

**The Louisiana State  
Board of Medical Examiners**

**RESPIRATORY THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting**

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August 8, 2022

Virtual Zoom Meeting

A meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners Respiratory Therapy Advisory Committee, pursuant to lawful notice, was duly convened and called to order at 9:47 a.m., August 8 2022, via Zoom virtual video.

Members present were as follows:

Raymond Pisani

Shelia Guidry

Elizabeth Hamilton

Diana Merendino

Michael Nolan

Brett Stafford

Also present at the Meeting:

Vincent Culotta, LSBME Executive Director

Patricia Wilton, LSBME Executive Counsel

Jacintha F. Duthu, LSBME Executive Staff Officer

Olivia PeLong, Executive Program Specialist

Mary Peyton, General Counsel for LSBME

Susie Allen, Director of Research and Education

Phyllis Johnson, Allied Health Licensing Analyst Supervisor

Jozette Stamps, Licensing Analyst

Public Comments – Monique Culpepper

Meeting Called to order and Live Streaming began at 9:47am 8-8-22.

Quorum established.

Introductions of participants were made, and Ms. Culpepper will speak under New Business.

Raymond Pisani called for public comment at this time – no public comment.

Minutes of the December 6, 2021 meeting presented; Michael Nolan made a motion to accept and Brett Stafford seconded. No discussion and all RCAC members voted yes to accept. Raymond solicited for public comment – no comment.

New Business:

With the passage of the law that allows the RCAC to meet virtually, Ms. Wilton reported that the agenda and posting of the meeting with the agenda followed notice requirements.

Monique Culpepper from Slidell Memorial voiced her concerns of the lengthy on-boarding processes. She states there appears to be a breakdown in the process from State Police to LSBME and processing. She reported that she had several graduates from Mississippi applying for license; Fingerprints were completed on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, background completed May 7<sup>th</sup> and licenses were granted on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Mike Nolan commented that he knew from personal experience that the State Police are backed up in background checks and suggested that communications be had with the State Police to see if we can be expedited as front line personnel. Dr Van asked for name, DOB of individuals where there are issues. He will follow-up with Raymond Pisani.

Raymond Pisani asked for public comment – none given.

Rules Course – Susie Allen: Ms. Allen stated that currently there is a on-boarding exam that is given and must be passed prior to obtaining initial licensure. Ms. Allen stated there would be a new orientation course / exam to be created through CE Broker that would need to be completed with the first renewal of a license. There could be CEUs granted through CE Broker for this course – 2 hours of continuing education credit would be granted. The course is under construction and the RCAC would review and suggest any possible revisions prior to going live. Ms. Allen reported that the format would allow updates as changes occur. Diana Merendino suggested that this course could be administered annually for all licensure renewals.

Raymond Pisani called for public comment – none given.

Update on Rules and Regulations: Dr. Culotta

The rules and regulations are being updated and the LSBME is working hard to get this accomplished. Currently we must still enforce the rules and laws as noted. Dr. Culotta instructed the committee to review current requirements for licensure and if there were any updates that needed to be made, to get those in as soon as possible. Shelia Guidry commented that original updates were done over 3 years ago and that they would need to be reviewed again prior to being sent out for acceptance. Dr. Culotta stated that the RCAC would get the updated rules for review prior to any action.

LSBME has a portal for all new licensees and renewals. Dr. Culotta stated that individuals should be checking this dashboard for deficiencies when license process is delayed. If there is any question concerning this process, the individual should contact the LSBME for clarification. Diana Merendino inquired if documents were submitted, but did not meet standard, missing a seal or signature, would the individual be notified as to why that document did not meet standard. Ms. Wilton suggested that maybe we could create a website section for frequently asked questions or common deficiency errors made to assist with the education process.

RCAC feels with a little better communication, these problems would be easily rectified. It was noted that there still is a backlog for the RT licensure. Dr. Culotta stated that May, June and July were the busiest months and analysts were working on some weekends to assist with the backlog.

Raymond Pisani called for public comment – none given.

Current Committee and Personnel Changes: Dr. Culotta

All RCAC members must be approved by the Governor's Office.

The physician representatives must be members of the Louisiana State Medical Society and be a pulmonologist for critical care physician. One name has been submitted for this position as of today.

There is a position for a layperson from the Community that should be a non-respiratory. There needs to be a member from the Louisiana Hospital Association – the LSBME has solicited a name for Ken Alexander's replacement. The Respiratory Therapist serving on the RCAC must be nominated and name submitted by the Louisiana Society for Respiratory Care to the Governor's office.

Other New Business – none

Raymond Pisani solicited for public comment – none

Executive Session:

Beth Hamilton made a motion for executive session; seconded by Michael Nolan; no discussion all members voted yes.

Michael Nolan made a motion to end executive session and return to public meeting; seconded by Brett Stafford. All members voted yes.

A motion was made by Diana Merendino to have Dr. Culotta, Executive Director and Ms. Wilton, Executive Council send correspondence to the following as recommended by the RCAC:

(1) North Oakes Medical regarding the student respiratory therapy position: violates the RT Practice Act.

(2) Ms. Kathleen Warner request for further clarification of Section 2536 Restrictions Limitation on Examination.

(3) Ms. Eula Verret's request regarding duties of respiratory care practitioners in the pulmonary clinic and the need for hospital policy and training to be complete.

Raymond Pisani solicited for public comment – none given

Next BOD meeting time / location pending

Adjournment: Motion made by Beth Hamilton to adjourn, seconded by Diana Merendino, all present voted yes – meeting adjourned at 11:40am