THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 18, 2026

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

A meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, pursuant to lawful notice, was convened and called to order, at 8:30 a.m., May 18, 2026, by order of the President, at the anchor location of the Board, 630 Camp Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Board Members Present:

Roderick V. Clark, MBA, M.D., President
Rita Horton, M.D., Vice President
Leonard Weather, M.D., R.Ph., Secretary-Treasurer - Absent
Wyche Coleman, M.D.
John Hamide, M.D.
Leonel Lacayo, M.D.
James Taylor, M.D. - Absent
Terrie R. Thomas, M.D.
Cheryl Williams, M.D.

Board Staff present:

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., M.D., Executive Director
Patricia Wilton, Esq., Executive Counsel
Lauryn Sudduth, Esq., General Counsel
Jacintha F. Duthu, Executive Staff Officer
Aloma L. James, Director of Licensing
Alan W. Phillips, IT Director
LaKenya Collins, CPA, CFO
Susie Allen, DrPH, MBA, Director of Education and Research
Michael Francis, M.D., Director of Investigation
James Tebbe, M.D., Assistant Director of Investigation
Lillie Rodgers, Investigations Program Director
Patricia Dufrene, Compliance Investigator
Darryl Albert, Compliance Investigator
Theresa Lockhart, Compliance Investigator
Angela Matherne, Compliance Investigator
Brittany LeBlanc, Compliance Investigator
Ron Cayette, Compliance Investigator
Joe Bonke, Compliance Investigator
Pat Tillman, Compliance Investigator
Jonell Deshotel, Compliance Investigator
Elizabeth Fallen, Compliance Investigator
Jamie Folse, Compliance Investigator
Noel Rome, Compliance Investigator

(1.) General Administrative Matters; Dr. Clark opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our country and the citizens of this state. Dr. Culotta read the LSBME mission statement.

At this time the President asked if there were any Public Comments.

. The meeting was called to order and Dr. Culotta did a roll call, confirming there was a quorum of 7 members present.

At this time Dr. Culotta asked the Board to add the Public Comments for the Obesity Rules to the agenda. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Williams, the Board voted unanimously to add this matter to the agenda.

(2.) Minutes of April 27, Meeting; The Board reviewed and discussed the minutes of the April 27, 2026, meeting. On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026, meeting, with amendments.

(3.) New Business; Request for Formal Exemption from In-Person Visit Requirements for Telehealth; The Board was presented with a request by Nzinga Harrison, M.D., Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer, Eleanor Health, for an exemption from in- person visit requirements for prescribing. A handout was given to the Board on this matter. No action was taken on this matter.

Public Comment was received on this matter.

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(4.) Follow-up Action Items; Proposed Updates to APRN Collaborative Practice[1]; The Board reviewed the proposed updates to the APRN collaborative practice. No further action was taken on this matter

(5.) Communication and Information; 2025 Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana (HPFL) Annual Report. The Board received the 2025 HPFL Annual Report from Felix Vanderlick, MBA, HPFL Executive Director. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

(6.) General Administrative Matters; President's Report; The President took a moment to recognize the hard work of Dr. Culotta and Mrs. Wilton for their expertise during this legislative session. The Board was updated on the Legislative session and the CLP and OT proposed bills. The President assured everyone that the agency would not be moving to Baton Rouge, and that language in the proposed bill was an insult to our agency. He also informed the Board that Mrs. Sport has resigned and thanked her for all of her hard work and wishes her the best in all of her endeavors.

(7.) General Administrative Matters; Executive Director's Report; The Executive Director Reported an update on the Legislative Bills relevant to the LSBME. He also informed the Board regarding AI in medicine and will bring back more information after consulting with subject matter experts. He praised the agency for running effectively and efficiently. The total numbers of open cases is low, the total number of days to license is low Overall the performance of the agency and its metrics are excellent, and he appreciates the hard work of the licensing and investigation staff.

[1] Dr. Hamide arrived during this matter.

(8.) General Administrative Matters; Director of Investigations' Report; Dr. Francis, DOI reported:

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION BOARD REPORT

April 1st – 30th 2026

Number of complaints received: 61

Percentage of Complaints Resolved within 7 days: 34%

Number of cases closed: 30

Total number of cases opened in April still open: 31

Total number of all complaint cases closed in April: 77

(9.) General Administrative Matters; Financial Report; The Board reviewed the financial report for March 2026. On the motion of Dr. Hamide, duly seconded by Dr. Williams, the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial report.

(10.) **Administrative Matters; Next Meeting Dates;** The Board reviewed the 2026 meeting dates. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

(11.) Rules and Regulations. Rules/Amendments; The Board reviewed the Rules Chart for May 2026 updates.

At this time a Public Comment was received from Ryan Hebert, CEO Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS), for an employment waiver under Act 646.

(12.) Added Agenda Item; Obesity Rules Public Comments; The Board reviewed the written public comments for the proposed rules in executive session for attorney advice. Upon returning to public session, on the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposed Obesity rules as written with the public comments taken under consideration and addressed.

[13.] Minutes of Executive Sessions. Upon the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Hamide, the Board voted unanimously to convene in executive session pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17A to receive and review the executive minutes of the Board's April 27, 2026, meeting. Following the review, the Board returned to the Public Session. Upon the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Horton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its April 27, 2026, meeting with amendments.

