

**LA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS
SUMMARY OF MINUTES
BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 15, 2026**

Members Present: Dr. Mark B. Kruse, President; Dr. Michael Traxler, Vice-President; Dr. Kelleigh Payne, Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. Shay W. Corbin; Dr. Denise Rollette; Mr. Rafael Azuara, Consumer Member.

Members Absent: Dr. James Morvant.

Staff Present: Patricia A. Oliver, Executive Director; Shellie Hebert-Schmidt, Administrative Assistant.

Legal Counsel: Amy Lowe, Attorney & Board General Counsel; Celia Cangelosi, Attorney.

Audience: Debbie Moore, DC, Picayune, MS; Baton Rouge, LA; Tim Chittom, CAL, Baton Rouge, LA.

Meeting called to order at 8:34 a.m., Dr. Mark B. Kruse, President, presiding.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None reported.

MINUTES REVIEW: The draft version of the **minutes** of the 12/11/2025 meeting was emailed to all Board members for review. Motion made by Dr. Payne, seconded by Dr. Corbin to ratify the minutes as prepared. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

INTEGRITY CHECK: No information reported.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT by Dr. Traxler and Dr. Rollette:**
 - Dr. Traxler and Dr. Rollette report that 1 new complaint was opened; 6 complaints were closed and 31 complaints are pending.
- **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Ms. Oliver:**
 - **Monthly financial Statement:** Ms. Oliver discusses report for December 2025. Motion made by Dr. Corbin, seconded by Dr. Payne to approve the report as prepared and submitted. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.
 - **CD Report** discussed by Dr. Payne and Ms. Oliver. Ms. Oliver will secure new CD rates and Dr. Payne will review for upcoming CD renewals.
 - **Financial Activity Log of Expense and Expenditures** was presented to and reviewed by the Board as well as all bank statements since the last meeting. All members reviewed the log and signed the cover sheet.
 - **Budget Review:** Dr. Payne notes the budget is good, has been received and reviewed.
 - **Cash Management Review Report** prepared by Ms. Oliver and presented detailed financial information for period ending 12/31/2025.
- **PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT:**
 - No activity to report regarding the **PR Committee** and/or any **PR review requests** received.
 - Dr. Kruse discusses his review of rules and specifically Section 701.D.2 regarding “**Peer Review school**” attendance by PR Committee members. Ms. Oliver reports an education video by Dr. Warren Jahn is provided to each PR member at initiation of service to the committee. This was deemed sufficient by past legal counsel and Board.
- **STANDARDS & PRACTICES by Dr. Traxler and Dr. Kruse:**
 - No activity to report at this time.

- **LAW & LEGISLATION Report:**

- Ms. Oliver notes Dr. Morvant telephoned the Board office this morning to state he would be absent today for the board meeting but would have the information regarding the proposed legislation regarding “preceptorships” language for the April board meeting.
- Dr. Corbin noted the “*Chiropractic Manual*” is stated as a reference, but perhaps this should be changed and/or updated. Dr. Corbin and Dr. Kruse to research new reference materials available.
- Ms. Oliver continues discussion previously noted regarding the **Federal ADA requirement** for all boards and commissions to be required to have **ADA accessibility** on all websites. The 12/31/2025 required report was filed and the next report is due on 03/31/2026. More info to follow.
- Ms. Oliver notes the required **rules review** report was prepared and submitted timely regarding **Executive Order JML 25-038**. No new info to report to the Board.

- **TESTING Committee Report:**

- Ms. Oliver notes request received for state board members as examiner/s needed for the May 2026 **NBCE Part IV administration**. Dr. Payne said she may attend.
- Dr. Payne will attend the NBCE **Part IV test development** meeting in February in Greeley, CO.
- **Testing report** handout given to the Board covering the period from 12/01/2025 - 12/31/2025:
 - 5 applications requested
 - -0- licenses issued
 - 2 new applications received, and fees paid
 - -0- applicants ready for an exam
 - -0- applicants pending background reports
 - -0- background information rejected by State Police/FBI
 - 1 application folders are incomplete
 - -0- application for Board review
 - -0- license pending issuance due to a lack of license fees paid.

- **ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT Committee Report (Kruse, Traxler, Payne):**

Current leave records of **Ms. Hebert-Schmidt** and **Ms. Oliver** were reviewed and approved by Dr. Payne, and the full Board present reviewed and approved the leave and payroll records of the two employees. Dr. Payne states paperwork and leave records are in order and properly documented and in order.

