

**THE LOUISIANA STATE
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**MINUTES
OF
SPECIAL CALL
MEETING**

**APRIL 8, 2020
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

A Special Call Meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, pursuant to lawful notice, was convened and called to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2020, by order of the President, with the following members participating via videoconferencing.

Board Members present as follows:

Roderick V. Clark, M.D., President
Terrie R. Thomas, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer
Rita Y. Horton, M.D.
Lester Wayne Johnson, M.D.
Patrick K. O'Neill, M.D.
Kim S. Sport, JD
James A. Taylor, Jr., M.D.
Christy Lynn Valentine, M.D.
Leonard Weather, M.D.

The following members of the Board's staff were present:

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., M.D., Executive Director
Lawrence H. Cresswell, DO, JD, Director of Investigations
Mary K. Peyton, Esq., General Counsel
Thadra C. White, Esq., Compliance Counsel
Alan Phillips, Director of IT
Jacintha Duthu, Administrative Program Specialist
Rita L. Arceneaux, Executive Staff Officer

Legal counsel to the Board was present as follows:

Philip O. Bergeron
Don K. McKinney

1. **Welcome.** The President thanked everyone for his or her attendance.
2. **General Administrative Matters; Off-Label Use of Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine.** The Board reviewed the draft of the guidance document prepared in response to the e-mail from the Attorney General to post clinical information on the off-label use of hydroxychloroquine on the website. They also reviewed the information provided by G.E. Ghali, DDS, MD, FACS, FRCS(Ed) on this matter. Because Dr. Thomas had an emergency and could not stay for the entire meeting, she offered the following comments to the proposed draft: "The proposed position statement for the off-label use of hydroxychloroquine to be published on the LSBME website directly contradicts the known body of clinical information and national guidance for the use of hydroxychloroquine in COVID-19 patients. Parts of the statement are also contradictory to the FDA's guidance on emergency use authorization regarding the use of hydroxychloroquine in the inpatient setting only." The Board then made subsequent changes to the draft statement. On the motion of Ms. Sport, duly seconded by Dr. Weather and passed by unanimous voice vote¹, the Board approved the draft guidance statement entitled, "Off-Label Use of hydroxychloroquine in the COVID-19 Pandemic" for publication on the Board's website.
3. **General Administrative Matters; COVID-19 Data.** Dr. Johnson suggested that the Board work with the Board of Pharmacy, who had been involved from the beginning, to study whether deaths are the direct result of the virus or the side effects of hydroxychloroquine or other drugs used to treat the illness. It was stated that there was a report from the Federation of State Medical Board that included an article from the National Pharmacy Board on this topic. Following discussion, Dr. Clark stated he would work with the Board of Pharmacy.
4. **Next Meeting of the Board.** The President noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting was set for April 27, 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true and correct account of the proceedings of the meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, save for executive session of the Board conducted therein, held on April 8, 2020 and approved by the Board on the 27th day of April, 2020.

Witness my hand and seal of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners this 27th day of April 2020.

Terri Roselyn Thomas, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

Attest:

Roderick Vince Clark, M.D., MBA
President

¹ Drs. Horton and Johnson recused them themselves from voting on this matter.