

NEWSLETTER



RODERICK V. CLARK, MD, MBA, PRESIDENT
RITA Y. HORTON, MD, VICE-PRESIDENT
LEONARD WEATHER, JR., RPH, MD, SECRETARY-TREASURER
WYCHE T. COLEMAN, JR., MD
JOHN P. HAMIDE, MD
LEONEL LACAYO, MD
KIM S. SPORT, JD
JAMES A. TAYLOR, JR., MD
TERRIE R. THOMAS, MD
CHERYL HAYES WILLIAMS, MD

Volume 38 Number 2

April 2026

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Spring is here, and the legislature is hard at work on new legislation for the state. As always, we are mindful of the needs and interests of our stakeholders and will report on the legislation of importance to licensees and others in our July newsletter, after the 2026 regular legislative session has concluded.

We are proud of what we have accomplished in the last year. You will be able to read about this in the annual report for 2025 which will be sent to you shortly.

We would like to caution our licensees to make sure that you are all using one of the three largest browsers (Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, or Mozilla Firefox) on your computer, and that you ensure that you have a recent version installed. It is extremely important to use one of these to interface with our licensing system, and to keep your version updated. This security interchange protects you and your data, and the board.

We will be rolling out our new initial application system over the next 8-10 months, starting with physicians. This will greatly expedite the time from submission of payment to the granting of licensure. We are updating other systems here to enable us to program more changes in-house to increase responsiveness to licensee needs and changes in regulations and data gathering requirements.

As always, if you have suggestions or comments to anything you see in this newsletter please write to us at lsbme@lsbme.la.gov, or education@lsbme.la.gov.

Best regards,

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr.

RULES ADOPTED OR PROPOSED SINCE JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Since the last newsletter, the following rules have been noticed or adopted. You can find updates on our website as the proposed rules go through the administrative rule-making process.

Rules Noticed

Chapter 46:XLV 6901 et seq. Obesity Medication The board proposes to amend its rules governing the medications used in the treatment of obesity. The proposed rule changes will clarify that the rules apply to physicians who supervise PAs and APRNs, update outdated language, require safety standards for compounded medications, and make typographical changes.

Chapter 46:XLV. 39 and 61 Medical Psychologists

The board proposes to amend its rules for the practice of medical psychology to conform to legislative changes regarding interaction with primary care providers, to add definitions, to make changes to continuing education requirements, to add completion of at least three years of clinical experience as a licensed psychologist to the requirements and qualifications for licensure, and to make minor typographical changes.

Chapter 46:XLV. 417, 418, 435, and 447 Physicians-Continuing Medical Education

The board proposes to permit physicians to obtain CME credit for service on a Medical Review Panel as approved by §437(B), licensees shall submit documentation in a manner established by the board.

Chapter 46:XLV. 25 & 55 Respiratory Therapists

The board proposes to amend rules governing the practice of Respiratory Therapists. The proposed rules update practice standards, amend examination and continuing medical education regulations, define terms, and correct typographical errors.

Advisory Committee Updates

In the fourth quarter of 2025, our advisory committees were quite active. The Medical Psychology Advisory Committee continued to meet monthly in October and November to refine its proposed new rules. Advisory Committees for Occupational Therapy and Physician Assistants met in November. Advisory Committees for Acupuncture, Clinical Laboratory Personnel and Respiratory Care all met in December.

As always, for information on advisory committees in general, and specific information on live streams of past meetings or agendas for upcoming meetings please go to our [Advisory Committees webpage](#).

PUBLIC BOARD ACTIONS, JANUARY 2026 - MARCH 2026

Below is a list of all licensees who were subject to a public board action, January - March 2026. (Board actions include notices of summary suspension, reprimands, probation, conditions, reinstatements, voluntary surrenders, etc.)

For further details on each of these disciplinary actions, please go to our [disciplinary actions webpage](#) and click on the additional documents pertaining to the named licensee.

Jessica L. Babineaux, MD – Consent order for reinstatement of unrestricted medical license, 3/30/2026.

Keri McFarlane Bentley, MD – Order for revocation of medical license, 2/23/2026.

Chelsea Erin Culpepper, LRT – Notice of summary suspension of Respiratory Therapy license, 02/26/2026

Johnathan Claude Cutrer, LRT - Order for reinstatement of unrestricted license, 02/23/2026.

Brian Allan Heise, MD – Stipulation and agreement for voluntary surrender of medical license, 2/23/2026.

Ebony Ayana Juakali, MD - Stipulation and agreement for voluntary surrender of medical license, 2/23/2026.

Elis Yngve Olson, MD - Stipulation and agreement for voluntary surrender of medical license, 2/23/2026.

Lloyd Phillip Ryan Leonards, MD – Consent order for reinstatement of medical license on probation, 3/30/2026.

Mahmoud Rashidi Naimabadi, MD - Order for reinstatement of unrestricted license, 02/23/2026.

Daniel Emery Parks, MD - Stipulation and agreement for voluntary surrender of medical license, 2/23/2026.

Aravinda Kurella Rao, MD – Board order for suspension of license, 02/23/2026.

Aravinda Kurella Rao, MD – Consent order for reinstatement of medical license on probation, 3/30/2026.

Matthew Michael Raspberry, MD – Order for reinstatement of unrestricted license, 02/23/2026.

