THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 21, 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., September 21, 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
Wyche Coleman, M.D.
John Hamide, M.D.
Leonel Lacayo, M.D.
Noelle Montgomery
James Taylor, M.D. – Absent
Terrie R. Thomas, M.D. – Absent
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 – Absent
Michael Francis, M.D., Director of Investigation
James Tebbe, M.D., Assistant Director of Investigation
Lillie Rodgers, Investigations Program Director
Patricia Dufrene, 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

(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 8 members present.

(2.) Minutes of August 24, 2026, Meeting; The Board reviewed and discussed the minutes of the August 24, 2026, meeting. On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2026, meeting, with amendments.

(3.) New Business; Investigations Complaints Analysis: January 2025 – August 2026[1]; The Board reviewed the Investigations Analysis prepared by Dr. Susie Allen, examining all complaints resolved from January 2025 – August 2026. On the motion of Dr. Weather, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to accept the analysis.

.

(4.) Follow-up Action Items; Information re: Corporate Practice of Medicine; The Board received information regarding the Corporate Practice of Medicine. Also, how the public and licensees are notified of this information. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

.

(5.) Follow-up Action Items; DRAFT Notice of Intent (NOI) for Prescription, Dispensation and Administration of Medications; The Board reviewed the DRAFT Notice of Intent for Prescription, Dispensation, and Administration of Medications used in the Treatment of Non-Cancer Related Chronic or Intractable Pain. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the NOI.

.

(6.) Communication and Information; Letter to Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners re: Florida Decision to Add a Recognizing Agency to Its Advertising Administrative Rule. The Board reviewed the correspondence from Richard Hawkins, M.D. President and CEO of the American Board of Medical Specialties. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

(7.) Communication and Information; Letter to Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners re: Concerns of "Diploma Mills; The Board reviewed the correspondence on behalf of the American Osteopathic Association and 43 undersigned osteopathic specialty and state associations concerns of degree conversions where a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) may be converted into a Doctor of Medicine (MD). No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

(8.) General Administrative Matters; President's Report; The President reported to the Board that he attended the FSMB conference in Washington along with Boards from across the country to learn about Autonomous AI. He also reiterated on a positive meeting and collaboration with the Nursing Board.

(9.) General Administrative Matters; Executive Director's Report; The Executive Director reported that:

The Occupational Therapy Compact Commission (OTCC) met since our last board meeting. I am a member of the Rules Committee. And to date, there's been no change to the rules that affect our issues relative to the Criminal background checks that may or may not be done

[1] Dr. Coleman arrives at the meeting.

based upon the Commission's final ruling,
I met with the chairwoman of the Women's Health Commission, and we discussed
data that we can provide to her regarding locations of certain types of practitioners that may treat Women's Health. Not just OBGYN's and we are in the process of compiling that data for her. I also shared some information on programs to improve treatment of menopause.

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has a committee on alternative pathways that meet approximately every two months, we continue to be one of the pioneers in the area. We have now three people who have been licensed. Some states have more, but most states have less. And all of us are comparing notes on standardizing the types of data that we approve and do not approve. Specifically, credentialing under the concept of substantially similar to American licensing. Recall that this is for the fully trained foreign physicians.

Dr. Clark and I met with our counterparts at the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. (LSBN) and we found that we had more things in common than we thought. We're working with them to clarify what we're doing with the Collaborative Practice Rules and maintaining a database. Additionally, we worked with Ochsner to get legal permission from Ochsner to share the course that we developed with Ochsner regarding the Nutrition requirements for state licensure. The nursing board will use the same course. This benefits all of the nurses throughout the state not just the APRNs.

The Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee (OTAC) met. They addressed the issues pertinent to their practice.

The Respiratory Care Advisory Committee (RCAC) met. The committee discussed possible rule changes. They have also suggested the possibility of an advisory opinion versus simple letters of information regarding the wasting of medications, as we discussed at our previous meetings. I recommend we take the advice of legal counsel in this matter.

Dr Allen and I attended, by Zoom, the Perinatal Commission and on an annual basis we supply them with statistical reports on the locations of providers for Family Practitioners, Pediatricians, Obstetricians, Primatologists and Neonatologist.

