

THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 23, 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., February 23, 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. - Absent
Leonel Lacayo, M.D.
Kim S. Sport, Esq.
James Taylor, M.D.
Terrie R. Thomas, M.D.
Cheryl Williams, M.D. - Absent

Board Staff present:

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., M.D., Executive Director
Patricia Wilton, Esq., Executive Counsel
Lauryn Sudduth, Esq., General Counsel
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
Patricia Dufrene, Compliance Investigator
Darryl Albert, Compliance Investigator
Maya Ladmirault, Compliance Officer
Theresa Lockhart, Compliance Investigator
Angela Matherne, Compliance Investigator
Danielle Woods, Compliance Investigator
Ron Cayette, Compliance Investigator
Joe Bonke, Compliance Investigator
Pat Tillman, Compliance Investigator
Lillie Rodgers, Investigations Program Director
Melissa Jenders, Admin Program Specialist
Jacinta F. Duthu, Executive Staff Officer

(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 December 15, 2025; The Board reviewed and discussed the minutes of the December 15, 2025, meeting. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Horton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025, meeting, with amendments.

(3.) New Business; FSMB and FARB Dates; The Board received the upcoming 2026 dates for the FSMB and FARB Conferences. The deadline to request registration is close of business Friday February 27, 2026.

No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

(4.) Follow-Up Action Items; Request for Public Comment; Perry Fisher, M.D.; The Board heard from Dr. Perry Fisher regarding his license revocation. No further action was taken on this matter.

(5.) General Administrative Matters; President's Report; The President took a moment to recognize the hard work of Dr. O'Neill and wish him well on all his endeavors. Dr. Clark also sent his Condolences to Dr. Francis and his family on the loss of his Father.

(6.) General Administrative Matters; Executive Director's Report; The Executive Director Reported as follows:

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee (OTAC) met and new officers and members have been sworn in; The committee is fully functional for the year 2026.

The Medical Psychologist Advisory Committee (MPAC) has met twice, and they are finalizing changes they wish to make to their practice act. They will handle this with their lobbyist. This involves the removal of the psychometrician reporting requirement and a change for certification to an advanced practice license.

We met with the Acupuncture Advisory Committee (AAC). The current national certification organization has changed its name and the advisory committee recommended we change the law to reflect the new name. The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is now the National Certification Board for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine We are working to find a legislator to carry the bill to change the acupuncture law.

We met with the Genetic Counselors leadership and believed we had a solution to their dilemma and request. We are waiting for feedback from the employers of the genetic counselors.

METRICS

The final 2025 statistics for the licensing department are attached, and we continue to work to shift the curve toward zero day. The data for the investigation department shows great overall reductions

and the only concerning data is the length of time we extend for criminal matters.

The agency greatly appreciates the work Ms. Aloma James and Dr. Michael Francis have done this past year and I believe 2026 will be an even better year.

LDH

I was requested to present data to the workforce commission on several of our licensing classes and the 5-year trends in licensing. We reported the decreases in time granting initial licensing and the percentage growth (decrease) in those license classes. I was also requested to meet the new Surgeon General, Dr. Evelyn Griffin, who asked for more information which was sent to her. The surgeon general appears to be taking a strong interest in our agency and its successes in process improvements.

IT SYSTEMS

The back-office system upgrade is due to be completed in March 2026, and this will improve our ability to do more work in-house, improving our efficiency and cost.

The investigations system is still evolving, and Dr. Francis and IT are planning on new additions after the system upgrade.

We are at end of life on some of our core hardware and are moving to a lease of new equipment that reduces costs and keeps our equipment up-to-date and therefore our data safe and usable.

ANTI-TRUST PROTECTION PROGRAM

The new rate for 2026 has been released and it is now \$1.75 per license. Estimate for the total cost is \$66,641 dollars. Final numbers for 2025 are still pending.

MARDI GRAS

While activity has been slow during the holidays, activity is increasing for the remainder of year. The office has had lots of early closings due to parades during the last couple of weeks with shortened days.

