

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

NEWSLETTER



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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Licensees:

I hope you had a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

In the fall of 2023, the board adopted the Louisiana State Police's new fingerprinting/verification service using Identogo offices for predominantly digital fingerprinting across the state, which is working well. While a small number of prints have to be redone or submitted on cards, this new complete background check system has reduced the time from application to licensure by several months. Under the new system, applicants for licensure deal directly with Identogo, removing the board's participation in that process and saving time.

We would like to apologize to any licensees with December renewals who were affected by the CE Broker (temporary) server failure. Because our system checks CME/CE compliance with their system before it allows you to renew, when they went down, we also experienced problems. Although this only affected renewals for 1-2 days, we are very sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

We continue to transition our online Laws and Rules courses to CE Broker so they may be taken by any licensees who would like to review the rules and laws of their profession and receive free CME/CE. Please note that for most of our new licensees it is required to take and pass a laws and rules course on CE Broker before your first renewal; eventually all new licensees will have to do so. Anyone who took such a course as a condition of licensure under the previous system will be required to post their certificate of completion on CE Broker as part of their first renewal process. Read more about this later in the newsletter.

Please be aware that Act 76-2017 is still in force and all prescribers of Controlled Dangerous Substances must take a one-time board approved CDSCME course before their first renewal.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2024.

Sincerely,

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., MD

PUBLIC BOARD ACTIONS, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023

Below is a list of all licensees who were subject to a public board action, October - December 2023. (Board actions include discipline, notices of summary suspension, reinstatements, voluntary surrenders, etc.) Click on the name to see the documentation related to the board action. For information on any other public order from the last 5 years, you may click [here](#).

[Gray Wesley Barrow, MD](#) – Consent order for reinstatement of license on probation with terms and conditions, 12/11/2023.

[Matthew John Bourg, LRT](#) – Consent order for reinstatement of license on indefinite probation with terms and conditions, 10/23/2023.

[Erik P. Kastle, MD](#) – Consent order for reprimand of license with terms and conditions, 12/11/2023.

[Chelsea Erin Culpepper, LRT](#) – Consent order for reprimand of license with terms and conditions, 12/11/2023.

[Matthew Parker Dixon, LRT](#) – Consent order for reprimand of license with terms and conditions, 12/11/2023.

[Antonio Desell Edwards, MD](#) – Voluntary surrender of license, 12/11/2023.

[Charles Callan Mary, III, MD](#) – Consent order for indefinite probation with terms and conditions, 10/23/2023.

[Jose Edgardo Merced, MD](#) – Termination of probation status of license, with conditions, 10/23/2023.

[Kristina Maria Mire, MD](#) – Application for licensure granted on probation, 12/11/2023.

[Margo Ann Olivier, LRT](#) – License suspended for 6 months, then reinstated on probation for 5 years, 12/11/2023

[Lloyd Phillip Ryan Leonards, MD](#) – summary suspension of license. 11/1/2023

[Patrick W. Slater, II, MD](#) – Consent order for reprimand of license with terms and conditions, 12/11/2023.

[Karen Dale Stone, MD](#) – Consent order for reprimand of license with terms and conditions, 12/11/2023.

[Ben Frank Thompson, III, MD](#) – Consent order for issuance of reduced fee license. 10/23/2023.

[Gary L. Wease, MD](#) – Consent order for reprimand of license with terms and conditions, 12/11/2023.

RULES ADOPTED OR PROPOSED SINCE OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Since the last newsletter, the board has voted to pursue a few regulatory changes. As the necessary documents are prepared, the proposed rules will be noticed on our website and updates will be included there for each as they go through the rule-making process. Over the coming months, the board will consider several proposed rule changes. For the most up-to-date status on revisions of existing rules or the creation of new rules, please go to our [regulatory progress](#) page.

Scammers never stop -- Please be vigilant!!

Over the years we have warned our licensees of various ways in which criminals try to defraud or scam you. These often include people pretending to be officers of the board performing investigations and requesting funds as part of the process. Frequently these scams involve a phone call that looks like it comes from our office (Spoofing of our phone number) or even written communications on what looks like our letterhead. In many cases you are told not to share the information with others, which is a major red flag. Be aware that we would never ask you for funds during an investigation.

The best way to make sure you are not being scammed is to call us directly on our main number (504) 568-6820 and ask to speak to the investigations department, or the person named in the written communication or who called you on the telephone. Do NOT use a web link or phone number from one of these communications. The board almost never texts our licensees about anything unless it is to answer a question and comes from someone who you already know. In most cases we communicate with licensees by a personal phone call, an email or via a letter. If you are unsure about the contents in a communication you receive from the board, call the main number and verify the source and the issue.

While the scammers appear to be endlessly inventive, one of the newest scams involves QR codes. The use of QR codes became more popular during covid when restaurants began using them instead of paper menus. Now they're everywhere. Unfortunately, in some cases criminals paste fake QR codes over the real ones or insert them in a text message. They use it to put malware into your phone, or to steal credit information if the code leads you to what looks like a legitimate place to enter your payment data. The board does not use them, and we encourage you to be careful which ones you use if you use them at all.

Updating Your Contact Information

All licensees should be aware that if you change your address or your email address, it is YOUR responsibility to log on to the LaMED DashBoard at <https://online.lasbme.org/#/> and make the change to your record. (You may also go to the home page at www.lsbme.la.gov and click on LaMED DashBoard) Board staff cannot do this for you. To make sure that emails and communication by regular mail are reaching you, please make a point of changing your contact information as necessary. **Please make sure that the mailing/user email field contains the email that you see and read.** Do not share your password for your LaMED DashBoard account; this is for **your** private use only.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

For licensees renewing for the first time: Most of our licensees, before renewing for the first time must take an online laws and rules course, available on CE Broker. At this time only CEPs, Polysomnographers, Perfusionists and PRTs do not have a course available. Physician assistants will be required to create a CE broker account in the next few months. PAs renewing for the first time will be required to take the rules and laws course there; all new licensees with CDS prescribing privileges will be required to post their certificates of completion on CEB to verify compliance with Act 76-2017. Click [here](#) for board approved courses

Online Laws and Rules Courses Currently Available

**Acupuncture Professionals
Athletic Trainers
Clinical Laboratory Personnel
Genetic Counselors
Occupational Therapy
Medical Psychologists**

**Midwives
Physicians
Podiatrists
Respiratory Therapy
Dispensing Physicians
Supervising Physicians**

For those of you who have never seen the rules for your profession or not seen them in a long time, we urge you to take the course. You will receive 1-3 hours of board-approved CE credit for it, which will automatically report to your CE Broker account transcript and will be counted toward your annual CE requirement.

Courses will be updated as required by regulatory changes and can be taken annually.

Questions/Comments? Something you'd like to see in the Newsletter? Email: Education@lsbme.la.gov