Brandon L. Raynes, LRT – Notice of summary suspension of Respiratory Therapy license 03/05/2026.

Misty Ann Romain, OTA - Order for reinstatement of unrestricted license, 02/23/2026.

BOARD ACTIONS, cont.

Garrett Simoneaux, PA – Consent order for reprimand of license, 2/23/2026.

Correction: In the January 2026 newsletter, the consent order for Regan Terry, LRT was reported as an “indefinite suspension of license” when it should have read “indefinite probation of license.” The board sincerely regrets the error.

Licensee Responsibility to Keep Contact Information Up to Date

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, and that it does not go to the office manager or other personnel.** Do not share your password for your LaMED Dashboard account; this is for **your** private use only.

A reminder from the accounting department: We would like to advise licensees that accounts with overdue monitoring fees or fines (past 90 days) will be escalated to the Attorney General's Office for collection. Licensees are liable for all associated collection costs.

REMINDER FOR PHYSICIANS 70+ YEARS OF AGE:

NEW RETIRED/VOLUNTEER PHYSICIAN LICENSE NOW AVAILABLE

Effective immediately, the board can issue a new status of license to physicians 70 years of age and older, who still wish to practice and prescribe on a limited, volunteer basis. This license will cost half the cost of a regular unrestricted physician license. The CME requirements for this license are also one half that of a regular license: 10 hours annually.

A physician may opt for a "Retired Volunteer Physician" status if the physician holds an unrestricted license to practice medicine issued by the board and who has, prior to the first day of the year for which such renewal will be effective if the physician:

- a. attained the age of 70 years;
- b. attests that he or she will limit his or her practice to volunteer services without payment, pecuniary gain, compensation, or remuneration of any kind;
- c. attests that he or she will limit his or her practice to:
 - i. providing services to family or personal acquaintances;
 - ii. for no more than 20 hours per week, providing services at volunteer or charity clinics; or
 - iii. providing services through a foreign volunteer or charity medical mission program;

This status differs from the retired reduced fee (honorary) license the board has had for a while now which does not permit the holder to prescribe legend drugs nor practice in any way.

Practitioners who wish to obtain this retired/volunteer physician status must apply online via their LaMED portals and must attest to various conditions. Once granted, subsequent renewals are similar to the renewals process for the standard physician license. Physicians may apply for this status at any time once they are 70 years of age or older; this does not have to occur in the regular renewal month.

Physicians who meet the requirements and are interested in learning more about this licensure status should contact licensing@lsbme.la.gov.

Laws and Rules Courses

The board offers online Laws and Rules Courses for most of our practitioner groups. Occupational therapists are required to take the course every year. But all licensees can take the course pertaining to their profession annually and receive free board-approved CE/CME credit for the course.

Currently Available on CE Broker

Acupuncture Professionals
Athletic Trainers
Clinical Laboratory Personnel
Genetic Counselors
Occupational Therapy (Annual requirement)
Medical Psychologists
Midwives

Physicians
Physician Assistants
Podiatrists
Polysomnography
Respiratory Therapy
Dispensing Permits
Supervising Physicians
Telemedicine

REMINDERS FOR NEW LICENSEES

For those of you new to the LSBME, we want to make sure that you are aware of certain CME/CE requirements you must fulfill before your first renewal, as well as your ongoing required hours for subsequent renewals. You must set up an account on our electronic education tracker, CE Broker, if you have not already done so. **All coursework to meet your required hours (or for physician assistants your NCCPA certificate of compliance) must be posted on your transcript in CE Broker or you will be unable to renew your license.**

New licensees must take a Laws and Rules course on your profession before you renew for the first time, except for Clinical Exercise Physiologists and Perfusionists. You can find links to these courses on our [Continuing Education](#) page. Or you can search for them on CE Broker under the LSBME as the provider.

Those licensees who prescribe controlled substances (Physicians, Physician Assistants, Podiatrists and Medical Psychologists) have a one-time requirement per Act 76-2017 to take the **Board-Approved** course on the prescribing of Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) offered by Medical Interactive. Please access the course through our website. Click [here](#) for more information, or go to <https://medicalinteractive.com/lsbme> to enroll in the course. The course is free to all prescribers and course completion satisfies the statutory requirement. Prescribers can also be awarded 3 level 1 AMA CME hours for a fee of \$100. Those who are insured by LAMMICO will have this fee waived.

If you are a prescriber who filled out an exemption request form for this requirement because you were not prescribing CDS at the time but whose practice has changed, you are required to take the course. **Prescribers are also reminded that this requirement is for the prescribing of ALL CDS, not just opioids or schedule 2 drugs.**

How to create a free CE Broker account

1. Go to <https://cebroker.com/la/account/basic/>
 2. Enter your License number exactly as it appears on your license, "123456".
 3. Once you have an account, you can upload your CE or CME certificates.
 4. The courses of some content providers who are registered with CE Broker will upload automatically.
 5. Any Laws and Rules course taken on CE Broker will upload automatically and instantly to the transcript.
 6. You can also download the CE Broker app on your smartphone and use the camera to take pictures of certificates, if that is easier.
 7. CE Broker will track that you have met your requirements for your first renewal, or for yearly compliance with CE/CME with the NCCPA for PAs.
-
-

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