

**THE LOUISIANA STATE
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**RESPIRATORY THERAPIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE
("RTAC")**

**MINUTES
OF
MEETING**

**February 8, 2021
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

A meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, RTAC, pursuant to call of the Committee Chair and upon lawful notice, was duly convened and called to order at 10:00 a.m., February 8, 2021, by order of the Committee Chair, via Zoom Conference call.

The videoconference call was broadcast on Youtube with the link of Youtube being published on the LSBME website prior to commencing the public meeting. The Chair of the Committee advised the public that any comments can be emailed to publiccomment@lsbme.la.gov; verified the identity of all tele and video conference participants; and, ensured the meeting was clear and audible to the public and those on the tele and videoconference.

Members present were as follows:

Raymond Pisani, Chair
Ken Alexander
Sheila Guidry
Elizabeth Hamilton
Diana Merendino
Michael Nolan
Brett Stafford

Also present:

Dr. Vincent Culotta, LSBME Executive Director
Ms. Jacintha Duthu, LSBME Executive Staff Officer
Paula Pigford, LSBME Investigator
Ron Cayette, LSBME Investigator

- 1. Minutes of Prior Meeting.** Motion was made by Sheila Guidry, duly seconded by Brett Stafford and passed by unanimous voice vote, The minutes of the December 16, 2020 and December 28, 2020 meetings are approved.

2. **Old Business. Revisions to RT Rules:** The LSBME Board is finalizing rules and regulations for 8 other disciplines, and Dr. Culotta stated the RT rules and regulations will be coming up.
3. **CE Broker:** CE Broker is up and running for Respiratory Therapist. There are approximately 400 that have signed onto CE Broker. The LSBME has sent notices and the RCAC needs to continue to educate the community about signing on. It is free, however several had signed up for the paid subscription.
4. **New Business: Ms. Johnson and Ms. Cyprian had no new business to report.**
5. **COVID Pandemic Status and Licensure:** Dr. Culotta stated that the RT schools that had students with graduation upcoming, needed to have those students get set-up with their portal through the LSBME, so that when they completed their studies, the temporary license could be granted as soon as the application was completed and approved. The student could still be waiting on fingerprints or a test date.
6. **Vascular Access:** Letter from Calli Johnson, Hurst TX was sent to the LSBME requesting the Board look at adding more language to the licensure law regarding the placement and maintenance of vascular accesses devices. The letter referred to American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) and the Association for Vascular Access (AVA) in support of these changes in the scope of practice. Upon further discussion, the RCAC felt there was no need for change in our current scope of practice. On the motion of Ken Alexander, duly seconded by Sheila Guidry and passed by unanimous vote, the committee moved that the LSBME draft a letter to Calli Johnson stating that her remarks for vascular access were considered by the RCAC. At this time with the current language in the RT Practice Act for the allowance of vascular access by respiratory therapists, the RCAC did not feel any changes were warranted at this time for the care of our patients in Louisiana.
7. **IV's for vitamin infusions:** A letter was received from Shelly Ponville who is a licensed RT with a part-time job with an aesthetic clinic, questioning if starting an IV for vitamin infusions is covered under the license law for RT. The RCAC wanted more information on how this therapy is relevant to the practice of respiratory therapy. A motion by Sheila Guidry, duly seconded by Brett Stafford, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the committee agreed to draft a letter to Ms. Ponville requesting the additional information to assist the RCAC in rendering a decision:
 1. Please explain how this procedure and clinical administration of IV vitamins pertains to the practice of respiratory therapy in an aesthetic setting.
 2. Are there any respiratory related diagnoses that would be treated via this specific request. Ken Alexander to draft language for the letter.
8. **COVID 19 Vaccines (LSRC/AARC):** Sheila Guidry was requested by the AARC HOD to contact the licensing agency in the state to inquire about the ability for RRT's to deliver the COVID 19 vaccine. Ken Alexander stated that during the Governor's Proclamation with the State of Emergency that non licensed personnel were given the ability to deliver the vaccine under supervision. Dr. Culotta stated that RRT's were licensed and should seek Board approval. The other question to answer was the vaccine to be delivered by RRTs for independent programs or for the larger institutional vaccine programs. The committee agreed that it should be only for the larger vaccine programs. Mike Nolan made a motion for the LSBME to approve RRTs delivery of the COVID vaccine under the order of a physician. There was no second on this motion.

Ken Alexander made a motion for the LSBME to use the appropriate governance to grant licensed respiratory therapist the ability to administer the COVID 19 vaccine with the larger institutional vaccination programs during the public health emergency time frame. Diana Merendino seconded; no discussion; all present voted yes.

- 9. Other New Business; ACLS:** Brett Stafford reported that the American Red Cross is now offering the advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) classes. His institution is now accepting these courses in place of the American Heart Association. His employ was unable log the course on CE Broker, since the Red Cross is not listed as a sponsored organization. Diana Merendino concerns were if Red Cross was listed then individuals could take other Red Cross courses, i.e. Life guard courses, and claim credits. She also pointed out that with the new Rules and Regulations awaiting review the ACLS course was only given credit for the initial course and not the renewals. Brett Stafford said if that was the case this would not be an issue – it was a renewal course.

The current rule state that AHA or its successor for ACLS would be counted for the 5 hours CEUs. [Subchapter G. Continuing Professional Education. 2557. Qualifying Continuing Professional Educational Programs. B.2.] Raymond Pisani stated that the committee needed to research these new issues more and bring back information to the next meeting.

- 10. Next Meeting Dates: 02-08-21, 05-10-21, 08-16-21, 12-06-21**

- 11. Executive Session.** Motion was made by Diana Merendino, duly seconded by Brett Stafford, and passed by unanimous vote, to move the RTAC into Executive Session to discuss applications. The RTAC convened executive session to consider applications for licensure pursuant to La.Rev.Stat. 42: 17(A)(1)&(4).

1. Case #2020-125 Mike Nolan made a motion: RCAC recommends that the individual receive 3 years probation, extensive ethics training and a fine of \$500. Brett Stafford seconded; no discussion; all present voted yes.
2. Case #2020-675 Mike Nolan made a motion: RCAC recommends that the individual receive a letter of concern. Ken Alexander second; no discussion; all present voted yes.
3. Case #2020-673 Ken Alexander made a motion: RCAC recommends that the individual receive a letter of concern. Sheila Guidry second; no discussion; all present voted yes.
4. Case #2019-616 Ken Alexander made the motion: RCAC recommends this individual's license is suspended until they complete a psychological evaluation and have been deemed fit for work. If declared fit for work, the individual enter into a Board directed monitoring program. Second by Brett Stafford; no discussion; all present voted yes.
5. Case #2020-680 Ken Alexander made the motion: RCAC recommends this individual's license is suspended until they complete a psychological evaluation and have been deemed fit for work. If declared fit for work, the individual enter into a Board directed monitoring program. Second by Brett Stafford; no discussion; all present voted yes.
6. Case #2018-928 Mike Nolan made the motion: RCAC recommends extensive ethics training and 2 year probation; second Brett Stafford. No discussion; all in attendance voted yes
7. Case # 2020-1018 Brett Stafford made the motion: RCAC recommends a letter of concern. Second Mike Nolan; no discussion; all present voted yes.

Upon motion made by Ken Alexander, duly seconded by Mike Nolan and passed by unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct account of the proceedings of the Executive Session meeting of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, save for executive session of the Board conducted therein, held on February 8, 2021.

Raymond Pisani
RTAC, Chair