

ADDICTIVE DISORDER REGULATORY AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

AGENDA
ADRA Office
12041 Bricksome Ave
Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70816
October 24, 2025
10:00 A.M

- I. Call to Order: Roy Baas, Chairman
- II. Roll call; set quorum: Roy Baas, Chairman
- III. Public Introductions and Representation
- IV. Public Questions or Comments
- V. Approval of July 27, 2025, Minutes: Roy Baas, Chairman
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Lauren McNeal, ADRA Executive Director
 - a) July – September 2025
- VII. New Business
 - a) Approval of Applicants to be Credentialed
 - b) Felony Waiver Appeal – T. Scott
 - c) Rule – Public Comment Response
 - d) Law Discussion:
 - 1. Certified Peer Support Specialist
 - 2. Specialty Certifications
 - 3. Licensed Addiction Counselors – Diagnosis
 - e) List of Board Approved Addiction Specialty Certifications for CCS Applicants
- VIII. Old Business
 - a) New Rule Impaired Professional Program
 - b) ADRA Office Staffing
- IX. Executive Director's Report

Adjourn Meeting: Next meeting date: January 16, 2026

Minutes of ADRA Board Meeting of 10/24/2025

Minutes

Regular Meeting of Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority Board

ADRA Office
12041 Bricksome Ave
Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70816
October 24, 2025
10:00 A.M

I. *Call to Order*

October 24, 2025, regular meeting of the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority Board was called to order by Roy Baas, Chairman, at approximately 10:04 am. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice and notice was properly posted.

II. *Roll Call (Attachment 1)*

Members Present:

Roy Baas, LAC, CCS – Chairman
Paul Schoen, LAC, CCGC – Vice Chairman
Susan S. Thornton, EdD, LPP, LPC-S, NCC, RPT-S
Catherine Lemieux, PhD, LCSW
Chris McMorris
Smita Prasad, MD, MPH, MBA – Medical Director

Members Absent:

Adrian Perron LAC, CCS
Catrice Tolbert Ph. D

ADRA Staff Present:

Lauren McNeal, Executive Director
Melody Stewart, Assistant Director
Danissa DeJesus, Assistant
Celia Cangelosi, Board Attorney

III. *Public Introductions*

Jordan Blacher, LASACT
Marolon Mangham, LASACT
Tamera Scott

VI. *Public Questions or Comments:*

Jordan Blacher announced that LASACT was awarded some of the opioid settlement funds from the state. They are implementing the Recovery Ready Initiative to train Peers, CITs, CCSs, and provide clinical supervision for CITs in East Baton Rouge parish.

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IV. *Approval of July 27, 2025, Minutes*

A draft of July 27, 2024, board meeting minutes was presented for review. A motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Catherine Lemieux to accept the minutes as given. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

V. *Treasurer's Report*

The July–September 2025 Treasurer's Report was presented by Lauren McNeal, Executive Director. A motion was made by Catherine Lemieux and seconded by Chris McMorris to accept the report as given. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

VII. *New Business*

- a. ***Approval of Applicants to be Credential:*** A list of applicants who meet the requirements for credentialing was presented to the board for review. A motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Chris McMorris to approve the list of applicants to be credentialed. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.
- b. ***Felony Waiver Appeal – T. Scott:*** Ms. Scott had previously applied for a felony waiver request and was denied by the board. Ms. Scott chose to appeal the board's decision. The board requested that she provide additional documentation. Upon review of the documentation requested, a motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Catherine Lemieux to approve Ms. Scott's felony waiver request. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.
- c. ***Rule – Public Comment Response:*** The public comment received by the ADRA office from the rule posting was discussed. A response was drafted and presented by the board attorney. The motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Catherine Lemieux to approve the response as proposed. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

d. ***Law Discussion:***

1. Certified Peer Support Specialist:

LASACT and ADRA have been collecting information to provide a response to the RFI from OBH once released. Our most pressing concern is there is no information on the structure or breakdown of the Peer course required by OBH. The ADRA office was instructed to reach out to the Extra Mile to obtain more information. An email was sent on 8/21 with no response. The email was sent again on 8/28. A response was received 9/2 to contact Amanda Holmes with OBH, but no contact information was provided. We located an email address for Ms. Holmes and sent her the same email on 9/2 inquiring about the Peer course. On 9/4, we received a response from Charlene Gradney. She refused to provide any information on the Peer course and requested that we submit a response to the RFI that should be posted soon. Given the lack of transparency from OBH regarding their requirements for the Peer Support Specialist, we feel it would be in the best interest of the field and the protection of the public if we open our law and add the Certified Peer Support Specialist credential.

2. Specialty Certifications:

We have proposed specialty certifications to increase potential workforce development.

Certified Criminal Justice Professional (CCJP)

Certified Professional Interventionist (CPI)

3. Licensed Addiction Counselors – Diagnosis

Adrian Perron provided some documents from other addiction credentialing boards that allow master's level addiction counselors to diagnose SUDs. Our last attempt was around 2007-2008 when most of our LACs had been grandfathered in. The board requested that we review our database and report back at the next meeting with how many LACs are without a master's degree.

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- e. List of Board Approved Addiction Specialty Certifications for CCS Applicants
Our current rule regarding CCS applicants outlines procedures for non-ADRA applicants to hold an addiction specialty certification approved by the board. The board lists NASW's addiction specialty certification, NAADAC's MAT, or ADC/AADC meet the criteria.

VIII. *Old Business*

- a) ***Impaired Professionals Program:*** Suggested edits from the last meeting were incorporated into the IPP documents and presented to the board for review. Investigate Assurance for monitoring and reporting.
- b) ***ADRA Office Staffing:*** Now that we have room for a fourth employee, we are asking the board for approval to hire someone. The board requested that we provide a job description at the next meeting.

IX. *Executive Director's Report:*

- End of year reminder for annual ethics course and we also need to take the sexual harassment course. The board requested an email reminder for the Annual Financial Report due May 15th.

A motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Chris McMorris to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The next board meeting will be held on January 16, 2026, at 10:00am at the ADRA office.
Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Baas, LAC, CCGC, CCS, Chairman