



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

3388 Brentwood Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-1700



MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
3388 Brentwood Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

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The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”) convened a regular meeting on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025** at the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy located at 3388 Brentwood Drive in Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and public notice was properly posted.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Marty McKay, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. J. Robert Cloud delivered the invocation and Mr. Don L. Resweber led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. McKay called upon Mr. Richard M. Indovina, Jr., Secretary, to call the roll of members to establish a quorum.

Members Present:

- Dr. J. Robert Cloud, PharmD
- Dr. David G. Collins, PharmD
- Mr. David A. Darce
- Ms. Jennifer E. Dupree
- Ms. Jacqueline L. Hall
- Mr. Richard M. Indovina, Jr.
- Mr. W. Charles Jones
- Mr. Kevin LaGrange
- Mr. Richard Mannino
- Mr. Marty R. McKay
- Mr. J. Troy Menard
- Mr. Anthony G. Mercante
- Mr. Robert A. “Butch” Ray
- Mr. Don L. Resweber
- Mr. Richard A. “Andy” Soileau
- Dr. Raymond J. Strong, PharmD

Members Absent:

- Ms. Chris B. Melancon

Staff Present:

- Mr. M. Joseph Fontenot Jr., Executive Director
- Mr. Carlos M. Finalet, III, General Counsel
- Ms. Becky C. Parker, Compliance Officer
- Mr. Benjamin S. Whaley, Chief Compliance Officer
- Ms. M. Danielle Hartzog, Administrative Program Specialist
- Ms. Kelley L. Villeneuve, Office Manager

Guests:

- Ms. Valerie Melancon – CVS
- Mr. Ryan LaBarbera – Albertsons
- Mr. Malcolm J. Broussard – Hygeia Solutions
- Ms. Brandi Armand – LPA
- Mr. Steve Cobb – CRx
- Mr. Felix Vanderlick – HPFL
- Dr. David Hammond, MD – HPFL
- Dr. Paul Menasco, PharmD – Ochsner

- Dr. Michael Cockerham, PharmD – ULM / LPA
- Ms. Kim Boasso – PharmCare of LA
- Ms. Jessica Elliot – LARP
- Ms. Sarah Perkins - BSW

Secretary Indovina certified 16 members were present, constituting a quorum for the conduct of official business.

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS & ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. McKay asked if there were any additional agenda items to be added; none were requested. Without objection, the members adopted the posted agenda dated November 14, 2025. There were no objections to Mr. McKay's request for authority to re-order the agenda should the President determine it appropriate to do so.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. McKay reminded the members they had received the draft minutes from the regular Board meeting held on August 20, 2025. With no objections, he waived the reading of the draft minutes. With no requests for amendments or corrections, and with no objection, Mr. McKay declared the minutes were approved as presented.

REPORT ON ACTION ITEMS

Mr. McKay called upon Mr. Fontenot to present the report. Mr. Fontenot referred members to the information provided in the meeting materials and solicited any questions from members. There were no member questions.

CONFIRMATION OF ACTS

Pursuant to Mr. McKay's declaration that the officers, members and committees, and executive director had attended to the business of the Board since their last meeting in accordance with policies and procedures previously approved by the Board, Ms. Hall moved:

Resolved, that the decisions made and the actions taken by the Board officers, members and committees, and executive director in the general conduct and transactions of Board business since August 20, 2025 are approved, adopted, and ratified by the entire Board.

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. McKay reminded the members and guests the Open Meetings Law requires all public bodies to provide an opportunity for public comment at all meetings and for each agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. He solicited general comments on non-agenda items from the guests present; none were offered.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Mr. McKay reminded the members of the purpose and mission of the Board of Pharmacy by reciting the relevant portion of the Louisiana Pharmacy Practice Act. He urged the members to keep their legislative mandate in mind as they considered all the matters before them.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. McKay confirmed there were no special orders for the day.

At this time the agenda was reordered to place item "E. Impairment" before item "A. Finance Committee".

IMPAIRMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McKay recognized Ms. Hall to deliver the committee report. Ms. Hall reported that the committee convened the previous day. After conducting interviews and engaging in subsequent deliberations, the committee developed recommendations for the Board's consideration. She then proceeded to present the following cases:

Emily McGraw Vestal (PST.019384): Ms. Hall moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. The Board suspended her license for five years, beginning on November 19, 2025, and terminating on November 19, 2030, suspended the suspension, then placed her credential on probation for the period of the suspension, subject to certain conditions enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Christopher Brooks Klingman (PST.017980): Ms. Hall moved to remove all probationary terms and conditions. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. The Board granted his request, removing the probationary restrictions and conditions imposed by Board order dated November 17, 2021, and restored his license to an unrestricted status.

Tiffany LeBlanc Richard (PST.015766): Ms. Hall moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. The Board suspended her license through August 14, 2030, to coincide with the probationary period outlined in the Texas Board order issued on August 5, 2025, suspended the suspension, then placed her credential on probation for the period of the suspension, subject to certain conditions enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Ms. Hall concluded her report by recognizing fellow committee members: Dr. Collins, Mr. Darce, Mr. Menard, Mr. Resweber and Dr. Strong.

Ms. Hall and Mr. Finalet introduced Dr. Hammond, who presented a program focused on the supervision and recovery of impaired healthcare providers. Dr. Hammond provided an overview of the program's purpose, operations, benefits, expenses, and outcomes. Board members actively offered questions and comments.

Mr. McKay called for a brief recess at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:23 a.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McKay recognized Mr. Soileau to deliver the committee report. Mr. Soileau reported the committee convened the previous day to consider three items on the posted agenda.

1. Consideration of Legislative Auditor's Financial Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
2. Consideration of Proposed Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Draft #1
3. Consideration of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, Draft #1

Mr. Soileau reminded the members that the documents for consideration were included in their meeting material.

Mr. Soileau reported the committee reviewed the Legislative Auditor's Financial Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and voted unanimously to recommend acceptance of the report. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Soileau moved:

***Resolved**, to accept the Legislative Auditor's Financial Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as the Board's final report.*

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Soileau informed the members that the committee reviewed Proposed Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and voted unanimously to recommend adoption. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Soileau moved:

***Resolved**, to approve and adopt Proposed Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Draft #1.*

With one question from a member and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Soileau informed the members that the State of Louisiana requires the Board to submit their budget for the next fiscal year prior to January 1, 2026. He reported that the committee reviewed the proposed budget and voted unanimously to recommend its adoption. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Soileau moved,

***Resolved**, to approve and adopt the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, Draft #1.*

With a brief discussion among the members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Soileau concluded his report by recognizing the other members of the committee: Dr. Collins, Mr. Jones, Ms. Melancon and Mr. Ray.

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

In Ms. Melancon's absence, Mr. McKay reported that since the last Board meeting, no applications requiring committee review have been received, and therefore, the committee has not convened.

RECIPROCITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McKay called upon Mr. Mannino for the committee report. He reported that during the third quarter of calendar year 2025, 75 applicants were evaluated by staff and found to be eligible for licensure by reciprocity. None of them required an interview by the committee. In conformance with the policies and procedures previously approved by the Board, their applications were approved, and their licenses were issued by the staff. A list of the pharmacists who were licensed by reciprocity during this quarter was included in the meeting material.

Mr. Mannino concluded the report by recognizing the other committee members: Mr. Darce, Mr. LaGrange, Mr. Mercante, Mr. Ray, and Mr. Soileau.

VIOLATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McKay called upon Mr. Indovina for the committee report. Mr. Indovina reported the committee met on September 9, 2025 to consider several cases on their agenda. Following their interviews and subsequent deliberations, the committee developed recommendations for the Board's consideration. Mr. Indovina directed the members to copies of those proposals in their meeting materials and then proceeded to present the following cases:

The Compounding Center Pharmacy, LLC dba The Compounding Center Pharmacy (Lafayette, LA) (PHY.005007): Mr. Indovina moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For its failure to comply with Board regulations regarding the compounding of sterile preparations, the Board suspended the permit for 5 years beginning on November 19, 2025, and terminating on November 19, 2030, suspended the suspension, then placed the permit on probation for the period of suspension, subject to conditions; and further, assessed a fine of \$15,000 plus administrative and investigative costs. Additionally, the Board imposed specific sterile compounding training and certification.