READING MATERIAL AND NEW BRIEFCASES

I hope you enjoy your new briefcases, and I urge you all to read the enclosed book. It offers some interesting thoughts on the status quo in professional licensing around the country, and we may find some opportunities for change in our processes.

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

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION BOARD REPORT

December 1st – 31st 2025

Number of complaints received: 52

Percentage of Complaints Resolved within 7 days: 42%

Number of cases closed: 31

Total number of cases opened in December and still open: 21

Total number of cases closed in December: 95

Total number of open cases as of December 31st: Approximately 179

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION BOARD REPORT

January 1st – 31st 2026

Number of complaints received: 41

Percentage of Complaints Resolved within 7 days: 24%

Number of cases closed: 16

Total number of cases opened in January and still open: 25

Total number of cases closed in January: 20

Total number of open cases as of January 31st: Approximately 196

(8.) General Administrative Matters; Investigations Report July 2024 – December; The Board reviewed the Investigations Complaints Analysis from July 2024 – December 2025 by Dr. Susie Allen. No further action was taken or needed on this matter.

(9.) General Administrative Matters; Financial Report. The Board reviewed the financial report for December 2025. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, 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 February 2026 updates.

[12.] Minutes of Executive Sessions. Upon the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Thomas, 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 December 15, 2025, meeting. Following the review, the Board returned to the Public Session. Upon the motion of Dr. Weather, duly seconded by Taylor, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its December 15, 2025, meeting with amendments.

[13.] Report on Pending Litigation. Upon the motion of Mrs. Sport duly seconded by Dr. Taylor, 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

[14.] General Administrative Matters; Pre-Eligibility Determination; The Board convened in executive session to review the pre-eligibility determination of Agenda 04.00.01. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Horton, the Board voted unanimously to have the Executive Director send a letter to the applicant advising that solely on the information provided at this time, it is the decision of the Board that the criminal history would preclude approval of licensure at this time.

[15.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensees request for a refund in Agenda No. 05.00.01. On the motion of Dr. Taylor, duly seconded by Dr. Lacayo, the Board voted as follows to approve the refund:

YEA	NAY
Lacayo	Clark
Taylor	
Sport	
Thomas	
Coleman	
Weather	
Horton	

[16.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensee's request for a refund of the temporary permit fee in Agenda No. 05.00.02. On the motion of Dr. Taylor, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the refund.

[17.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensee's request for a waiver of licensing requirements in Agenda No. 05.00.03. On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waiver.

[18.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensee's Request for licensure in Agenda No. 05.00.04. On the motion of Mrs. Sport, duly seconded by Dr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to deny the request.

[19.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensee's request for an exception to telemedicine limitations in Agenda matter 05.00.05. On the motion of Dr. Taylor, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to deny the exception.

[20.] General Administrative Matters; Licensure Matters; The Board reviewed the licensee's request for a waiver of licensing requirements in Agenda matter 05.00.06. On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waiver request.

[21.] Personal Appearances/Docket Calendar. On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, 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.

[22.] 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. Opinion and Ruling: On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Opinion and Ruling in the matter of 2023-A-009.
- b. Administrative Compliant: On the motion of Dr. Taylor, duly seconded by Dr. Mrs. Sport, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Administrative Compliant filing in the following matter:

Investigation No.	2025-I-630
Investigation No	2024-I-126

- c. Initiate Formal Investigation: On the motion of Dr. Coleman, duly seconded by Dr. Lacayo, the Board voted unanimously to approve initiating formal investigation in the following matters:

Investigation No.	2025-609
Investigation No.	2025-577
Investigation No.	2025-525
Investigation No.	2025-870
Investigation No.	2026-34 ¹

- d. Initiate Preliminary Review: On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to initiate preliminary review in Agenda 07.04.06.

- e. Extend Time for Preliminary Review: On the motion of Mrs. Sport, duly seconded by Dr. Taylor, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Board approved 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:

Investigation No.	2023-740
Investigation No.	2025-111
Investigation No.	2025-200
Investigation No.	2025-102
Investigation No.	2025-132
Investigation No.	2026-2
Investigation No.	2026-5
Investigation No.	2025-721
Investigation No.	2025-864
Investigation No.	2025-757
Investigation No.	2025-869

- f. Consent Orders/Voluntary Surrender: On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, the Board voted to approve the proposed consent order in the following matters:

Investigation No.	2024-I-836 ²
Investigation No.	2025-I-681

On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, the Board voted to approve the voluntary surrender in the following matters:

Investigation No.	2025-I-016
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¹ Dr. Taylor is recused from any and all participation of this matter.

