

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition**

August 18, 2023

Attending:

**Martina Musmeci Salles, MPH, RDN, LDN, FAND, Chairperson
Monica Pierson-McDaniels, MS, RDN, LDN, Vice Chairperson
Jennifer Duhon, MS, RDN, LDN, Board Liaison
April Cintron, MS, RD, LDN, Board Member
Anita Ferdinand, MS, RD, LDN, Board Member
Marie Simpson, BSN, RN, CDE, Secretary/Treasurer**

Absent:

**Vacant, Consumer Member
Vacant, Medical Advisor**

Martina Musmeci Salles, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order and read the board's mission statement at 10:03 a.m. via in person meeting. Jolie Jones, Executive Director, and Luke Piontek, Legal Counsel, were present for the entire meeting. Marie Simpson joined the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No member of the public was present for the open meeting.

AGENDA:

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as amended to remove Complaint #2023-07 and replace with Complaint #2022-10 to Review of Pending Complaints in Executive Session.

MINUTES:

1. Meeting of April 21, 2023

Motion was made by April Cintron, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2023 meeting, as presented.

FINANCIAL:

1. Financial Statements for the months ended February 28, 2023 – May 31, 2023

Members of the board reviewed the financial statements prepared by Griffin and

Furman, through the months ended May 31, 2023. Monthly budget to actual comparisons are attached.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

1. Board Operations

The Board reviewed data by Fiscal Quarter for 2024.

The totals for FY 2024, Quarter 1 (7/01/2023-8/11/2023), are as follows:

LDN Applications Received	17
Provisional LDN Apps Received	4
Reinstatement Requests	6
Upgrade Requests	3
LDN Applications Approved	15
Provisional LDN Apps Approved	5
Reinstatement Requests Approved	5
Upgrades Approved	3
Renewals	N/A
Inactive Renewals	N/A
Delinquent Renewals	13
Delinquent Inactive Renewals	54
Verifications Requested	14
Abandoned Applications	5
Complaints Received	4
Requests to return to Active	0

2. Professionals Health Program Report

Board members reviewed the Practitioner Health Program Report for quarter 2 of 2023.

3. Executive Director Update

Jolie Jones discussed with the Board that an Emergency Rule was issued relating to Act 383, requiring the Board to allow disability accommodation requests for open meetings.

Jolie Jones shared an email from a licensee who indicated that she had an excellent customer service experience with Tracy Jeanmarie.

Jolie Jones also shared an email that she sent on August 4, 2023 to other state boards regarding the Academy's recommendation of narrowing the scope of practice to Medical Nutrition Therapy.

Jolie Jones recommended that the Board consider changing the renewal cycle to renew year-round on birth dates, instead of by June 30th. The Board is not prepared to make a change at this time.

4. Update on LAND nominations for LBEDN board member

Board members reviewed LAND's nomination letter to the Governor to fill April Cintron's position once it is vacated.

5. LBEDN Open Book Examination

Motion was made by April Cintron, seconded by Anita Ferdinand and unanimously carried, to create a committee to review the Board's Open Book Examination. The committee will include: Monica Pierson-McDaniels, Jennifer Duhon, and Marie Simpson.

6. Update from the Louisiana Regular Legislative Session 2023

Board members reviewed an update from the 2023 Regular Legislative Session.

7. Licensing Compact – Review of Proposed Language

Board members reviewed the proposed compact language during the public comment period. Jolie Jones recently attended a presentation on the compact and shared information received. The board is not comfortable moving forward with the licensing compact at this time, as there are too many unknowns.

CONFERENCE(S):

LAND

1. LAND Response Letter re: Practice Act revisions

Board members discussed the response received from LAND and will respond that the Board is no longer interested in pursuing Practice Act revisions. LBEDN is responsible for protecting consumers in Louisiana.

The Board would also like to provide an analysis to proposed legislation to licensees.

