



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

Minutes

Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools March 11, 2025

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in Room 1–155 in the Claiborne Building. Chair James Fontenot called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m. The roll was then called by Ms. Courtney Britton and a quorum was established. There were no public comments to be read.

Commission Members Present

Melanie Amrhein, Vice Chair
Chris Broadwater
Sherrie Despino
James Fontenot, Chair
Carmen Million
Randy Plaisance
Larry Tremblay

Staff Members Present

Courtney Britton
Chandra Cheatham
Mighan Johnson
Antonio Williams

Guests Present

(See Appendix)

Commission Members Absent

Benjamin Baudoin
Chandler LeBoeuf

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from the Commission's meeting on January 14, 2025 with any noted corrections.

On motion of Sherrie Despino, seconded by Carmen Million, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously adopted the minutes of the January 14, 2025, Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools meeting.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Community Helpers Early Learning Professionals, located in Lake Charles, LA. The school, which was represented by the owner, Falcia Coleman, would offer two programs: Phlebotomy Technician at 120 clock hours over five weeks and Nurse Aide Training at 80 clock hours over ten weeks. Discussion included the owner's motivation for opening the school, background and education of the owner, primary source of funding, instructors, number of students in Early Childhood certification program, total cost of programs and financial assistance for students, advertising and marketing, partnerships with local care facilities, and transportation for students to clinicals.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Larry Tremblay, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Community Helpers Early Learning Professionals, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Delta College West, located in Lake Charles, LA. The school, which was represented by the owner, Billy Clark, would offer two programs: Medical Assistant (Traditional) at 780 clock hours over forty-six weeks and Medical Assistant (Hybrid) at 786 clock hours over forty-six weeks. Discussion included the owner's motivation for opening the school, the school's background, whether the school will still offer cosmetology programs regulated by the Louisiana Board of Cosmetology, other Delta College schools in Louisiana, and if the programs will be long enough to qualify for federal student aid.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Delta College West, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Dental Assisting Solutions, located in Shreveport, LA. The school, which was represented by the owner, Dr. Ben Kacos, would offer one program: Dental Assisting at 128 clock hours over twelve weeks. Discussion included the owner's motivation for opening the school, if the school will operate at the owner's dental practice, the owner's background and education, the school's curriculum model, and common challenges and trends in hiring and training dental assistants.

On motion of Melanie Amrhein, seconded by Larry Tremblay, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Dental Assisting Solutions, Shreveport, Louisiana.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Lake Charles Dental Assistant School, located in Lake Charles, LA. The school, which was represented by the CEO, Chris Lofton, would offer one program: Dental Assisting at 180 clock hours over twelve weeks. The discussion covered the owner's reasons for starting the school, the company's other educational programs and schools in Louisiana, and corporate structures and specialized dental techniques, as well as dental assistant programs available at public institutions.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Melanie Amrhein, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Lake Charles Dental Assistant School, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license applications from Top Tier Dental-New Orleans and Top Tier Dental-Slidell, located in New Orleans, LA and Slidell, LA respectively. The school, which was

represented by the owner, Dr. Jill Donaldson, would offer one program: Dental Assisting at 80 clock hours over ten weeks. Discussion included the owner's motivation for opening the school, the dental practice's history of training employees, the struggle of finding qualified employees, and the differences in program length between schools.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Larry Tremblay, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license applications for Top Tier Dental, New Orleans, and Slidell, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was submitted license renewal applications. Over the previous two months, sixteen schools submitted complete renewal applications.

On motion of Carmen Million, seconded by Chris Broadwater, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents renew the licenses of the following proprietary schools:

1. Baton Rouge School of Court Reporting – Baton Rouge – License #2083
2. Beso Beauty - Metairie – License #2264
3. Carter's Career Center – Monroe – License #2286
4. Coastal College – Hammond – License #791
5. Hospitality Opportunity and Service Training (HOST) – Baton Rouge – License #2312
6. ITI Technical College – Baton Rouge – License #2007
7. LifeShare Phlebotomy School – Shreveport - License #2313
8. Louisiana Dental Assistant School – Zachary – License #2073
9. Louisiana Dental Institute – Monroe - License #2287
10. Next Level Education Services – LaPlace – License #2331
11. Rosebud Training Academy – Baker – License #2369
12. The H.E.A.R.T. Academy – Baton Rouge – License #2348
13. Tulsa Welding School – Jacksonville – Jacksonville, Florida – License #2123
14. United Dental Institute – Baton Rouge – License #2328
15. United Dental Institute – Lafayette – License #2329
16. United Dental Institute – New Orleans – License #2330

Staff also discussed the closure of two institutions:

- McCann School of Business, Monroe, LA, License #2294
- Moore Career College, Baton Rouge, LA, License #2298

The next agenda item was program approval updates. The commission was reminded that program approvals were approved by staff and the provided list was for informational purposes only.

