



**STATE OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF
NURSING FACILITY ADMINISTRATORS**

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**MINUTES
MAY 12, 2021 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

The Louisiana Board of Examiners of Nursing Facility Administrators (LABENFA) conducted its regularly-scheduled board meeting, both in-person and via videoconference (VC) on May 12, 2021 in accordance with applicable law and gubernatorial proclamation(s).

Board Members Present:

Earl Thibodaux, Chair	Patricia LaBrosse (VC)	Jamie Shelton
Delbert Wilbanks, Vice Chair	Dr. Susan Nelson	Malcolm Tietje
Scott Crabtree (VC)	Teddy R. Price	Kemp Wright (TC)
Dr. Sharon Hutchinson (VC)	Jack Sanders (VC)	Bill Ledbetter (VC)

Board Members Absent:

Andrew Perilloux

Others Present:

Mark A. Hebert, Executive Director
Kristie Mascarella, Executive Assistant
Thomas E. Devillier, General 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 AGENDA & MINUTES

Chair Thibodaux requested a motion to take an agenda item out of regular order. Mr. Price made a motion to take up the Nominating Committee Report prior to the Executive Director Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Crabtree and unanimously approved.

Chairman Thibodaux requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2021 board meeting. After a brief review, Vice Chairman Wilbanks made a motion to approve the February 2021 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Tietje, and unanimously approved.

IV. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Price, Nominating Committee Chair, thanked the board for allowing him to take the Nominating Committee Report out of Agenda order. Mr. Price informed the board that he and Chair Thibodaux had a teleconference with Vice Chair Wilbanks prior to the meeting, during which Vice Chair Wilbanks indicated he would be unable to serve as successor board Chair. As a result of the teleconference, Mr. Price consulted with the Committee membership individually, Mr. Hebert, and Mr. Devillier prior to the board meeting to determine the Committee's authority for appointment of leadership positions.

Pursuant to the aforementioned consultations, the Nominating Committee unanimously recommended that the board nominate and maintain Mr. Thibodaux as board Chair and to nominate Mr. Shelton as board Vice Chair. Accordingly, Mr. Price made a motion that the board accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Sanders.

Mr. Crabtree requested clarification regarding duration of the board leadership terms. Mr. Devillier clarified that LAC 46:XLIX.305 provides that neither the Chair nor Vice Chair may "immediately succeed themselves in the same positions which they have held for two full two-year terms." Following a short discussion, Chair Thibodaux restated the need for a final vote on the matter and asked if any were opposed to the standing motion and second. No opposition to the motion being voiced, the motion was unanimously approved.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Hebert presented the Executive Director Report and highlighted that LABENFA and the Louisiana Nursing Home Association (LNHA) had a terrific turnout for the annual cosponsored conference. Further, Mr. Hebert informed the board that he had performed the first statewide inspections of all twenty-four (24) current administrators-in-training (AITs) in approximately one (1) year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Hebert concluded by informing the board that license numbers declined during 2020 and requested that members consider training additional AITs if possible.

Mr. Ledbetter joined the meeting during presentation of the Executive Director Report. Mr. Shelton made a motion to approve the Executive Director Report, which was seconded by Mr. Wright, and unanimously approved.

VI. EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Hebert presented the Education Committee Report. Mr. Hebert noted that six hundred forty (640) administrators are currently licensed; however, he expressed concern regarding early indications that the number may decrease following the annual renewal deadline. Further, Mr. Hebert suggested that examination scores have also decreased recently and that a contributing factor to the decline may be the lack of in-person preparation courses available during the pandemic.

Mr. Crabtree asked Mr. Hebert whether the board has ever studied the correlation between AIT examination scores and the specific preceptor who trains the AIT. After a brief discussion, Mr. Hebert noted that he has not noticed or been informed of any "underachieving" preceptors performing training but that it is possible that certain trainees with nursing credentials or experience may have been too heavily relied on for nursing as opposed to receiving focused training.

Ms. LaBrosse asked Mr. Hebert to clarify regarding certain trainees performing more nursing duties than receiving training. Mr. Hebert clarified that staffing shortages have caused dynamic circumstances in facilities statewide; therefore, he was simply notifying the board that it is impossible to know whether an AIT is properly training in dietary or any other specific curriculum or being relied upon too heavily in direct patient care nursing due to overwhelming circumstances.

Dr. Nelson requested a quarterly assessment of preceptors who are providing training to AITs at future meetings. Mr. Crabtree further requested the staff compile examination results for the previous three (3) years in attempt to determine whether a pattern exists to suggest any given preceptor is consistently underperforming. Mr. Hebert reminded the board that the meeting materials already include the names of preceptors who have provided training but offered that staff would continue reviewing the matter and provide more information as needed.

