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S**TATE OF LOUISIANA**

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF**

**NURSING FACILITY ADMINISTRATORS**

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**Minutes**

**AUGUST 11, 2021 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

 The Louisiana Board of Examiners of Nursing Facility Administrators (LABENFA) conducted its regularly-scheduled board meeting, via videoconference on August 11, 2021 in accordance with applicable law and gubernatorial proclamation(s).

**Board Members Present:**

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| Mr. Earl Thibodaux, Chair | Mrs. Patricia LaBrosse | Mr. Jack Sanders |
| Mr. Jamie Shelton, Vice Chair | Mr. Bill Ledbetter | Mr. Malcolm Tietje |
| Mr. Scott Crabtree | Dr. Susan Nelson | Mr. Delbert Wilbanks |
| Dr. Sharon Hutchinson | Mr. Teddy R. Price  |  |

**Board Members Absent:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mr. Andrew Perilloux | Mr. Kemp Wright |  |

**Others Present:**

|  |  |
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| Mark A. Hebert, Executive Director |  |
| Kristie Mascarella, Assistant Executive Director |
| Thomas E. Devillier, Legal Counsel |

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

 The meeting was called to order at or about 1:00 p.m. by Chair Earl Thibodaux.

**II. ROLL CALL**

 A roll call was conducted by Mr. Mark Hebert, Executive Director. *See*, attendance detailed above.

**III. DISPOSITION OF MAY 12, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

 Mr. Crabtree made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021 board meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Ledbetter, and unanimously approved.

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

 Mr. Hebert presented the Executive Director Report and first updated the members regarding both the administration of exam preparatory courses during the COVID-19 public health emergency and the rollout of a new clinical practicum program being led by Mr. Eddie Borland.

 Mr. Hebert updated the members regarding the 2021 annual license renewal, including specifically that about 600 administrators had renewed as of the meeting date. Mr. Hebert noted that licensees may renew late until on or before December 31st annually but are considered lapsed after that date and must reapply for licensure.

 Mr. Hebert offered a point of personal privilege to congratulate certain licensees on their decision to retire after long careers in long term care administration.

 Mr. Hebert noted that Mr. Devillier provided a 2021 legislative update and directed the members to contact he or Mr. Devillier if they had any particular questions or concerns.

 Mr. Hebert updated the members regarding the board’s transition from Trisine Technologies, Inc. to Daytech, L.L.C. for information technology services.

 Mr. Ledbetter made a motion to accept the Executive Director Report, which was seconded by Mr. Crabtree, and unanimously approved.

**VI. EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

 Mr. Hebert presented the Education Committee Report and first noted that nineteen (19) AITs were training statewide as of the meeting date. Mr. Hebert specifically addressed the concerning examination results received by recent applicants.

 Dr. Nelson requested additional information relating to the declining examination scores. Mr. Hebert offered he is concerned the exam scores have declined due to the lack of in-person examination preparatory courses. Dr. Nelson noted that medical students have been taught via videoconference for over a year with better results.

 Mr. Price offered that the intense circumstances and working hours since the pandemic’s onset is likely impacting the education and training of AITs and possibly related to declining exam results. However, Mr. Price noted that administrators are doing their best during a dynamic, difficult time.

 Mr. Crabtree added that he is also concerned with the declining exam results over the past two calendar quarters. Mr. Hebert noted that NAB representatives have informed him that abysmal scores are being received by nursing facility administrator licensing authorities across the nation, so the issue does not appear to be Louisiana-specific.

 Ms. Labrosse requested additional information about the board’s new clinical practicum program and whether it may result in improved exam results. Mr. Hebert answered that he hopes it will result in increased scores but noted time will determine the course’s effectiveness.

 Chair Thibodaux requested a motion to accept the Education Committee Report. Ms. Labrosse made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Dr. Hutchinson, and unanimously approved.

**VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

 Vice-Chair Shelton joined the meeting during the Finance Committee Report.

 Mr. Hebert presented the Finance Committee Report beginning with the Budgeted Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the months ending May 31, 2021. Mr. Hebert noted that revenues and expenses had both improved when compared to May 31, 2020 and that additional, recent revenues would be reflected on the next available finance reports.

 Chair Thibodaux requested a motion to accept the Finance Committee Report. Mr. Crabtree made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Mr. Ledbetter, and unanimously approved.

**VIII. REVIEW – LICENSURE APPLICATIONS**

 Mr. Hebert presented the following licensure application(s):

* Ryan Dennis (T3662) – Oak Post-Acute Care (Baton Rouge) (Kierra Juge).
* Robert Johnson (T3659) – Magnolia Estates (Lafeyette) (Paula Richardson).
* Amy Krohn (T3660) – The Glen (Shreveport) (Michelle Greer).
* Kyera-Marie Lucas (T3664) – St. Margaret’s (New Orleans) (Mariana Dion).
* Mary Morgan (LSUA).
* Jesse Shaffer (T3663) – Ferncrest Manor (New Orleans) (Lexis Nunez).

 Mr. Hebert clarified that the aforementioned applicants, who receive baccalaureate degrees pursuant to the LSUA Elder Care curriculum and clinical internship, are granted an education-based training waiver in accordance with LAC 46:XLIX.713 upon application approval.

 Mr. Price made a motion to approve the aforementioned applications en globo, which was seconded by Mr. Ledbetter, and unanimously approved.

**IX. REVIEW – WAIVER APPLICATIONS**

No waiver applications were reviewed.

**X. RECIPROCITY: TO LOUISIANA**

 No reciprocity applications were reviewed.

**XI. RECIPROCITY: FROM LOUISIANA**

 The board reviewed the following information regarding licensee(s) who became licensed in other jurisdictions:

* Denise Felder (3290) (Georgia).
* Angela Hooper (3365) (South Carolina).
* Louis Milite (1186) (Illinois).
* Wayne Plaisance (2060) (Mississippi).
* Todd Sonnier (3279) (Tennessee).

**XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

 None.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

 Mr. Price suggested the board review and possibly extend the board’s 2020 decision to waive the requirements requiring *live, in-person* continuing education course attendance due to the COVID-19 delta variant surge ongoing as of the meeting date. Dr. Nelson agreed and made a motion for the board to allow all continuing education requirements to be completed online through the 2021-2022 license year, which was seconded by Dr. Hutchinson, and unanimously approved.

 The board went into executive session to discuss confidential staff personnel matters. After a brief review, Vice-Chair Shelton made a motion for the board to come out of executive session, which was seconded by Mr. Ledbetter, and unanimously approved. Subsequently, Mr. Ledbetter made a motion to increase the salary of Ms. Kristie Mascarella, Assistant Executive Director, which was seconded by Mr. Crabtree, and unanimously approved.

**XI. NEXT MEETING**

 The next board meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

**XII. MEETING EXPENSES**

 None.

**XIII. ADJOURN**

 Chair Thibodaux made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Labrosse, and unanimously approved at or about 1:55 p.m.