

**The Louisiana State
Board of Medical Examiners**

RESPIRATORY CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

August 16, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting

A meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners Genetic Counselors Advisory Committee, pursuant to lawful notice, was duly convened and called to order at 10:00 a.m., August 16, 2021, via Zoom virtual video.

Members present were as follows:

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

Members absent:

Deanne Bingham
Judd, Shellito, M.D.

No Public Comments

1. **General Administrative Matters; Public comments; Meeting Order** Raymond Pisani advised the public that any comments can be emailed to publiccomment@lsbme.la.gov. Mr. Pisani verified the identity of all videoconference participants, and he ensured the meeting was clear and audible to the public and those on the tele- and videoconference.
2. **Old Business Minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting; Minutes of the March 18, 2021 Meeting:**
 - a. **February 8, 2021:** On the motion of Ken Alexander, duly seconded by Sheila, and passed by unanimous voice vote, The minutes of the February 8, 2021 Respiratory Therapy Advisory committee were approved.

- b. **March 18, 2021:** On the motion of Beth Hamilton, duly seconded by Sheila Guidry, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the minutes of the March 18, 2021, Respiratory Therapy Advisory committee were approved.
3. **Follow-up; Revisions to RT rules and regulations:** LSBME Executive Director, Dr. Vincent Culotta, reported that we are still in the work que, and he hopes this process is completed to be reviewed at our December meeting. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.
4. **Correspondence re: Scope of Practice Question, Shelly Ponville:** Committee had requested additional information from Ms. Ponville and has received nothing in writing. She is wanting approval to start I.V.s. in outpatient setting, aesthetic clinic. No further action was needed or taken on this item. On the motion of Ken Alexander, duly seconded by Diana Merendino, and passed by unanimous. The committee ruled that starting IV in this clinic for her purposes stated is not within the Scope of Practice for Respiratory Therapy since it was not related to directly to care given by RT's for cardiopulmonary issues. The RT Advisory committee requested that a letter from LSBME be drafted by Dr. Van for Ms. Ponville.
5. **Respiratory Therapy Scope of Practice; Covid Pandemic re: Licensure:** Statement from the LSBME regarding approval for RT's to assist in COVID vaccine administration was provided for the committee's view. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

6. **Licensing Supervisor Report:** There is no report at this time.
7. **Licensing Analyst Report:** There is no report at this time.
8. **Covid Pandemic Status re: Licensure:** Dr. Culotta reported that LSBME is still issuing temporary licenses. Dr. Culotta has not heard of any issues with fingerprinting or exam delays. He stated that the processes in place during this Emergency Declaration would continue. When the Emergency declaration has ended there will be a 90 day period to transition. During the 90 day transition phase there will be no more temporary licenses issued. No further action was needed or taken on this matter.
9. **Use of Nationally Registered Paramedics to Assist with RT services:** Ken Alexander stated that a hospital had inquired about the use of paramedics (nationally registered) regarding their scope of practice to assist with respiratory care services. Ken noted that these practitioners currently operate on a protocol basis or with radio contact with physicians in current job setting. These individuals can start IVs, oxygen and deliver medications per protocol or physician order. Their services have been used in Emergency Departments and could their services be utilized outside the ED in facilities that need assistance with RT services.

The committee has concern about ventilator management in which they are not trained sufficiently. The federal government is utilizing these individuals to assist with COVID healthcare personnel shortages. The committee does not have a problem with oxygen, breathing treatments,

etc, however, does not want paramedics managing the ventilators in an ICU setting. Ken responded that we cannot tell them what they can and cannot do but can report back to LSBME if the paramedics are found working outside their scope of practice. The practice of these individuals would fall to the facility medical staff to define their work environment. On the motion of Elizabeth Hamilton, duly seconded by Diana Merendino, and passed by unanimous voice vote the committee voted to have Dr. Van and Ms. Wilton to draft a letter in response to Ken Alexander's hospital request for the use of paramedics to assist with respiratory care services and report back to Raymond Pisani.

10. Future Meeting Dates: December 6, 2021

- 11. Executive Session:** On the motion of Elizabeth Hamilton, duly seconded by Brett Stafford, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Advisory Committee Board convened to consider their recommendations 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 Advisory Committee resumed in open session as follows:

On the motion of Diana Merendino, duly seconded by Ken Alexander, and passed by unanimous voice vote, approved the following matters:

- a. Granting a license to Agenda page number 14, with completion of 24 hours of CEUs within the first 6 months of being licensed
- b. Granting a license to Agenda page number 15, with 36 hours of CEUs to be completed within the first 6 months of being licensed.