After additional review of the materials, Chair Thibodaux requested a motion to accept the Education Committee Report. Mr. Crabtree made a motion to accept the Education Committee Report, Mr. Wright seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Wright presented the Finance Committee Report beginning with the Budgeted Statement of Revenues and Expenses. Mr. Wright noted the board's financial standing has improved relative to previous deficit projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. After a brief discussion, Mr. Wright welcomed member questions.

Vice Chair Wilbanks and Mr. Hebert further clarified that additional revenue has been received since preparation of the Finance Committee Report. Vice Chair Wilbanks made a motion to accept the Finance Committee Report, which was seconded by Mr. Sanders, and unanimously approved.

VIII. REVIEW – LICENSURE APPLICATIONS

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

- Riley Boone (T3641) (LSUA) – Senior Village Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (Opelousas); Dale Hewitt.
- Sai Raj Kappari (T3643) – Jefferson Healthcare Center (Jefferson); Billy White
- Daniel Laing (T3647) – Leslie Lakes Retirement Center (Arcadia); Al Breaux, Jr.
- Brian Futch (T3648) – Avalon Place (Monroe); Matthew Hall.
- Bobby V. Stokes (T3649) – Camelot Leisure Living (Ferriday); Megan Terrell.
- Dustin Almond (T3650) – Resthaven Living Center (Bogalusa); Clay Magee.
- Heather Mocklin (T3561) – Chateau Living Center (Kenner); Matthew Bourque.
- Brittany Hill (T3562) (LSUA) – Autumn Leaves Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (Winnfield); Jimmy Zimmerman.
- Nanette McCray (T3563) – Camelot Leisure Living (Ferriday); Megan Terrell.
- Jimmy Muller, II (T3564) – The Guest House (Shreveport); Chris Bihm.
- Leslie Edmonson (T3565) – Uptown Healthcare Center (New Orleans); Kim Russell.
- Gerald Murdock, III (T3566) – Southwind Healthcare and Rehabilitation (Crowley); Jerad Langley.
- James Lee (T3567) (LSUA) – Matthews Memorial Health Care Center and The Summit (Alexandria); Matthew Smart.
- Kimberly Normand (T3568) (LSUA) – Natchitoches Community Care Center (Natchitoches); Brian Elias.

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.

Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the aforementioned applications en globo, which was seconded by Ms. LaBrosse, and unanimously approved.

IX. REVIEW – WAIVER APPLICATIONS

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

- Andrew Driggers (T3574) – Partial waiver request of nursing training requirements pursuant to his licensure as a registered nurse (RN) and his experience as a Director of Nursing (DON) at Westwood Manor Nursing Home (DeRidder). Chair Thibodaux conducted a *Waiver Exam* and recommended the waiver application be granted. Mr. Sanders recused. Chair Thibodaux made a motion to approve the waiver application, which was seconded by Mr. Shelton, and unanimously approved.

X. RECIPROCITY: TO LOUISIANA

None.

XI. RECIPROCITY: FROM LOUISIANA

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

- Neal Hayhurst (3475) – Licensed in-state from 10/24/2017 to 6/30/2021.
- Mark Mahoney (3604) – Licensed in-state from 10/20/2015 to 6/30/2021.
- Andrew Gee (3426) – Licensed in-state from 4/13/2016 to 6/30/2018.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Hebert reminded members to review the amended *Quarterly Board Meeting Totals*. Further, Mr. Hebert reminded members of the May 15, 2021 annual deadline to file *Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure Statements* as required by law.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Nelson discussed changes previously made to tuberculosis (TB) testing requirements relative to in-state nursing facilities. Dr. Nelson noted there are in-state facilities incorrectly requiring new residents to acquire two (2) negative TB test results via both skin test and chest x-ray prior to placement in the facility. Vice Chair Wilbanks confirmed that he has heard similar complaints from certain hospitals. Dr. Nelson clarified that only one (1) of either the skin test or chest x-ray is required pursuant to current law. Further, she indicated that an existing facility resident is required only to complete an annual questionnaire. Dr. Nelson provided that current law was implemented to facilitate reducing the overall time and fiscal impacts associated with TB testing.

Dr. Nelson further urged participation and use of the LaPOST electronic registry and also requested that facilities regularly update contact information for the patients' authorized representative(s) / responsible party.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

XII. MEETING EXPENSES

Vice Chair Wilbanks made a motion to authorize payment for meeting expenses, which was seconded by Mr. Tietje, and unanimously approved.

XIII. ADJOURN

Chair Thibodaux made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Wright, and unanimously approved at or about 2:20 p.m.

Thomas Devillier