- 160 Driving Academy - Shreveport, LA
 - Add
Class A Refresher Training– 40 clock hours
- Accelerated Academy - Baton Rouge, LA

- Amend
Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 80 clock hours
- Accelerated Academy - Hammond, LA
 - Amend
Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 80 clock hours
- Accelerated Academy - Houma, LA
 - Amend
Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 80 clock hours
- Accelerated Academy - Lafayette, LA
 - Amend
Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 80 clock hours
- Accelerated Academy - Lake Charles, LA
 - Amend
Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 80 clock hours
- Accelerated Academy - Metairie, LA
 - Amend
Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 80 clock hours
- Accelerated Academy - Monroe, LA
 - Amend
Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 80 clock hours
- Accelerated Academy - Slidell, LA
 - Amend
Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 80 clock hours
- Accelerated Academy - Denham Springs, LA
 - Amend
Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 80 clock hours
- Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy - Baton Rouge, LA
 - Amend
Phlebotomy – 90 clock hours
- Cross Road CDL Academy - Harvey, LA
 - Add
Passenger Safety & School Bus Endorsement – 80 clock hours
- Unitech Training Academy - Lafayette, LA
 - Amend
Dental Assisting – 46.29 quarter credit hours
EKG/Phlebotomy Technician – 64.00 quarter credit hours
Massage Therapy – 45.25 quarter credit hours
Medical Assistant – 68.67 quarter credit hours
Pharmacy Technician – 62.67 quarter credit hours
- Unitech Training Academy - Baton Rouge, LA
 - Amend

Dental Assisting – 46.25 quarter credit hours
 EKG/Phlebotomy Technician – 64.00 quarter credit hours
 Massage Therapy – 45.25 quarter credit hours
 Medical Assistant – 68.67 quarter credit hours
 Pharmacy Technician – 62.67 quarter credit hours

- Unitech Training Academy - Houma, LA
 - Amend
 - Dental Assisting – 46.25 quarter credit hours
 - EKG/Phlebotomy Technician – 64.00 quarter credit hours
 - Massage Therapy – 45.25 quarter credit hours
 - Medical Assistant – 68.67 quarter credit hours
 - Pharmacy Technician – 62.67 quarter credit hours

- Unitech Training Academy - Lafayette, LA
 - Amend
 - Dental Assisting (Hybrid) – 46.25 quarter credit hours
 - EKG/Phlebotomy Technician (Hybrid) 64.00 quarter credit hours
 - Massage Therapy (Traditional) 45.25 quarter credit hours
 - Medical Assistant (Hybrid) 68.67 quarter credit hours
 - Pharmacy Technician (Hybrid) 62.67 quarter credit hours
 - Medical Billing and Coding (Online) – 72.00 quarter credit hours
 - IT Technician (Online) – 67.25 quarter credit hours

- Unitech Training Academy - New Orleans, LA
 - Amend
 - Dental Assisting – 46.25 quarter credit hours
 - EKG/Phlebotomy Technician – 64.00 quarter credit hours
 - Massage Therapy – 45.25 quarter credit hours
 - Medical Assistant – 68.67 quarter credit hours
 - Pharmacy Technician – 62.67 quarter credit hours

- Unitech Training Academy - West Monroe, LA
 - Amend
 - EKG/Phlebotomy Technician – 64.00 quarter credit hours
 - Massage Therapy – 45.25 quarter credit hours
 - Medical Assistant – 63.87 quarter credit hours
 - Pharmacy Technician – 62.67 quarter credit hours

During the final agenda item, "Other Business," the discussion covered several key topics: the mandated anti-human trafficking training for all CDL schools and the training developed through collaboration between the Board of Regents and the Governor's Office; as well as new compliance trainings, webinars, and resources offered by Staff to support the rollout of the new application management system, Edvera. The conversation also addressed the possibility of updating laws and regulations to strengthen protections for students in the event of abrupt school closures, including the consideration of stricter requirements or increased penalties for schools that fail to meet their obligations. Proprietary school owner, Bruce Busada, was present and was recognized to provide public comment regarding the national anti-

human trafficking training requirements, the experience of using the Edvera system, and the existence of student protection funds and other schools teach-out options during abrupt closures.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for May 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1–153 of the Claiborne Building. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

APPENDIX A
GUESTS

Bruce Busada	Diesel Driving Academy
Billy Clark	Delta College West
Joshua Clark	Delta College West
Falicia Coleman	Community Helpers
Stephen Coleman	Community Helpers
Jill Donaldson	Top Tier Dental
Peter Gilkey	Lake Charles Dental Assistant School
Carol Hasegawa	Delta College West
Ben Kakos	Shreveport Dental Assisting Solutions
Sandra Morris	Top Tier Dental
Tyler Savoy	LA Department of Justice