COMPLIANCE HEARINGS:

10:30 A.M. REANA WEAVER (Via Zoom)

Ms. Reana Weaver requested and appeared for a compliance hearing to appeal the Board's denial to issue her Licensed dietitian/nutritionist license. The Board denied Ms. Weaver's application for licensure based on information provided on the application indicating that Ms. Weaver worked as an Assistant Performance Dietitian from October 24, 2022 through the denial date of May 25, 2023, without the benefit of a valid license.

11:00 A.M. PAULA RUIZ (In person)

Ms. Paula Ruiz requested and appeared, with her Legal Counsel and Mental Health Counselor, for a compliance hearing to appeal the Board's denial to grant reinstatement of Ms. Ruiz's Licensed dietitian/nutritionist license. The Board denied Ms. Ruiz's application for reinstatement of licensure based on information provided on the application, which was submitted on February 24, 2023, wherein she indicated that she worked as a personal trainer from December 2000 through March 2, 2023, having held a Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist license from March 1, 1996 through June 30, 2012. Supporting documentation provided during the application process indicated: "I do not work as a dietitian on a daily basis"; "While I do address nutrition, it is from a public health perspective and not clinical nutrition services"; and "Once I realized my mistake, I

reached out to report my oversight and removed the term dietitian from my online information". The above information provided led the Board to believe that Ms. Ruiz may have practiced without a license and/or used the titles dietitian/nutritionist during the time that her license was lapsed.

11:30 A.M. LINZAY CHATELAIN (Via Zoom)

Ms. Linzay Chatelain requested and appeared for a compliance hearing to appeal the Board's denial to grant her Licensed dietitian/nutritionist license. The Board denied Ms. Chatelain's application for licensure submitted on April 23, 2023, based on information provided on the application indicating that Ms. Chatelain worked as a "Registered Dietitian" from February 13, 2023 through May 25, 2023, with the following duties: "perform[ing] nutrition counseling, nutrition education, and nutrition focused physical exams on patients with a cancer diagnosis who are going through chemotherapy and radiation treatment and/or other treatments", as well as "offering necessary resources, such as nutrition referrals", without the benefit of a valid license.

12:30 P.M. CAGNEY BROWN (Via Zoom)

Ms. Cagney Brown requested and appeared for a compliance hearing to appeal the Board's denial to grant her Licensed dietitian/nutritionist license. The Board denied Ms. Brown's application for licensure submitted on June 8, 2023, based on information provided on the application indicating that Ms. Brown worked as a "Consultant" in Louisiana, beginning April 21, 2023, which was later corrected to June 6, 2023. The duties listed were to: "Ensure standards and supports survey readiness in all accounts within the state regulations, develop and evaluate nutrition programs and menus, complete quality assurance audits, performance improvement, and policies and procedures manual", without the benefit of a valid license.

Motion was made by Monica Pierson-McDaniels, seconded by Anita Ferdinand and unanimously carried, to offer Reana Weaver a licensed dietitian/nutritionist license through a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing without a license to include successful completion of the open book examination, \$750.00 fine, public reprimand, to include notification to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/ Commission on Dietetic Registration Ethics Committee, and the National Practitioner DataBank (NPDB).

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to offer Paula Ruiz reinstatement of a licensed dietitian/nutritionist license through a Consent Agreement and Order for violation of title protection, to include successful completion of the open book examination, \$5,000.00 fine, public reprimand, to include notification to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/ Commission on Dietetic Registration Ethics Committee, and the National Practitioner DataBank (NPDB).

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Anita Ferdinand and unanimously carried, to offer Linzay Chatelain a licensed dietitian/nutritionist license through a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing without a license, to include successful completion of the open book examination, \$250.00 fine, public reprimand, to include

notification to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/ Commission on Dietetic Registration Ethics Committee, and the National Practitioner DataBank (NPDB).