[14.] Report on Pending Litigation. Upon the motion of Dr. Thomas duly seconded by Dr. Lacayo, the Board voted unanimously to convene in executive session pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17A(2, 4 and 10), La. C.E. art. 508, and/or La. R.S. 44:4.1C, to receive and review the report of legal counsel on pending litigation to which the Board is a party, the unauthorized practice of medicine cases assigned for injunction, and the status of proceedings for judicial review of prior Board decisions.

Nancy Lynn Rogers, M.D. v. LSBME and Michael Francis, M.D., No. 2025-10384, Civil District Court, Parish of Orleans

Paula Pigford v. LSBME Civil Action No. 2:25cv02552 United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana

Birthmark Doula Collective, LLC, et al. v. State of Louisiana, et al. No. 755,217 19th Judicial District Court (Parish of East Baton Rouge)

Do No Harm v. Edwards, USDC-WDLA, No. 5:24-cv-00016 – JE,Jr. – JMH –

Susie Soe, et al v. LSBME, et al, CDC Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, 2024-00172

[15.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensee's request for a waiver of licensing requirements, namely ACGME accredited training in Agenda No. 05.00.01. Upon returning to public session, on the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Lacayo, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waiver.

[16.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensee's request for a waiver of examination attempts in Agenda No. 05.00.02. Upon returning to public session, on the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Lacayo, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waiver of examination attempts.

[17.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensee's request for a waiver of examination attempts in Agenda No. 05.00.03. Upon returning to public session, on the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Lacayo, the Board voted unanimously to the approve waiver of examination attempts.

[18.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensee's request for a waiver of licensing requirements, namely the SPEX in Agenda No. 05.00.04. Upon returning to public session, on the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Lacayo, the Board voted unanimously to waive the SPEX requirement.

[19.] Personal Appearances/Docket Calendar. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Horton, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Board convened in executive session to review the calendar of personal appearances and docketed hearings, as matters relating to investigations, the character and professional conduct of a licensee and allegations of misconduct, pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1), (4) & (10), La. C.E. art. 508, and/or La. R.S. 44:4.1C. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

Formal Hearing 24-A-006 was held with licensee via Zoom. The Board sustained the suspension.

[20.] Investigative Reports. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Hamide, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Board convened in executive session to consider the investigative reports as matters relating to the character and professional conduct of a licensee, and allegations of misconduct, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §42:17A(1) and (4). Following review and discussion, the Board resumed in public session as follows:

a. Summary Suspension: On the motion of Dr. Thomas, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Interim Action in the following matter:

Investigation No.	2024-I-582

On the motion of Dr. Thomas, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to accept the suspension of compact licensure in the following matter:

Investigation No.	2026-I-241

b. Extend Time for Preliminary Review: The Board considered granting a 90-day extension to continue preliminary review in the following matters and to authorize the DOI to request Executive Counsel to proceed with measures to enforce compliance with Board subpoenas where no response had been received within 90 days of issuance;

On the motion of Dr. Thomas, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve extending the following matters:

Investigation No.	2026-124
Investigation No.	2026-164
Investigation No.	2026-170

c. Consent Orders/Voluntary Surrender: On the motion of Dr. Thomas, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed consent order in the following matters:

Investigation No.	2025-I-236
Investigation No.	2023-I-742
Investigation No.	2026-I-058

On the motion of Dr. Thomas, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the voluntary surrender in the following matter:

Investigation No.	2022-I-679

d. Close/Letter of Concern/Enhanced Letter of Concern: On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve closing the following matter with a letter of concern:

Investigation No.	2025-527
Investigation No.	2026-88[2]

e. Close/Dismissal with No Action: On the motion of Dr. Williams, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve closing the following matters with no action:

Investigation No.	2026-178
Investigation No.	2026-179
Investigation No.	2026-76
Investigation No.	2026-234
Investigation No.	2026-216
Investigation No.	2026-150
Investigation No.	2026-192
Investigation No.	2026-124
Investigation No.	2026-237
Investigation No.	2026-164
Investigation No.	2026-170
Investigation No.	2026-199
Investigation Nos.	2025-712, 2025-713

f. Professional Liability Report: The Board voted unanimously to convene in executive session to consider the report on professional liability cases reviewed since the last meeting of the Board as matters relating to the character and professional conduct of a licensee and allegations of misconduct, La. Rev. Stat. § 42:17A(1) and (4). Upon returning to public session, on the motion of Dr. Williams, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to accept the May 2026 report.

g. Closed Case Report: The Board voted unanimously to convene in executive session to review allegations of misconduct pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. § 42:17A(4), as part of the closed case report. The Board returned to public session and upon the motion of Dr. Williams duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the April 2026 closed case summary report.

[2] Dr. Thomas is recused from any and all participation in this matter.

[21.] Rescinding of Consent Order; On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Hamide, the Board voted unanimously to rescind and replace the consent order in the matter of of Investigation No. 2024-I-687[3].

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Next Meeting of the Board. The President reminded the members that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 22, 2026.

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, conducted therein, held on May 18, 2026, and approved by the Board on the 22nd day of June 2026.

Leonard Weather, M.D., R.Ph,
Secretary-Treasurer

Roderick Clark, M.D., MBA
President

[3] Dr. Horton is recused from any and all participation in this matter.