Darrell Glenn Granger (PST.012078): Mr. Indovina moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For his accountability as pharmacist-in-charge (PIC) of The Compounding Center Pharmacy (PHY.005007) regarding the failure to comply with Board regulations related to the compounding of sterile preparations, the Board suspended his license for 5 years beginning on November 19, 2025, and terminating on November 19, 2030, suspended the suspension, then placed the license on probation for the period of suspension, subject to conditions; and further, assessed administrative costs.

Jeremiesha Dewaynette Steptore (CPT.016303): Mr. Indovina moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy

technician renewal application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Garland Patrick Douglas, Jr. (CPT.014746): Mr. Indovina moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician renewal application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Independent Health Services, Inc, dba IHS Pharmacy (Rainsville, AL) (PHY.005643): Mr. Indovina moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For dispensing into Louisiana with an expired permit, the Board assessed a fine of \$20,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

CRE8 Pharmacy Group, LLC, (Coral Springs, FL) (PHY.008554): Mr. Indovina moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For dispensing approximately 376 prescriptions of compounded products into Louisiana that failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable pharmacy practice, the Board assessed a fine of \$5,640 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Ngon-Vincent Cong Van (PST.024569): Mr. Indovina moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For his accountability as PIC of CRE8 Pharmacy Group, LLC (PHY.008554) regarding the dispensing of approximately 376 prescriptions of compounded products into Louisiana that failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable pharmacy practice, the Board assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative costs.

EmpiRx Health, LLC (PBM.000037): Mr. Indovina moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For providing services as a PBM in Louisiana prior to being credentialed, the Board assessed a fine of \$17,788 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Mr. Indovina concluded his report by announcing the next scheduled committee meeting on December 9, 2025, to consider 8 cases. He also recognized Dr. Cloud, Ms. Dupree, Ms. Hall, and Mr. Mercante for their service on the committee.

REINSTATEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McKay recognized Dr. Strong for the committee report. Dr. Strong reported the committee convened the previous day. After conducting interviews and engaging in subsequent deliberations, the committee developed recommendations for the Board's consideration. He then proceeded to present the following cases:

Brittany Frederick LeBlanc (CPT.003469): Dr. Strong moved to approve the request for reinstatement of the lapsed pharmacy technician certificate, contingent upon the completion of at least 500 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit and successful completion of a Board-approved pharmacy technician examination prior to November 19, 2027, in accordance with the terms of the Board order. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Rochelle Charmaine Fernandez (PTC.003283): Dr. Strong moved to condition the issuance of a pharmacy technician credential, upon the completion of at least 500 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit and successful completion of a Board-approved pharmacy technician examination prior to November 19, 2027, in accordance with the terms of the Board order. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Strong referred the members to the posted committee meeting agenda for a listing of all interim reinstatement actions by the committee chair and staff.

Dr. Strong concluded his report by recognizing fellow committee members: Ms. Dupree, Mr. Jones, Mr. LaGrange, Mr. Mannino, and Mr. Mercante.

TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McKay recognized Mr. Resweber for the committee report. Mr. Resweber reported that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting and, therefore, had no report at this time. Mr. Resweber noted a committee meeting is being planned in conjunction with the February Board meeting.

Mr. Resweber concluded his report by recognizing fellow committee members: Ms. Dupree, Mr. Jones, Mr. LaGrange, Mr. Menard, and Dr. Strong.

REGULATION REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McKay called upon Dr. Cloud for the committee report. Dr. Cloud reported that the committee last convened on October 22, 2025, to review one regulatory project, three regulatory proposals, continue the rule review project, and consider comments received pursuant to the public hearing held on June 26, 2025. In addition, the committee received an update from CVS Health regarding the pilot project for remote product verification.

As a result of that meeting, the committee developed several recommendations.

He directed members to the relevant items included in the meeting materials. For the benefit of the public, he advised that copies of proposals are accessible through the links provided on the meeting agenda and are also available on the Board's website.