² Dr. Thomas is recused from any and all participation of this matter.

Investigation No.	2022-I-174
Investigation No.	2025-I-595
Investigation No.	2025-I-606

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

Investigation No.	2025-I-654
Investigation No.	2025-I-655
Investigation No.	2025-I-810
Investigation No.	2025-I-807
Investigation No.	2025-I-808
Investigation No.	2025-I-812
Investigation No.	2025-I-806
Investigation No.	2025-I-809
Investigation No.	2025-I-811
Investigation No.	2025-I-648
Investigation No.	2025-I-708
Investigation No.	2025-I-770

- h. Close/Dismissal with No Action: On the motion of Dr. Thomas, duly seconded by Dr. Horton, the Board voted unanimously to approve closing the following matters with no action:

Investigation No.	2025-739
Investigation No.	2025-729
Investigation No.	2025-740
Investigation No.	2025-732
Investigation No.	2025-617
Investigation No.	2025-747
Investigation No.	2025-753
Investigation No.	2025-711
Investigation No.	2025-745
Investigation No.	2025-803
Investigation No.	2025-802
Investigation No.	2025-781
Investigation No.	2025-780
Investigation No.	2025-748
Investigation No.	2025-722
Investigation No.	2025-718
Investigation No.	2025-749
Investigation No.	2025-716
Investigation No.	2025-863
Investigation No.	2025-850
Investigation No.	2025-792
Investigation No.	2025-845
Investigation No.	2025-594
Investigation No.	2025-733

Investigation No.	2025-782
Investigation No.	2025-819
Investigation No.	2025-887
Investigation No.	2026-6
Investigation No.	2026-1
Investigation No.	2025-859
Investigation No.	2025-752
Investigation No.	2025-731
Investigation No.	2025-830
Investigation No.	2025-347
Investigation No.	2025-839
Investigation No.	2025-882
Investigation No.	2025-821
Investigation No.	2025-833
Investigation No.	2025-881
Investigation No.	2025-779
Investigation No.	2018-1-768
Investigation No.	2019-1-1088
Investigation No.	2025-I-631

- i. 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. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, the Board voted unanimously to accept the January 2026 and February 2026 report.

On the motion of Mrs. Sport, duly seconded by Dr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to initiate preliminary review in the Code 3 case from February 2026.

- j. Report of Preliminary Review³: On the motion of Mrs. Sport, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, the Board voted unanimously to refer the following matters to the Board of Chiropractors:

Case No.	2024-320
Case No.	2024-321
Case No.	2024-322
Case No.	2024-323

- k. 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. Horton duly seconded by Mrs. Sport, the Board voted unanimously to approve the December 2025 and January 2026 closed case summary report.

- I. Licensing Matter: The Board reviewed the licensing issue 2025-I-512. On the motion of Dr. Weather, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted as follows to have the applicant make a personal appearance.

YEA	NAY
Dr. Thomas	Mrs. Sport
Dr. Coleman	Dr. Taylor
Dr. Lacayo	
Dr. Horton	
Dr. Clark	
Dr. Weather	

[23.] Probationary Matters:

On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted 7 YEAS 1 NAY to approve terminating probation in Agenda No. 09.01.01

On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve terminating probation in Agenda No. 09.01.02.

On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve terminating probation in Agenda No. 09.01.03.

On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve terminating probation in Agenda No. 09.01.04.

On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board voted unanimously to deny the application for licensure in Agenda No. 09.02.01.

On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board voted unanimously to deny reinstatement licensure in Agenda No. 09.02.02.

Next **Meeting of the Board.** The President reminded the members that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 23, 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 February 23, 2026, and approved by the Board on the 27th day of April 2026.

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

Roderick Clark, M.D., MBA
President