Doctor Clark and I have been discussing AI, and we have sent Lauren Sudduth to a meeting in DC about AI. Doctor Clark attended a meeting with the AMA and the FSMB about AI. It is clear that people like Zeke Emanuel of healthcare reform fame are proposing AI agents replace primary care providers and he believes it is more cost effective.

Several Southeastern states executive directors met to discuss AI and the possibility of a uniform statement of position. We are working at this time, with Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and North Carolina.

Doctor Clark and I have been working out a plan to have a guest speaker at the next 5 board meetings on the topic of AI. I will continue to work with the execs of Southeastern states. Hopefully when we do things, we can say we know what other states are doing.

As we look at the evolving area of AI, one of the concepts that I think the Board should address is what is the practice of medicine. I propose the following statements that I think best address our concerns and look to your interests for possible tune up or improvement.

The practice of medicine is a healing art based on science in which one human provides care and compassion to another human in the treatment and management of acute and chronic disease.
An AI agent only provides healthcare as manifested by suggestions and recommendations for treatment and management of medical problems.

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

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION BOARD REPORT

August 1st – 31st, 2026

Number of complaints received: 64

Percentage of Complaints Resolved within 7 days: 35%

Number of cases closed: 28

Total number of cases opened in August, still open: 36

Total number of all complaint cases closed in August: 82

Total number of open cases as of August 31st, 2026: Approximately: 142

Not included: Administrative Complaints filed or Summary Suspensions: 11

(11.) General Administrative Matters; Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners Audit Report Final (Summary); The Board was presented the final Auditor's report by Griffin & Furman, LLC. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

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

(13.) Administrative Matters; Next Meeting Dates; The Board reviewed the 2026 meeting dates. The Board unanimously decided that December 2026 meeting will be via Zoom. 2027 Board Meeting Sates will be available for approval at the next Board meeting. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

(14.) Rules and Regulations. Rules/Amendments; The Board reviewed the Rules Chart for September 2026 updates. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr Weather, The Board voted unanimously to accept the report.

[15.] Minutes of Executive Sessions. Upon the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Horton, 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 August 24, 2026, meeting. Following the review, the Board returned to Public Session. Upon the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2026, meeting as amended.

[16.] Report on Pending Litigation. Upon the motion of Dr. Coleman duly seconded by Dr. Horton, 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

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

[18.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the request for a waiver in qualifications in Agenda No. 05.00.02. Upon returning to public session, on the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Williams, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request for a waiver of licensing requirements, namely ACGME accredited training.

[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.

In regard to Formal Hearing Adjudication File No. 25-A-004 for a rehearing , upon the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, the Board voted unanimously to deny the request for a rehearing.

[20.] Investigative Reports. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, 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. Administrative Complaint: On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Lacayo, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Administrative Complaint in the following matter for filing:

Docket No.	2025-I-148

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

Investigation No.	2025-72[2]
Investigation No.	2026-459
Investigation No.	2026-213

On the motion of Dr. Coleman duly seconded by Dr. Weather, the Board voted unanimously to close the following matter with an enhanced letter of concern:

Investigation No.	2026-428

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

Investigation No.	2026-542
Investigation No.	2026-570
Investigation No.	2026-519
Investigation No.	2026-610
Investigation No.	2026-611
Investigation No.	2025-I-171
Investigation No.	2026-558
Investigation No.	2026-559
Investigation No.	2026-607
Investigation No.	2026-495
Investigation No.	2026-609
Investigation No.	2026-480
Investigation No.	2026-578
Investigation No.	2026-452
Investigation No.	2026-549
Investigation No.	2026-291
Investigation No.	2026-259
Investigation No.	2025-721

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

d. 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 August 2026 report.

e. 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 Mrs. Montgomery duly seconded by Dr. Lacayo, the Board voted unanimously to approve the August 2026 closed case summary report.

Next Meeting of the Board. The President reminded the members that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 26, 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 September 21, 2026, and approved by the Board on the 9th day of November 2026.

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

Wyche Coleman, M.D.,
President