of the President and Vice President and Executive Director

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Agenda Item 5.
Professional Development

Nothing presented

Agenda Item 6
Strategic Plan

Nothing presented

Agenda Item 7
National Council State Boards of Nursing

Nothing presented

Agenda Item 8
Public Comments

No public comments.

9. Executive Session

Motion: by P. Molbert, seconded, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of hearing the Report on Litigation and Personnel Issues.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

Motion: by M. Nunn, seconded, to exit Executive Session.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; G. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-absent; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O'Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-absent

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by K. O'Con, seconded, to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Amie C Bulliard

A. BULLIARD, PRESIDENT, and PRESIDING OFFICER
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING