Minutes of the Meeting of the

Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition

April 24, 2026

Attending:
Monica Pierson-McDaniels, MS, RDN, LDN, Chairperson
Jennifer Duhon, MS, RDN, LDN, Vice Chairperson, Board Liaison
Terry Charles, MS, RD, LDN, Board Member
Martina Musmeci Salles, MPH, RDN, LDN, FAND, Board Member
Katie M. Vedros, MS, RD, LDN
Absent:
Marie Simpson, BSN, RN, CDCES, Secretary/Treasurer
Jamie M. Cochran, Consumer Board Member
Vacant, Medical Advisor

Monica Pierson-McDaniels, 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, was present for the entire meeting. Luke Piontek, Legal Counsel, participated in the meeting via electronic means. The meeting was open to the public via electronic means. Martina Musmeci Salles joined the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
No member of the public was present for the open meeting.

AGENDA:
Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Terry Charles and unanimously carried, to adopt the agenda as amended to amend 1. Financial statements through February 28, 2026 and add 4. Amend FY 2025-2026 Budget under Financials.

MINUTES:

1. **Meeting of January 30, 2026**
   Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Katie Vedros and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2026 meeting, as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Motion was made by Katie Vedros, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to move into Executive Session at 10:06 a.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 Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Terry Charles and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 10:24 a.m. to make the following motions:

1. **Review of Pending Complaints**
   a. **Complaint #2026-03 and 2026-06**
   Motion was made by Terry Charles, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to send a follow up letter to Respondent that the Board reviewed the website and appreciates the changes made.

   b. **Complaint #2026-04**
   Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Katie Vedros and unanimously carried, to send a thank you for response letter.

2. **Review of Applications**

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Katie Vedros and unanimously carried, to accept and approve the applications for the **LDN License** for the following:

Woten, Katherine	4145	Brown, Bracha	4146
Oettmeier, Laci	4147	Helscher, Tuesday	4148
Conyers, Emily	4149	Contri, Amelia	4150
Wu, Chun-Ling	4151	Coffin, Edward	4152
Caillouet, Melanie	4153	Mopsik, Marie	4154
LaRue-Greer, Elizabeth	4155	Lopez, Karla	4156
Hitchcock, Basema	4157	Campbell, Michelle	4158
Williams, Hope	4159	Cunningham, Anca	4160
Marroquin, Jordyn	4161	Obry, Anna	4162
Anderson, Nikki	4163	Steibel, Courtney	4164
Thiels, Kirsten	4165	Marchand, Michael, Jr.	4166
Harris, Stephanie	4167	Garcia, Angela	4168
Orr, Carly	4170	Honor, Holden	4171
Hannum, Brianna	4173	Miro, Alina	4174
Holmes, Rebecca	4175	Almgren, Rebecca	4176
Herron, Andria	4177	Devine, Sarah	4178
Hormachea, Sarah	4179	Venter, Carina	4180
Romo-Palafox, Maria Jose	4181	Aymond, Christin	4182
Evrigenis, Demetra	4183	Joseph, Macarra	4184
Hutchison, Alexandra	4185		

Motion was made by Katie Vedros, seconded by Terry Charles and unanimously carried, to accept and approve the applications for the **Provisional LDN License** for the following:

Ford, Jennifer	4169	Nguyen, Victoria	4172

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

Giangrande, Taylor	4140	Ponnappa, Joanne	4142

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Terry Charles and unanimously carried, to **reinstate** the following licenses:

Anderson, Deanna	2880	Brown, Brittinee	3730
Simmons, Raven	3743	Baker, Suzanne	1952
Rigney, Reuben	3628	Folks, Helen	1282
Lloyd, Beth	3310		

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

1. **Executive Director Update**
   Jolie Jones reminded board members to complete the required annual training and submit their financial disclosure to the Board of Ethics by May 15th.

2. **Board Operations & Geographical Data Table**
   The Board reviewed data for Quarter 3 of FY 2026, as follows:

LDN Applications Received	53
Provisional LDN Apps Received	7
Reinstatement Requests	7
Upgrade Requests	4
LDN Applications Approved	43
Provisional LDN Apps Approved	5
Reinstatement Requests Approved	8
Upgrades Approved	4
Renewals	0
Inactive Renewals	0
Delinquent Renewals	1
Delinquent Inactive Renewals	0
Verifications Requested	100
Abandoned Applications	6
Complaints Received	1
Requests to return to Active	0

The totals for FY 2026, Quarter 4, April 1, 2026 to April 16 2026, are as follows:

LDN Applications Received	14
Provisional LDN Apps Received	0
Reinstatement Requests	4
Upgrade Requests	0
LDN Applications Approved	11
Provisional LDN Apps Approved	2
Reinstatement Requests Approved	2
Upgrades Approved	0
Renewals	102
Inactive Renewals	4
Delinquent Renewals	4
Delinquent Inactive Renewals	0
Verifications Requested	32
Abandoned Applications	1
Complaints Received	0
Requests to return to Active	0

Geographical Data
The Board reviewed geographical data for all licenses, which indicates that the Board has 1,348 Louisiana residents and 612 non-Louisiana residents.

3. **2026 LBEDN Newsletter**
   Board members reviewed great feedback from licensees about the 2026 LBEDN Newsletter.

4. **Update from LBEDN Liaison to LAND**
   Katie Vedros participated in LAND's recent board meeting and stated that there was no update on the compact.

5. **Consider Dual Track/Adding CNS**
   Board members discussed the possibility of adding a dual track to licensure for nutritionists, as well as the possibility of adding licensure for Certified Nutrition Specialists (CNS). At this time, the Practice Act says only individuals with a bachelor's degree with a major course of study in human nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics, or food systems management and completion of a program of experience of not less than 900 hours supervised by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist or registered dietitian are eligible. Based on the Board's research, generally across the country, CNS' are not licensed, and are specifically not licensed in our neighboring states.

6. **Employee Cell Phone Stipend**
   Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Martina Musmeci Salles and unanimously carried, to provide a $35.00 monthly cell phone stipend to the Board's employees.

7. **Occupational Licensing Review Program (OLRP) Participation**
   Motion was made by Martina Musmeci Salles, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to participate in the OLRP Program, at the cost of $3,419.50.

8. **Rules Promulgation Update**
   The Board will postpone the promulgation of the rules until after July 1, 2026, for the OLRP program participation to begin.

9. **Review of Pending Legislation**
   There was no legislation directly affecting the Board.

COMPLIANCE HEARING:
11:00 KENDALL KNOBLOCH

Ms. Kendall Knobloch requested and appeared, for a compliance hearing to appeal the Board's denial to grant her Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist license. The Board denied Ms. Knobloch's Application for Licensure, which was submitted on November 8, 2024, wherein she indicated that she was employed or self-employed in Dietetics/Nutrition for Aveanna Healthcare, from July 12, 2021 to the present. Ms. Knobloch's notarized statement outlined her employment for clarification. The notarized statement indicated that as of August 2025, Ms. Knobloch was transitioning into a new role with Aveanna Healthcare as a Clinical Dietitian. When asked for further clarification on when the job as a Clinical Dietitian began in Louisiana, Ms. Knobloch stated "I started my remote clinical position in August 2025. I conduct nutrition assessments for patients residing in Louisiana – currently I am having a licensed RD in Louisiana co-sign all my notes. I am on maternity leave until end of January 2026." The above information led the Board to believe that Ms. Knobloch may have practiced without a license since August 2025.

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Martina Musmeci Salles and unanimously carried, to offer Ms. Knobloch a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing without a license from August 2025 to November 4, 2025.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **Email from Richard Santucci, dated February 25, 2026, regarding verifications of licensure**
   The Board will send a letter thanking Mr. Santucci for his input and letting him know that this is a part of the application process.

2. **Email from Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) dated March 17 2026, regarding continuing professional education hours**
   Board members reviewed correspondence from CDR about the Professional Development Portfolio.

CONFERENCE(S):

Regulatory Academy Workshop, Baton Rouge, November 13, 2026

Jolie Jones reminded board members and legal counsel about the Regulatory Academy Workshop that the Board is hosting with other boards on November 13, 2026. Monica Pierson-McDaniels will research how to provide continuing education through CDR.

FINANCIAL(S):

1. **Financial statements for month ended February 28, 2026**
   Members of the board reviewed the financial statements prepared by William Mercer, through the month ended February 28, 2026. Monthly budget to actual comparisons are attached.

2. **Professional Contracts FY 2026-2027**
   Motion was made by Martina Musmeci Salles, seconded by Terry Charles and unanimously carried, to offer Roedel, Parsons, Koch, Blache, Fontana, Piontek & Pisano, a legal contract at the rate of $225.00 per hour for a maximum amount of $12,000.00 for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

   Motion was made by Martina Musmeci Salles, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to offer a CPA contract at the maximum rate of $6,000.00 for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

   Motion was made by Martina Musmeci Salles, seconded by Terry Charles and unanimously carried, to offer Leah Rosa O'Donnell/Assurance Recovery a contract renewal for the Impaired Practitioners Program, for a maximum of $3,000.00 for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

3. **Board's Shared Percentage**
   Motion was made by Martina Musmeci Salles, seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously carried, to change the charge percentage between the Board and the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology from 75%/25% to 70%/30% for salaries and expenses. The Board considered the license numbers, as well as staff workload to assess the need.

