

**SIMULATION MEDICAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF LOUISIANA
(SMTEC-LA)**

October 13, 2020

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Via virtual Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Alison Davis called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Cara Landry called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Members Present	Affiliation
Alison Davis, Chair*	LA State University System
Tabitha Jones-Thomas	LA Assoc. of Independent Colleges & Universities
Lisa Broussard*	LA Council of Administrators of Nursing Education
Brian Burton	AHECs for a Healthy Louisiana
Patricia Dufrene	LA State Board of Nursing
Daryl Lofaso*	LSUHSC – New Orleans
Martha Moore*	LA Department of Education
Wendi Palermo*	LCTCS
Rosa Walton	Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs
Peggy Wolfe	University of Louisiana System
Trudy Williams	Southern University System
Susannah Craig	Board of Regents
Members Absent	Affiliation
Nick Albares	Governor’s Policy Advisor on Health
Kenneth Alexander*	LA Hospital Association
Lynn Ansardi	LA State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
Jennifer Calzada	Tulane School of Medicine
Nicole Coarsey	LA Department of Health
Karen Denby*	Board of Regents
Wes Hataway*	LA Nursing Home Association
Dr. J. Kerry Howell	LA State Board of Medical Examiners
Stacey Lee	LSUHSC – Shreveport
Dustin Miller	House of Representatives
Dan Morrish	LA Senate
Evon Smith	LA Ambulance Alliance
Kellie Taylor-White	LA Workforce Commission

*Members of the Executive Committee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the October 24, 2019 meeting were presented for review and approval.

On motion of Martha Moore, seconded by Wendi Palermo, the Simulation Medical Training and Education Council, unanimously approved the minutes of October 24, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Davis began by giving an update of the impact COVID-19 had on Louisiana State University. She explained that due to the restrictions placed by the pandemic, their students turned to virtual simulation (Real Life SIM) to obtain clinical hours. Wendi Palermo shared with the Council that LCTCS was able to use simulation products not only for their nursing students but also for their allied health students. She then stated that the use of simulation products helped certify over 300 nurse aides which assisted in the growing demand for healthcare workers during the pandemic. Tabitha Jones-Thomas spoke on behalf of her college, Franciscan Missionaries University (FranU), stating that they used pre-recordings of simulations and students could access them online. Lisa Broussard shared with the Council that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) used the service, Shadow Health, to offer their student's online simulations. Other Council members from surrounding institutions chimed in stating their usage of simulations and abiding by guidelines to social distance, wear mask, smaller group sizes, etc. assisted their institutions to stay in operation. Christina Constanza, LA State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners (LSPNE), stated to the Council that the LSPNE has been accepting 100 % of simulation in place of clinical hours in specific areas for practical nurses that were restricted due to the pandemic. She also mentioned that the LSPNE is still unsure on how simulation will be used as a substitution for classroom and clinical hours in the future once COVID-19 is under control. Christina Constanza stated that until these nurses graduate and enter the workforce, LSPNE will not know the effects of accepting 100% simulation as substitution for clinical and classroom hours. Patricia Dufrene, LA State Board of Nursing (LSBN), informed the Council that the LSBN expects institutions to keep in mind their standards and accreditation requirements during this time of the pandemic. Tabitha Jones-Thomas mentioned to the Council that this future simulation expo should focus on offering support on faculty development with the emphasis on obtaining certifications to teach simulations. Wendi Palermo Council discussed having the future simulation expo focus on its usage for practical nursing and other allied health programs besides being heavily centered on registered nurses. Chair Davis suggested that the Council issue a united statement in support of simulations as a substitution for clinical hours/classroom experience. She then called for volunteers to help with this initiative.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Davis mentioned that due to COVID and funding availability, that the Council place a place holder in the spring 2022 to host the next Simulation Expo. She also stated that this will be

placed as an ongoing item of future agendas. Wendi Palermo suggested instead of waiting till 2022, that the Council should consider hosting the expo virtually in maybe the summer of 2021. Other Council members echoed their support to host the expo virtually sooner than later and that it would be little to no cost except for volunteer time. It was also mentioned to possibly offer CE credit along with the expo. Daryl Lofaso suggested to the Council that this virtual expo could be made into short topics and sessions throughout the month rather than all in one day. Many members liked this suggestion. Lisa Broussard and Wendi Palermo volunteered to lead a task force that would help organize these virtual sessions and help secure unduplicated topics. One member mentioned sending out an email to allied health and nursing program heads to gather topics of interest. The Council agreed to meet again in late January or early February to do more planning on this possible virtual simulation expo.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

With there being no other business or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.