Dr. Cloud then presented the following information:

Regulatory Project 2025-10: Controlled Dangerous Substances – Draft #3

Dr. Cloud explained, Draft #2 of this project was approved at the August 20, 2025 Board meeting. Following that meeting, staff identified an issue with the longstanding definition of "Dispense" or "Dispensing" in Chapter 27 of the Board's regulations.

The term "Dispense" is already defined in law, in both the Pharmacy Practice Act (LA R.S. 37:1164) and the State Controlled Dangerous Substances Law (LA R.S. 40:961). These statutory definitions differ slightly, particularly regarding who may receive a prepared prescription. The definition currently in Chapter 27 conflicts with both State Controlled Dangerous Substances law and federal regulations. Because Chapter 27 was promulgated under the authority of Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, its terminology should align with that law.

The term "patient's agent", as currently used in the definition of dispense in Chapter 27, could mislead pharmacists into believing they may deliver a controlled substance to that agent, which may conflict with Louisiana law and federal regulations depending on the agent's identity. DEA is very clear with language in the DEA Pharmacist's Manual that "a pharmacist who receives a prescription for a controlled substance must dispense that prescription to the patient or a member of the patient's household." Federal law also requires the following statement on the label of a C-II through C-IV controlled substances - "CAUTION: Federal law prohibits the transfer of this drug to any person other than the patient for whom it was prescribed."

To avoid confusion for pharmacists, the committee is proposing to remove the definition from Chapter 27 and rely instead on the definition currently found in controlled substances law. In addition, after reviewing Chapter 27 in its entirety, the committee is recommending the repeal of several other unnecessary definitions. These revisions are reflected in Draft #3, with updated language highlighted in yellow.

In response to this information, the committee developed the proposal. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Cloud moved:

***Resolved**, to approve Regulatory Project 2025-10: Controlled Dangerous Substances - Draft #3; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.*

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Regulatory Proposal 2025-E: Remote Access by a Pharmacy Technician – Draft #3

Dr. Cloud reported, during the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature, House Bill 358 by Representative Dustin Miller sought to amend the Louisiana Pharmacy Practice Act to permit pharmacy technicians to work remotely from a location other than a pharmacy. The original bill easily passed the House and Senate, but a committee conference amendment ultimately derailed it.

Anticipating the bill's passage, the committee began drafting a regulatory proposal at its June 18, 2025 meeting. Although the bill ultimately did not pass, the Committee chose to move forward with the proposal, citing the legislature's intent.

The committee prepared Draft #3 for your review but did not vote on a recommendation, reflecting the sentiments expressed by members at the November 20, 2024, Board meeting. To bring this proposal forward for discussion, Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve Regulatory Proposal 2025-E: Remote Access by a Pharmacy Technician - Draft #3; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

After an in-depth discussion, questions from Board members, and consideration of public comment, the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Regulatory Proposal 2025-G: Community Pharmacy - Draft #2

Dr. Cloud advised, as part of the committee's rule review project, the committee identified Chapter 13, Community Pharmacy, as unnecessary. The committee developed Draft #2 which proposes to repeal Sections 1301, 1303, and 1305. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve Regulatory Proposal 2025-G: Community Pharmacy, Draft #2; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Regulatory Proposal 2025-H: Institutional Pharmacy - Draft #2

Dr. Cloud explained, as part of the committee's rule review project, the committee identified Chapter 17, Subchapter C, Drug Abuse Treatment Center Pharmacies, as unnecessary. The committee also identified a proposed amendment to Section 1705. The committee developed Draft #2 which proposes to repeal Sections 1715, 1717, 1719, 1721, 1723, and 1725, and amend Section 1705. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve Regulatory Proposal 2025-H: Institutional Pharmacy, Draft #2; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Rule Review – Pursuant to Executive Order 25-038 and Act 192

Dr. Cloud reported that at the May Board meeting, Mr. Fontenot provided an overview of Governor Landry's Executive Order No. JML 25-038, which directs the Board to review specific sections of its administrative rules. The purpose of the review is to determine whether each section remains necessary, is consistent with applicable law, and aligns with the Board's mission. The order also requires the Board to assess whether the benefits of each rule outweigh any burdens or costs imposed on those subject to regulation.

In addition to the Governor's directive, Act 192 of the 2024 Legislative Session mandates that the Board conduct a comprehensive review of all its rules over a five-year period, using the same criteria outlined in the Executive Order.