4. **Amend Budget FY 2025-2026**
   Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Martina Musmeci Salles and unanimously carried, to amend the Budget for FY 2025-2026, as follows:

LBEDN Approved Budget 2025-2026			
		Approved Budget 7/1/2025-6/30/2026	Amended Budget 7/1/2025-6/30/2026
	Revenues		
	License Fees		

601	License Appl Fees - LDNs	$ 31,500.00	$ 31,500.00
601	License Appl Fees - PL-LDNs	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,500.00
610	License Fees - Upgrade	$ 1,300.00	$ 1,300.00
	Renewal Fees		
602	Renewal Fees	$ 108,000.00	$ 108,000.00
602	Renewal Fees - Inactive	$ 4,000.00	$ 4,000.00
608	Renewal Fees - Delinquent	$ 15,000.00	$ 16,000.00
864	Bank Charges	$ 9,000.00	remove
611 & 606	Interest (Checking & CD)	$ 1,500.00	
607	Mailing Lists	$ 100.00	$ 200.00
609	Open Book Exams	$ 600.00	$ 200.00
603	Restitution	$ 3,000.00	$ 1,750.00
605	Verifications	$ 9,000.00	$ 11,000.00
	Total	**$ 186,500.00**	$ 141,150.00
	Total Revenues	**$ 186,500.00**	**$ 177,450.00**
	Salaries		
702	Executive Director (20%)	$ 21,000.00	$ 21,000.00
702	Executive Assistant (80%)	$ 44,000.00	$ 44,000.00
	Total	**$ 65,000.00**	**$ 65,000.00**
	Related Employee Benefits		
703	Retirement (40.4% ER portion for 20% ED + 80% Exec Asst)	$ 26,000.00	$ 23,000.00
706	Health Insurance (20% Exec Director + 80% Exec Asst)	$ 8,000.00	$ 10,000.00
769	OPEB	$ 15,000.00	remove
708	Compensated Absences	$ 3,000.00	remove
705	Medicare	$ 850.00	$ 638.54
	Total	**$ 52,850.00**	**$ 33,638.54**
	Total Salaries & Benefits	**$ 117,850.00**	**$ 98,638.54**

	Expenses/Travel		
721	Administrative (in-state mileage)	$ 100.00	remove
722	Administrative (in-state other)	$ 50.00	remove
723	Board (in-state mileage)	$ 3,000.00	$ 2,500.00
724	Board (in-state other)	$ 300.00	$ 100.00
728	Board (out-state other)	$ 500.00	$ 100.00
729	Conferences/CE/Board Training	$ 2,500.00	$ 800.00
	Total	**$ 6,450.00**	**$ 3,500.00**
	Meeting Expenses		
740	Hotel, Food, etc.	**$ 2,000.00**	**$ 1,000.00**
	Total Travel & Meeting Expenses	**$ 8,450.00**	**$ 4,500.00**
	Expenses/Operating		
864	Bank Charge Fees/Merchant Fees	$ 10,000.00	$ 12,000.00
884	Equipment Rental (copier/storage)	$ 900.00	$ 700.00
853	Insurance - Liability	$ 3,000.00	$ 650.00
	Maintenance	$ 100.00	$ -
863	Miscellaneous (plaques, etc)	$ 500.00	$ 200.00
888	Office Supplies	$ 800.00	$ 250.00
902	Payroll Services	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00
859	Postage & Delivery	$ 100.00	$ 20.00
852	Printing (env, ltrhd, certifs)	$ 100.00	remove
858	Professional Membership/Dues	$ 200.00	$ 300.00
855	Rent	$ 6,750.00	$ 6,750.00
906	Rules Revisions + Licensee Notification	$ 1,600.00	$ -
862	Security	$ 150.00	$ 150.00
860	Telephone/Internet	$ 800.00	$ 800.00
861	Utilities	$ 500.00	$ 650.00
	Total	**$ 27,000.00**	**$ 23,970.00**
	Total Operating Expenses	**$ 27,000.00**	**$ 23,970.00**
	Professional Services		
901	Accounting	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
904	Auditor/AFR Prep	$ 600.00	remove
907	Computer - IT Consultants	$ 3,000.00	$ 4,500.00

903	Legal Counsel	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00
913	Scanning	$ 500.00	remove
	Total	**$ 21,100.00**	**$ 21,500.00**
	Total Professional Services	**$ 21,100.00**	**$ 21,500.00**
	Acquisitions/Equipment		
952	Computer Software/Database	$ 11,000.00	
953	Computer Software/DB upgrades	$ 5,000.00	$ 43,000.00
951	Office Equipment	$ 300.00	remove
	Total	**$ 16,300.00**	**$ 43,000.00**
	Total Acquisitions/Equipment	**$ 16,300.00**	**$ 43,000.00**
	Total Expenditures	**$ 190,700.00**	**$ 191,608.54**
	Total Revenue over Expenditures	**$ (4,200.00)**	**$ (14,158.54)**
	Other Assets (Cash in Checking & CD)	**$ 300,000.00**	**$ 350,000.00**
	Total Unfunded Liability (OPEB)	**$ 15,000.00**	**remove**
	Total Available Funds over Expenditures	**$ 310,800.00**	**$ 335,841.46**

Motion was made by Jennifer Duhon, seconded by Martina Musmeci Salles and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Monica Pierson-McDaniels, MS, RDN, LDN
Chairperson

Jennifer Duhon, MS, RDN, LDN
Vice Chairperson