



# LOUISIANA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN DIETETICS AND NUTRITION

## LBEDN Mission Statement:

Our mission is to assure the consumer of qualified licensed professionals. In pursuing our goal, we provide a process by which consumers may file complaints against our licensees or persons practicing dietetics/nutrition without a license.

## LBEDN NEWS

April 2020

### Licensing Updates

Renewals open on April 15, 2020.

2020 Licensure Renewal fees are as follows:

Active Renewal	\$80
Inactive Renewal	\$45
Delinquent Active Renewal	\$160
Delinquent Inactive Renewal	\$90

*If you fail to renew, and reinstate your licensure within the first fiscal year of lapse, you will incur the reinstatement fee plus the Delinquent Active Renewal fee.*

### Inactive Status

Inactive status may be granted to licensees who are retired or who did not practice dietetics/nutrition in Louisiana during the fiscal year, July 1-June 30, and do not plan to practice during the upcoming renewal period. Licensees on inactive status or who are retired shall not supervise individuals or otherwise engage in the practice of dietetics/nutrition in Louisiana unless and until the licensure status is returned to active. Licensees must pay the annual renewal fee and complete the affidavit provided at the time of licensure renewal.

In order to resume the practice of dietetics/nutrition, licensees on inactive status shall demonstrate completion of 5 clock hours of continuing education in the area of licensure for each year that inactive status was maintained. In addition, a letter requesting a change to active status and the appropriate fee must be submitted to the board office prior to resuming the practice of dietetics/nutrition in Louisiana. Inactive licensees who wish to return to active status at the time of renewal may do so by renewing as active, submitting the required proof of completed CE, and paying the active renewal fee.

### BOARD OPERATIONS

LBEDN continues to grow! We are continuing to see impressive numbers of new, reinstated, and upgraded licensees each fiscal year.

	07/01/2016 through 06/30/2017	07/01/2017 through 06/30/2018	07/01/2018 through 06/30/2019	07/01/2019 Through 03/31/2020
New LDNs	55	77	86	64
Reinstated LDNs	19	9	11	14
Provisional LDNs	29	22	30	18
Upgraded Licenses	19	15	26	20
<b>FISCAL YEAR TOTAL</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>116</b>

#### Helpful tip

In order to upgrade your license from Provisional LDN to LDN, please log into your Licensee Dashboard at [www.lbedn.org](http://www.lbedn.org). From your dashboard, select the "Forms" tab, then the "Upgrade License Process" tab.

You must upload a copy of your CDR ID card or passing exam report, and pay the appropriate fee.

***You must remain supervised until your license is upgraded.***



### Meet the Board

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

*Board Chairperson*

**Monica Pierson-McDaniels, MS, RDN, LDN**

*Board Vice Chairperson*

**Stephenie Marshall, MS, RDN, LDN, CCHC**

*Secretary/Treasurer*

**Jennifer Hightower Jackson, EdD, RD, LDN**

*Board Liaison*

**April Cintron, MS, RD, LDN**

*Board Member*

**Meghan Kavanaugh, APRN, FNP-C, RD, LDN, CDE, BC-ADM**

*Board Member, Nurses Association*

**Susan F. Julius, M.D.**

*Medical Advisor*

**Vacant**

*Public Member*

# Since you asked

questions from our licensees

## *Registration/Certification vs. Licensure: What's the Difference?*

RD, RDN, CSR, CSSD, and CSO are some of the certifications registered with CDR. PL-LDN and LDN are types of licensure regulated by the LBEDN. Registration and credentialing are not required to practice dietetics/nutrition in the state of Louisiana, while licensure is a requirement for the practice of dietetics and nutrition to ensure public safety. Because of the title protection in Louisiana, individuals registered by CDR may not call themselves a "Registered Dietitian", "RD", "Registered Dietitian Nutritionist" or "RDN" without holding current licensure.

## *Can LDNs write orders?*

LBEDN's law is in agreement with the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule, which permits registered dietitians (currently licensed as LDNs by LBEDN) to order patient diets independently, which they are trained to do, without requiring the supervision or approval of a physician or other practitioner. The LBEDN's Practice Act states that,

(1) "Dietetics/nutrition practice" means the integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of nutrition, biochemistry, food, physiology, management, behavioral, and social sciences to achieve and maintain client health through the provision of nutrition care services, which shall include:

(f) Within a healthcare facility licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health, ordering appropriate nutritional intake, including enteral and parenteral nutrition, and ordering appropriate laboratory tests to monitor the effectiveness of the dietary plan, subject to the approval of and authorization by the licensed healthcare facility's medical staff or bylaws.

Before the LDN (current with CDR and Louisiana licensure) is legally permitted to order patient diets or labs, he or she must either:

1. become part of the licensed healthcare facility staff or
2. be granted privileges by the licensed healthcare facility to order therapeutic diets or labs

*This MUST be written into the facility policy/procedures.*

Privileging is the process by which a hospital's medical staff individually evaluates each practitioner and determines that he or she has the qualifications and demonstrated competence to perform all of the specific tasks for which privileges are granted. LDNs may become privileged by the licensed healthcare facility to:

- (a) order patient diets
- (b) order lab tests to monitor the effectiveness of dietary plans and orders
- (c) make subsequent modifications to those diets based on the lab tests

## *Don't CDR and LBEDN do the same thing?*

The Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition (LBEDN) is a Regulatory Board whose purpose is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by providing for the licensure and regulation of qualified persons practicing the profession of dietetics and nutrition in the State of Louisiana.