The Executive Order identifies 66 sections of the Board's rules that have remained unchanged for at least twenty years and are therefore subject to review. In calendar year 2024, the committee reviewed 37 of those sections as part of the Act 192 directive, leaving 29 sections for review in calendar year 2025.

During its last two meetings, the committee completed its 2025 rule review, examining 64 sections of rules - 29 identified by the Governor's Order and 35 additional sections. Of these, the committee has recommended repealing 31 sections and amending 4 in proposals approved today and the August Board meeting. The remaining 29 sections the committee has concluded are necessary and consistent with law and the Board's mission. The committee also determined that the benefits of these rules outweigh any burdens or costs to regulated parties. A list of these 29 sections of rules, along with the 35 sections previously considered by the Board, is included in your meeting material. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Cloud moved:

***Resolved**, that the 29 sections of rules reviewed by the Regulation Revision Committee, that are not recommended for amendment or repeal, are necessary and consistent with law and the Board's mission. Additionally, the probable benefits of the rules do outweigh the burdens and costs on persons regulated by the Board.*

(Sections 701, 1111, 1133, 1137, 1511, 1515, 1521, 1523, 1709, 1901, 1903, 1905, 1909, 1911, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2107, 2109, 2111, 2509, 2515, 2527, 2529, 2703, 2705, 2707, 2709, and 2711.)

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitation of Comments Pursuant to LA R.S. 49:964(B)

Dr. Cloud advised that during the August Board meeting, Mr. McKay reported that pursuant to Louisiana R.S. 49:964(B), agencies engaged in rulemaking are required to conduct a public hearing at least once every six years to receive input from interested parties on any rule they believe to be contrary to law, outdated, unnecessary, overly complex, or burdensome.

The Board held its public hearing on June 26, 2025, to fulfill this requirement. In response to the public hearing notice, the Board received comments from three petitioners and those comments were provided to you during the August Board meeting.

Following a review by the Board, Mr. McKay decided to refer these comments to the Regulation Revision Committee for further analysis and to develop recommendations for the Board's consideration.

During the committee's October 22nd meeting, the committee developed recommendations on the comments received from 2 of the 3 petitioners.

Summit Policy Director Scott Young submitted written comments requesting an exception to the Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) reporting requirements for "drugs of concern" containing gabapentin dispensed pursuant to a prescription issued by a veterinarian. Mr. Young stated "the rule prevents pet and livestock owners from purchasing gabapentin from most nonresident (online) veterinary pharmacies. Most of these pharmacies do not offer controlled substances or hold DEA licenses and are therefore waived from the PMP requirements. As a result, they cannot provide gabapentin in states where it is scheduled or designated for PMP."

The Louisiana PMP does not require the pharmacy, resident or nonresident, to possess a DEA Registration to dispense gabapentin containing products to Louisiana residents. A Louisiana permitted pharmacy without a state-controlled substance license or DEA Registration can dispense gabapentin, but reporting to the PMP is a requirement. Mr. Young's foundation for his request that nonresident (online) pharmacies cannot provide gabapentin because of the absence of a DEA Registration is not accurate.

A principal advantage for such a rule change would be for a very specific group of nonresident online veterinary pharmacies who are not currently dispensing to clients in Louisiana because of a perceived burden or incorrect understanding of the reporting requirements. These pharmacies would be free to dispense into Louisiana without reporting to the PMP.

A principal disadvantage for such a rule change would be creating an opportunity for diversion among

this client/patient population. Additionally, other pharmacies with very specific dispensing models could also seek a rule change for a similar exception which could create additional opportunities for diversion.

Following discussion, the committee determined that PMP reporting of gabapentin is not unduly burdensome and, given the drug's potential for abuse and diversion, concluded that continued reporting remains in the best interest of public health and safety. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Cloud moved:

***Resolved,** PMP reporting of gabapentin is not unduly burdensome and, given the drug's potential for abuse and diversion, continued reporting to the PMP remains in the best interest of public health and safety.*

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Paul E. Miller submitted written comments focusing on 3 key requests:

- 1) Biennial Renewal for the Louisiana CDS license and PMP fees.
- 2) Development of a Collaborative White Paper on CDS License Requirement.
- 3) Transparency on PMP Fees, asking to provide specifics on why Louisiana's PMP fees exceed those in Texas.

