

ADDICTIVE DISORDER REGULATORY AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

LASACT Conference
Crowne Plaza
4728 Constitution Avenue
Bayou Levee Room
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
July 27, 2025
10:30 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 April 11, 2025, Minutes: Roy Baas, Chairman
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Lauren McNeal, ADRA Executive Director
 - a) End of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Report
 - b) 2025-2026 Budget
- VII. New Business
 - a) Approval of Applicants to be Credentialed
 - b) Felony Waiver – J. LaMonte
 - c) Felony Waiver Appeal – T. Scott
 - d) Degree Waiver – D. Seals
 - e) Impaired Professionals Program
 - f) Certified Peer Support Specialist Discussion
 - g) Legal Contract and Resolution
- VIII. Old Business
 - a) New Rule Update
 - b) Certemy/TPN Update
 - c) Annual Merit Increase
- IX. Executive Director's Report

Adjourn Meeting: Next meeting date: October 17, 2025

Minutes of ADRA Board Meeting of 7/27/2025

Minutes

Regular Meeting of Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority Board

ADRA Office
4919 Jamestown Avenue
Suite 203
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
February 7, 2025
10:00 A.M

I. *Call to Order*

July 27, 2025, regular meeting of the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority Board was called to order by Roy Baas, Chairman, at approximately 10:30 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
Adrian Perron LAC, CCS
Smita Prasad, MD, MPH, MBA – Medical Director
Chris McMorris

Members Absent:

Catrice Tolbert Ph. D
Catherine Lemieux, PhD, LCSW

ADRA Staff Present:

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

III. *Public Introductions*

Jordan Blacher, LASACT
Marolon Mangham, LASACT
Brady Sledge, Restoring Freedom
Rachel Jenkins, Restoring Freedom
Brittany Renard, Keys for Sober Living

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Malvanese Williams
Tamara Scott, JPHSA
Megan Bethly
Jessica LaMonte, Restoring Freedom

VI. *Public Questions or Comments:*

None.

IV. *Approval of April 11, 2025, Minutes*

- a. A draft of April 11, 2025, board meeting minutes was presented for review. A motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Susan Thornton to accept the minutes as given from April 11, 2025. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

V. *Treasurer's Report*

- a. The end of fiscal year 2024-2025 report was presented by Lauren McNeal, Executive Director. A motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Adrian Perron to accept the report as given. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.
- b. The proposed 2025-2026 budget was presented by Lauren McNeal, Executive Director. A motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Susan Thornton to accept the budget with the correction to include the amended amount from \$0 to \$1200 annual budget for a court reporter. 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 Adrian Perron and seconded by Susan Thornton to approve the list of applicants to be credentialed. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.
- b. *Felony Waiver – J. LaMonte:* A motion was made by Chris McMorris and seconded by Susan Thornton to approve the felony waiver request. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.
- c. *Felony Waiver Appeal – T. Scott:* A request was made by the board to be provided proof of successful past payments for restitution and for this documentation to be presented at the next board meeting before final determination will be made.
- d. *Degree Waiver: D. Seals:* A motion was made by Adrian Perron and seconded by Paul Schoen to approve the degree waiver request. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.
- e. *Impaired Professionals Program:* Change specific language from AA/NA to addiction recovery support, include language to include mental or physical conditions, and instead of addictionologist, appropriate ADRA approved professional. The board requested that this be placed on the next agenda for final review.
- f. *Certified Peer Support Specialist Discussion:* Since the early 2010's, ADRA has attempted to work with Office of Behavioral Health to allow the ADRA to regulate the Peer Support Specialist credential. Despite pleas to be included in discussions relating to the regulation of Peers, this effort has been unsuccessful and OBH continues to function as an "unofficial" credentialing body. Board member, Chris McMorris, has made an effort to open discussions again with OBH. He had a meeting with the LDH deputy secretary and Karen Stubbs. During that meeting, he presented the documents that were sent to the board along with a proposal for ADRA to regulate the Peer

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certification. This was met with a positive response. OBH stated that they will be drafting a Request for Information and that we should respond once that is sent out. Board members expressed concerns with allowing unregulated individuals to be embedded within the mental health and SUD recovery process, especially when facilities are urged to utilize this resource within their treatment models. Currently, there is no statute that regulates the practice or credentialing of a Peer Support Specialist in Louisiana.

- g. *Legal Contract and Resolution:*** A motion was made by Adrian Perron and seconded by Paul Schoen to approve the request to renew the legal contract for Celia Cangelosi. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Adrian Perron to approve the resolution regarding the legal contract for Celia Cangelosi. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

VIII. *Old Business*

- a) *New Rule Update:*** A motion was made by Paul Schoen and seconded by Adrian Perron to approve the new rules with the suggested changes. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Susan Thornton and Lauren McNeal will meet to create a plan and timeline for transitioning our current prevention supervisors into the CPS credential.

- b) *Certemy/TPN Update:*** The most recent update from TPN is that they are hoping to have their system running by the first quarter of 2026.
- c) *Annual Merit Increase:*** After discussion and additional review of the budget, a motion was made by Susan Thornton and seconded by Paul Schoen to approve a 4% pay increase for staff. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

IX. *Executive Director's Report:*

- The lease contract was approved for our new office location. Move in date is scheduled for Monday, August 4th. The office will be closed the week of the move. Our official re-open date will be August 12th.
- New board meeting location was suggested to be held downtown at the contractor's board office, down the street from the new office at the pharmaceutical device board office, or at the new office. Board decided to hold the October board meeting at the new office since this will be the first meeting at the new location.

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

The next board meeting will be held on October 17, 2025, at 10:00am at the ADRA office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Baas, LAC, CCGC, CCS, Chairman