- **OFFICE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT:** Office activity/work product 12/01/2025 – 12/31/2025:
 - Phone calls received: 170
 - Licensure Application packets requested & mailed: 3
 - New Applications Received w/Fee: 2
 - New Applications Ready to Take Test: -0-
 - New Licenses Issued: 2
 - Complaints Filed & Opened: 5
 - Complaints closed without action: 1
 - Complaints closed with action: -0-
 - Complaints Pending: 32
 - DC license renewals received & processed: 259
 - DC license renewals returned as “incomplete” or “missing CE”: 22
 - Delinquent license renewal fees paid: 1
 - License verifications Requested/Reports Issued Via Mail: -0-
 - License verifications Requested/Report Issued Via Email: 174
 - New X-ray certificates issued: 31
 - X-ray certs renewed: -0-
 - Public records requests: -0-
 - Subpoenas received: -0-
 - Seminars reviewed: 16
 - CE locate requests received: 5
 - List requests received and processed: 3
 - National licensee alerts received and logged: -0-
 - Peer Review Requests: -0-
 - Dry Needling certificates issued: 2
 - Duplicate Licenses Issued: 4
 - Duplicate Xray Certificates Issued: -0-
 - Duplicate Renewal Vouchers: -0-
 - License Renewal Cards Purchased: 36
 - Blue Books purchased: -0-
 - Minutes Subscriptions: 1
 - “Travel to Treat” temporary licenses: -0-
 - # of Emails Received: 570
 - Xerox copies requested: -0-
- **GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE as received by Ms. Oliver:**
 - NBCE reports upcoming testing and annual convention dates for 2026.
 - FCLB reports upcoming annual convention date for 2026.
 - NBCE & FCLB proposed merger information received.
 - “Freedom of Information Act” request received relative to FCLB and NBCE involvement for time period of 2020 to 2025. Ms. Oliver complied with the request and provided the response to the Board.
- **SEMINAR REVIEW by Dr. Payne:**

No seminars were received in time frame of 12/01-31/2025 and therefore, no programs required full board review.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on **Board webpage** report given by Dr. Kruse, who reports more progress has been made by Net Shapers, the contracted company handling new website platform creation. Info for credit card payment has been initiated, and data tables have been built. Dr. Kruse will investigate the ADA compliance requirements for the Board webpage with companies who will be assisting other state boards with the compliance and share that info with Net Shapers.

It is discussed that the **webpage banner** should have information posted that “dry needling” education requires a the full course with minimum of 50 hours as follows: *“The intent of the Board rule LAC 46:XXVII.321 relative to “dry needling” is to provide for the safe application of “dry needling”. To this end, the training must encompass the full body education”.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Request received from **Ben Savoie, D.C.**, Lockport, LA, regarding termination of license suspension as he has complied with and completed all requirements. Motion by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Rollette, to discuss Docket 2024-01 consent agreement in Executive Session. Roll call vote: Azuara – Yes; Rollette – Yes; Payne – Yes; Corbin – Yes; Traxler – Yes; Kruse – Yes. With 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries unanimously.

(-----Executive Session-----)

Motion made by Dr. Payne, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to conclude Executive Session. Roll call vote: Azuara – Yes; Payne: Yes; Corbin – Yes; Traxler – Yes; Kruse – Yes. With 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries unanimously.

Request from **Kyle Smith, D.C.**, Slidell, LA., for an extension to obtain CE hours for 2026 license renewal. Motion by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to grant a 90-day extension from today to Dr. Smith to obtain approved CE hours. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

Request from **Dennis Gregory, D.C.** Columbia, MO, to waive CE requirements for 2026 due to serious health problems. Motion by Dr. Rollette, seconded by Dr. Corbin, to waive the CE requirements for 2026 for Dr. Gregory. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

Request from **Logan Authement, D.C.**, Thibodaux, LA, to approve the “dry needling” course he completed from Texas Chiropractic College. Motion made by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to deny the course approval since no documentation and/or review request has been sent to the Board. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

Request from **Austin McGraw, D.C.**, Denham Springs, LA, to approve the “dry needling” course he completed from Texas Chiropractic College. Motion made by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to deny the course approval since no documentation and/or review request has been sent to the Board. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

MINUTES – 01/15/2026

PAGE 5

Ms. Oliver notes a few agenda items received after the current agenda was prepared and posted. Motion made by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to amend the posted agenda. Roll call vote: Azuara – Yes; Rollette - Yes; Payne – Yes; Corbin – Yes; Traxler – Yes; Kruse – Yes. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

Request received from **Leah Humphries, D.C.** Lafayette, LA, to reinstate license. She has submitted forms, fees, and completed the background check and 37 hours of the 45 required approved CE hours. Motion made by Dr. Traxler, seconded by Dr. Payne, to grant reinstatement of Dr. Humphries' license effective today with extension of 90 days to get the balance of approved CE hours needed.

Ms. Oliver notes she has received correspondence from the Division of Administration regarding upcoming expiration of the **Board office lease**. The lease will expire in September 2026. Ms. Oliver directed to obtain price per square foot rental prices in Baton Rouge for comparison purposes.

Upcoming Events:

- Next Board Meeting – 04/16/2026
- NBCE Part IV Testing nationwide– 05/16-17/2026
- Xray Proficiency Certificate renewal deadline – 07/31/2026
- Annual license renewal deadline, 12/31/2026.

Motion made by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Payne, to adjourn. With no objections, the meeting is adjourned at approximately 9:51 a.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:51 a.m.