Regarding Dr. Miller's request for biennial renewal of the Louisiana CDS license and PMP fees, Mr. Fontenot noted that the annual PMP fee is established by statute, not regulation. A change from an annual renewal to a biennial renewal would require legislative action to change the law.

If such a change was under the Board's regulatory authority, a principal advantage would be for those practitioners and facilities in favor of such a change, it would lessen the stated burden of an annual renewal.

If such a change was under the Board's regulatory authority, a principal disadvantage would be for those practitioners and facilities not in favor of a biennial renewal. Additionally, the Board would be required to implement and develop a modified accounting system to account for biennial renewals.

Regarding Dr. Miller's request for the development of a collaborative white paper on the requirement for a CDS license, Mr. Fontenot noted that the CDS licensing requirement is established by statute, not regulation. Any change to the licensing requirement would require legislative action to change the law. Mr. Fontenot also noted that the elimination of the Louisiana CDS licensing requirement would cede state authority to the federal government.

Regarding Louisiana PMP fees compared to Texas, pursuant to R.S. 40:1013, an annual PMP fee is assessed on each practitioner holding a Louisiana controlled substance license and each pharmacy permitted by the Board. The statute authorizes an annual fee of up to \$25. This fee structure has been in place since the program's beginning in 2006.

Dr. Miller provided a screenshot of his Texas physician renewal indicating a \$13.48 PMP fee, which he stated covers a two-year period.

Mr. Fontenot met with the Texas PMP Manager to discuss the Texas PMP fee structure. While the Texas PMP operates under a similar model, dividing program costs among prescribers and pharmacists, it serves over 200,000 licensees compared to approximately 28,000 in Louisiana. Additionally, the Texas PMP receives legislative funding, whereas the Louisiana PMP does not receive state general funds.

As a result, the lower Texas PMP fees reflect both legislative funding support and a larger base of contributing practitioners.

Dr. Miller acknowledges that his request may require legislative action and is therefore outside the Board's regulatory authority. The public hearing addressed only the Board's rules, so his comments were not necessarily within the scope of the hearing.

Based on this information, the committee recommends that Mr. Fontenot respond to the petitioner using the facts presented today. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Cloud moved.

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Cloud then shared that a third petitioner provided a lengthy list of proposed rule amendments, and

the committee began its review. The committee plans to continue this work in subsequent meetings.

CVS Health Pilot Project Update - Remote Product Verification

Dr. Cloud explained that during the October 22nd meeting, the committee received an update from CVS Health regarding the Board approved pilot project on remote product verification. We heard testimony from CVS pharmacists, reviewed requested activity reports, and received feedback from our Compliance Officers.

The committee plans to develop a draft proposal for your consideration at the February Board meeting, and we will invite CVS Health to provide you with a presentation. You will also be provided with activity reports and feedback from our Compliance Officers to make an informed decision.

Dr. Cloud concluded his report by acknowledging the contributions of fellow committee members: Mr. Darce, Ms. Hall, Mr. Indovina, Ms. Melancon, Mr. Menard, and Mr. Soileau.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McKay reported that the committee met the previous day to consider the items on its posted agenda. He noted that Ms. Hall was prepared to present motions on behalf of the committee and reminded members that the related documents were included in the Board meeting materials.

Proposed Revision PPM.II.B.3.h - Telework – Draft #1

Mr. McKay explained, on April 23, 2025, Governor Landry issued Executive Order No. JML 25-048 which prohibits telework by state employees except for limited situations.

Shortly thereafter, the Commissioner of Administration issued a policy outlining the situations which qualify for an exemption. On June 3, 2025, the Commissioner of Administration authorized an exemption to the telework prohibition for the Board's Chief Compliance Officer and Compliance Officer positions.

The Board's current telework policy approved on May 11, 2022 was amended and presented to the Executive Committee for consideration. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to approve proposed revision PPM.II.B.3.h. – Telework – Draft #1.