Motion was made by April Cintron, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to grant Ms. Cagney Brown a Licensed dietitian/nutritionist license, based on her testimony and employer letter that she did not practice in Louisiana without a license.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by April Cintron and unanimously carried, to move into Executive Session at 2:30 p.m. for the following reasons:

to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person, provided that such person is notified in writing at least twenty-four hours before the meeting,

for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or any other matter now provided for or as may be provided for by the legislature.

Motion was made by Monica Pierson-McDaniels, seconded by April Cintron and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:40 p.m. to make the following motions:

1. Review of New Complaints

a. Complaint #2023-10

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to not accept Complaint #2023-10, as the Board has no jurisdiction in this matter.

b. Complaint #2024-01

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by April Cintron and unanimously carried, to not accept Complaint #2024-01, as this is an employer matter.

2. Review of Pending Complaints

a. Complaint #2022-06

Motion was made by Monica Pierson-McDaniels, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to forward Complaint #2022-06 to the Attorney General's office.

b. Complaint #2022-10

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Marie Simpson and unanimously carried, to send a letter to Respondents regarding the law and rules.

c. Complaint #2023-08

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by April Cintron and

unanimously carried, to forward Complaint #2023-08 to the Attorney General's office.

3. Review of Applications

Motion was made by April Cintron, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to accept and approve the applications for the **LDN License** for the following:

Boston, Karen	3612	Rivera, Cristal	3613
Thacker, Alessia	3614	Mack, Suzanne	3615
Taher, Lul	3616	Schwartz, Julie	3617
Simmons, Brittany	3618	Johnson, Abigail	3620
Carrillo, Ivan	3621	Lopez, Toni	3623
Nussbaum, Michelle	3625	Ferguson, Lauren	3627
Kellmann, Greta	3629	Greenblatt, Yael	3630
Tayar, Megan	3631	Antony, Jenny	3632
Rondinone, Sarah	3633	Pennington, Sarah	3636
Lees, Elizabeth	3637	Evans, Ashlyn	3640
Cherry, Payton	3641	Ozores, Barbara	3642
Braly, Kimberly	3643	Diaz, Zulley	3644
Jones, Kathryn	3645	Schapsis, Inbar	3646
Wassum, Kirsten	3648	Stark, Renee	3649
Rodgers, Emily	3650	Esposito, Patricia	3651
Brown, Casey	3652	Brown, Cagney	3653

Motion was made by Anita Ferdinand, seconded by Monica Pierson-McDaniels and unanimously carried, to accept and approve the applications for the **Provisional LDN License** for the following:

Scott, Katie	3619	Chatelain, Linzay	3622
Fondren, Kaaren	3624	Weaver, Reana	3626
Rigney, Reuben	3628	Haugh, Kennedy	3634
Williams, Jewel	3635	Abadie, Madeline	3638
Neese, Janice	3639	Geula, Sho'leh	3647

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by April Cintron and unanimously carried, to **upgrade** the following licenses:

Wesley, Jaimi	3431	Ragosta, Gianna	3567
Rodriguez, Anastasia	3485	Melancon, Janelle	3218
Campbell, Ashlynn	3342	Scott, Katie	3619
Geula, Sho'leh	3647		

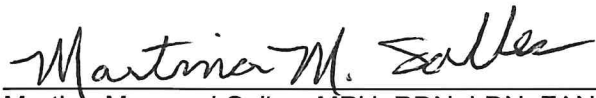
Motion was made by Monica Pierson-McDaniels, seconded by April Cintron and unanimously carried, to **reinstate** the following licenses:

Madden, Abigail	3243	Rugg, Amanda	3292
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Fata, Nicolette 3364
Colvin, Rebecca 2092
Pineda, Jessica 2093

Gradney, Kristen 2136
Bunger, Kristen 2810

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Marie Simpson and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 p.m.


Martina Musmeci Salles, MPH, RDN, LDN, FAND
Chairperson


Marie Simpson, BSN, RN, CDCES
Secretary/Treasurer