To ensure public and consumer safety, the LBEDN reviews applications, academic and examination requirements, and licensure history to ensure that an individual is eligible to practice. The LBEDN accepts and reviews complaints about licensed dietitians/nutritionists, as well as individuals who are unlawfully practicing in the scope of a dietitian or nutritionist, or an individual who uses such titles. The LBEDN requires licensees to complete an annual renewal application, and to submit proof of continuing education hours to ensure that licensees remain competent to practice.

CDR is as a credentialing agency of the Academy. Its role is to serve the public by establishing and enforcing certification and Code of Ethics standards, and issues credentials to individuals who meet those standards. The Commission maintains a registry of credentialed practitioners.

CDR and the Academy support practitioner competence, quality practice, lifelong learning, and career advancement, and are committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy. The Academy provides expert testimony at hearings, lobbies Congress and other governmental bodies, comments on proposed federal and state regulations, and develops position statements on critical food and nutrition issues.

**While LBEDN and CDR both set standards for dietetic practitioners, the most important thing to remember is that the licensure board is not an advocacy group, and is not here to promote the profession or support the professional, but instead to protect the public.**

## *Can LDNs do Capillary Skin Punctures?*

Did you know that LDNs, even in private practice, are allowed to do capillary skin punctures (finger sticks)? A Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver License from the Health Standards Section of Department of Health is required to perform finger sticks, and allows LDNs to check things such as glucose, cholesterol, and A1C.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

## Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana

LBEDN is pleased to announce that the contract with Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana (HPFL) has been renewed for a second year.

As a licensure board, LBEDN is purposed with the task of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public by providing for the licensure and regulation of qualified persons practicing the profession of dietetics and nutrition in the state of Louisiana. Historically, this meant that licensees who struggle with mental illness or addiction would have been addressed via Consent Agreement and Orders.

### What is HPFL?

HPFL stands for Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana (HPFL). It is the primary role of HPFL to offer assistance to health care professionals who are in the program and advocate for them with hospitals, health plan networks, malpractice insurance carriers, licensure boards, etc. The HPFL offers assistance to licensed dietitians and/or nutritionists who may be suffering from illnesses that could potentially affect their practice. The HPFL monitors the professional and documents their progress in recovery. Professionals who undergo treatment and monitoring have a higher success rate of long term recovery.

Licensees may contact HPFL directly to gain help for substance abuse issues, depression, anxiety, mental illness, or addiction. If you suspect possible impairment of a dietitian and/or nutritionist, or if you have concerns for their safety or the safety of their patients, please contact HPFL. HPFL protects the identity of any person who makes a referral on behalf of a professional. Referrals can come from hospitals, colleagues, licensure boards, office staff, treatment centers, and family or friends.

### What is an Impaired Professional?

An impaired professional is an individual who is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients. Impairment could be due to a mental illness, substance abuse, or even a physical condition.

### Confidentiality

HPFL highly values the confidentiality of its participants. In addition, they maintain the confidentiality of those making reports concerning the actual or potential impairment of a health care professional.

Assistance offered by HPFL is confidential. For example, a dietitian/nutritionist who is experiencing a problem with substance abuse for which they have not been adequately treated or monitored, can access the HPFL without any obligation for the HPFL to notify the Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition (LBEDN). When the program is entered and completed, the licensee is not required to report this to the Board. Through the guidance of HPFL, licensees who find themselves with difficulties may avoid disciplinary actions by seeking help.

### Concerns which can be directed to HPFL

Concerns for which referrals are received include, but are not limited to the following:

- Being under the influence of mood altering substances while in the workplace.
- Excessive use of mood altering substances outside the workplace that may affect a professional's ability to practice with skill and safety.
- Mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety or other psychiatric illnesses.
- Workplace disruptive behaviors such as verbal or physical abuse toward staff or patients.
- Boundary violations or sexual inappropriateness with patients.

You may visit the Board's website, [www.lbedn.org](http://www.lbedn.org) for more information. There is a "Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana" tab located under "Licensee Info". You may also visit HPFL's website [www.hpfla.org](http://www.hpfla.org). **If you or someone you know needs help, please contact HPFL directly at (888) 743-5747 for assistance.** Early intervention could save someone's life.

## Contact Us

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## BOARD PRESENTATIONS:

Is your group interested in having a Board member present information regarding licensure law, board activities or related topics? The Board is interested in addressing your needs. We especially welcome the opportunity to speak with student groups, interns, and district associations. To request a presentation, please call or email Tracy at the Board office. We ask that you make your request three months in advance if possible. We want to meet with you to share about our law and rules, and to answer your questions. This process makes that possible!