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Board Office Building Maintenance and Renovations

Mr. McKay stated that staff presented several necessary building maintenance projects and minor renovations for the Board office, including but not limited to HVAC replacement, exterior door replacement, electrical upgrades, interior and exterior painting, and stucco repairs. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposed Board office building maintenance and renovations project in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Update – Sell of Towne Center Business Park Lot 5-A in Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Mr. McKay advised that the property is subject to an active purchase agreement, and that proceeds from the sale, if finalized, may be used to support upgrades to the Board's licensing information system.

Exceptions Report

Mr. McKay reported that, in accordance with Board policy, the Board President is authorized to review and respond to requests for exceptions to laws, rules, and policies between Board meetings. The policy also authorizes the Executive Director, with the concurrence of the Board President, to issue Special Work Permits and approve dual PIC privileges, with notice provided to the Board at its next meeting. The committee reviewed the current *Exceptions Report* available in the Board member reading room, which is now presented to the full Board as required. No action is required. There were no questions

or comments from members.

Mr. McKay concluded his report by acknowledging the contributions of fellow committee members: Ms. Hall, Mr. Resweber, Dr. Cloud, and Mr. Indovina.

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. McKay recognized Mr. Finalet to present his report. Mr. Finalet then submitted the following proposed voluntary staff consent agreements for the Board's consideration:

Shelby Lynn Cothorn (CPT.013768): Ms. Hall moved to accept the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For an alleged diversion of controlled substances, the Board revoked her credential; and further, prohibited her from applying or reapplying to practice or assist in the practice of pharmacy.

Shanee' S'klair Guillory (CPT.018335): Ms. Hall moved to accept the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Kameron Angelo Rome (CPT.013815): Ms. Hall moved to accept the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

HealthROM, Inc (Brookfield, CT) (DME.001243): Ms. Hall moved to accept the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For providing durable medical equipment (DME) to Louisiana residents with an expired credential, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative costs.

Amethyst Sharde Gaines (CPT.018501): Ms. Hall moved to accept the proposed voluntary consent agreement. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Mr. Finalet then indicated completion of his report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. McKay called upon Mr. Fontenot to present his report. Mr. Fontenot referred members to the quarterly report of the Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) included in the meeting materials. There were no questions or comments from the members.

Mr. Fontenot then directed the members to review requests from 21 pharmacies seeking a waiver from the duty to submit zero prescription transaction reports to the PMP. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to authorize the issuance of full PMP reporting waivers to the following permits once they have executed the standard consent agreement for that purpose:

- PHY.009037-NR 12Pharma LLC
- PHY.009079-NR AdvanceCare Dallas
- PHY.009056-NR All Family Pharmacy
- PHY.009077-NR Biologics by McKesson
- PHY.009022-NR Central Bedford Pharmacy
- PHY.009023-NR E-RxHub
- PHY.009066-NR FillPoint Health
- PHY.009011-NR Foundation Pharmacy, LLC
- PHY.009038-NR Houston Rx

- PHY.009007-NR Manor Pharmacy II
- PHY.009035-NR MedOptions Rx
- PHY.009036-NR OptumRx
- PHY.009040-NR OptumRx
- PHY.009055-NR OptumRx
- PHY.009078-NR Perfection Rx
- PHY.008611-NR Premier Pharmacy
- PHY.009058-NR PRO-spectus Health Solutions, LLC
- PHY.009029-NR Roman Health Pharmacy LLC
- PHY.009046-NR Rx e-Fill Solutions
- PHY.009050-NR Telederm.me
- PHY.009068-NR The Pharmacy Hub 2 LLC

With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Fontenot then indicated completion of his report.

PRESENTATION – HOSPITAL PHARMACY PROVIDING PATIENTS WITH A 3-DAY SUPPLY OF HIV PEP FOLLOWING ASSAULT AND NEEDLE STICKS – DR. PAUL MENASCO, PHARM.D – OCHSNER HEALTH

Mr. McKay introduced Dr. Paul Menasco, who presented a proposal to expedite access to post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for emergency room patients with potential HIV exposure. The proposal included allowing hospital pharmacies to pre-package and verify a three-day unit-dose supply of medications for patients to take home, which would be dispensed by nursing staff as needed.

Board compliance officers advised that the proposed process conflicts with existing state statutory provisions. Board members acknowledged the potential public health benefit of the proposal and directed staff to gather information regarding how other states have statutorily implemented similar processes.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. McKay reminded the members and guests that the Board has five officers: President, three Vice Presidents, and Secretary. Officers serve one-year terms, and elections are held at the final meeting of each calendar year. The Chair will accept nominations and call for a vote for each position separately, starting with President, followed by the three Vice President positions, and concluding with Secretary. Nominations will follow the procedures in Chapter 14 of Robert’s Rules of Order and do not require a second. In accordance with the Open Meetings Law, all Board votes will be taken by voice vote and recorded in the minutes. Each officer elected will assume office immediately.

Mr. McKay called for nominations for the office of President. Dr. Cloud nominated Mr. Indovina and Dr. Strong nominated Ms. Hall. With no other nominations and no objections, Mr. McKay closed the nominations for office of President.

Following a roll call vote, and with no Board discussion or public comment, Mr. Indovina was elected President by a majority of the members present and voting.

Members voting for Mr. Indovina: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Darce, Ms. Dupree, Mr. Indovina, Mr. Jones, Mr. LaGrange, Mr. Mannino, Mr. Menard, Mr. Mercante, Mr. Ray, Mr. Resweber, and Mr. Soileau.

Members voting for Ms. Hall: Dr. Collins, Ms. Hall, and Dr. Strong.

Mr. Indovina thanked the members and designated Mr. McKay to chair the remainder of the meeting without objection.

Mr. McKay called for nominations for the office of First Vice President. Dr. Cloud nominated Ms. Hall and Dr. Strong also nominated Ms. Hall. Mr. Resweber motioned to close the nominations for the office of First Vice President. Following a roll call vote to close nominations, and with no Board discussion or public comment, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Mercante moved, and Mr. Indovina seconded, to elect Ms. Hall by acclamation. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved, and Ms. Hall was re-elected First Vice President.

Mr. McKay called for nominations for the office of Second Vice President. Mr. Darce nominated Mr. Resweber. With no other nominations and no objections, Mr. McKay closed the nominations for the office of Second Vice President. Mr. Mercante moved, and Mr. Soileau seconded, to elect Mr. Resweber by acclamation. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved, and Mr. Resweber was re-elected Second Vice President.

Mr. McKay called for nominations for the office of Third Vice President. Ms. Dupree nominated Dr. Cloud and Mr. Jones nominated Mr. LaGrange. With no other nominations and no objections, Mr. McKay closed the nominations for the office of Third Vice President.

Following a roll call vote, and with no Board discussion or public comment, Dr. Cloud was re-elected Third Vice President by a majority of the members present and voting.

Members voting for Dr. Cloud: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Darce, Ms. Dupree, Ms. Hall, Mr. Indovina, Mr. Mannino, Mr. Menard, Mr. Mercante, Mr. Resweber, and Mr. Soileau.

Members voting for Mr. LaGrange: Dr. Collins, Mr. Jones, Mr. LaGrange, Mr. Ray, and Dr. Strong.

Mr. McKay called for nominations for the office of Secretary. Mr. Soileau nominated Mr. Darce and Dr. Strong also nominated Mr. Darce. With no other nominations and no objections, Mr. McKay closed the nominations for the office of Secretary.

Mr. Resweber moved, and Mr. Menard seconded, to elect Mr. Darce by acclamation. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved, and Mr. Darce was elected Secretary.

The following members were elected or re-elected to officer positions:

- Mr. Richard M. Indovina, Jr. – President
- Ms. Jacqueline L. Hall – First Vice President
- Mr. Don L. Resweber – Second Vice President
- Dr. J. Robert Cloud – Third Vice President
- Mr. David A. Darce – Secretary

NEW AGENDA ITEMS ADDED DURING MEETING

There were no new agenda items added during the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. McKay advised members that their announcements were included in their meeting material.

ADJOURN

Having completed the tasks itemized on the posted agenda, with no further business pending before the Board and without objection, Mr. McKay adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Joe Fontenot and then approved as presented during the subsequent meeting on November 19, 2025.

David A. Darce
Secretary