LA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS
SUMMARY OF MINUTES
BOARD MEETING – APRIL 16, 2026

Members Present: Dr. Mark B. Kruse, President; Dr. Michael Traxler, Vice-President; Dr. Kelleigh Payne, Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. James Morvant; Dr. Shay W. Corbin; Mr. Rafael Azuara, Consumer Member.
Members Absent: Dr. Denise Rollette.
Staff Present: Patricia A. Oliver, Executive Director; Shellie Hebert-Schmidt, Administrative Assistant.
Legal Counsel: Amy Lowe, Attorney & Board General Counsel; Celia Cangelosi, Attorney & Prosecutor.
Audience: Marc Blankenship, DC, Dallas, TX; Robert Garrity, Attorney, Harahan, LA; Kimberly Trainor, DC, Metairie, LA; Ms. Lela Brown, Hattiesburg, MS; Debbie Moore, DC, Picayune, MS; Tim Chittom, CAL, Baton Rouge, LA.

Meeting called to order at 8:43 a.m., Dr. Mark B. Kruse, President, presiding.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None reported.

MINUTES REVIEW: The draft version of the **minutes** of the 01/15/2026 meeting was emailed to all Board members for review. Motion made by Dr. Morvant, seconded by Dr. Corbin, to ratify the minutes as prepared. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

INTEGRITY CHECK: No information reported.

<u>**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**</u>

- **COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT by Dr. Traxler**:
  - Dr. Traxler reports that 4 new complaints were opened; 4 complaints were closed and 29 complaints are pending.
  - Celia Cangelois brings a consent agreement relative to **Dennis Peyroux, DC**, Complaint # 1599, involving a federal conviction. Motion made by Dr. Kruse and second by Dr. Payne, to hold an executive Session to discuss the agreed settlement. Roll call vote: Azuara – Yes; Payne – Yes; Corbin – Yes; Traxler – Yes Morvant – Yes; Kruse – Yes. 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carries unanimously.
    (-----------------------------------Executive Session -----------------)
    Motion made by Dr. Corbin seconded by Dr. Traxler, to conclude the "executive session". With 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries.
    Ms. Cangelosi outlines the terms of the consent agreement which include payment of a fine, costs, suspension and probation. Ms. Oliver notes Dr. Peyroux has requested a payment plan be created to allow him to pay fees and costs owed while practicing chiropractic. Motion made by Dr. Traxler, seconded by Dr. Payne, to accept the consent agreement in Complaint # 1599, Dennis Peyroux, DC. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT by Dr. Traxler (cont'd):

- Presentation of proposed agreed settlement by Celia Cangelosi regarding Docket 2025-02 (Complaint # 1539) Kimberly Trainor, DC. Mr. Robert Garrity is Dr. Trainor's legal representative. Motion made by Dr. Traxler, seconded by Dr. Corbin, to hold an executive session. Roll call vote: Azuara – Yes; Payne – Yes; Corbin – Yes; Traxler – Yes Morvant – Yes; Kruse – Yes. 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carries unanimously.
  (-----------------------------------Executive Session -----------------)
  Motion made by Dr. Morvant, seconded by Dr. Corbin, to conclude the "executive session". With 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries unanimously. Mr. Garrity and Dr. Trainor request to be heard in "open session". Celia Cangelosi states complaint involved intimate sexual relations with a patient which lasted 13 or 14 months. Ms. Cangelosi notes terms of consent agreement offered as minimum 3 months suspension beginning 05/01/2026, payment of $10,000,00 fine, payment of $25,538.12 costs, successful EBAS (ethics & boundaries) assessment testing completion, psycho risk assessment and counseling. Mr. Garrity requests the suspension to begin 07/01/2026 instead of 05/01/2026. Motion by Dr. Payne, seconded by Dr. Corbin, to accept the consent agreement as presented and written. With 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries unanimously.
- Dr. Traxler notes **Complaint # 1608** relative to an uncertified employee who took x-rays in a chiropractic clinic while uncertified. Ms. Oliver notes the employee is now certified. Motion made by Dr. Traxler, seconded by Dr. Corbin, to offer a consent agreement to the employee and the licensee/employer of $350.00 fine each. With 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries unanimously.
- Ms. Oliver reports **Derrek Mart,** DC, has completed the assigned payment plan of fees due the Board regarding his consent agreement.
- Ms. Oliver notes information received from the LA Department of Justice for inclusion and participation in the **Occupational License Review** regarding complaints and disciplinary action. Ms. Lowe will secure and provide information on this subject.

- **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Ms. Oliver:**
  - **Monthly Financial Statement:** Ms. Oliver discusses reports prepared for January, February and March 2026. Motion made by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Payne to approve the reports as prepared and submitted. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.
  - **CD Report** discussed by Dr. Payne and Ms. Oliver. 2 CD's which matured in February were renewed at Dr. Payne's direction.
  - **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, there are no major expenses and no expenses out of the ordinary**.**
  - **Cash Management Review Report** prepared by Ms. Oliver and presented detailed financial information for period ending 03/31/2026.
  - Ms. Oliver provided the updated and current "**deposit trends**" monthly chart
  - Ms. Oliver notes information received from the LA Department of Justice regarding possible participation in the State **Debt Recovery Program**. Ms. Oliver notes the Board does not have debt to collect outside of legally binding consent agreements and therefore, it is the consensus that we do not need to participate in this service.

- **PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT:**
  - No activity to report regarding the **PR Committee** and/or any **PR review requests** received.
  - Continued discussion on utilization of **The Chiropractic Manual, 2nd edition**" in PR rules. Dr. Kruse asked Dr. Corbin to prepare language. Dr. Corbin presented a handout with language as follows: "*Treatment frequency and duration for spinal conditions shall be determined by the treating chiropractor based on diagnosis, clinical severity, chronicity, co-morbidities, imaging and examination findings, functional impairment, and documented response to care. For objectively supported conditions within the scope of chiropractic medicine documents should contain some form of measurable improvement or a clinically justified need for ongoing conservative management*".
    Dr. Kruse asks this subject to be kept on agenda for future discussion and assigned to Standards & Practices Committee.

- **STANDARDS & PRACTICES by Dr. Traxler and Dr. Kruse:**
  No activity to report at this time.

- **LAW & LEGISLATION Report:**

  - Dr. Morvant notes that **HB 796** by Dr. Joe Stagni for the Board regarding '**preceptorships**" has passed favorably out of the House of Representatives and will be heard in the LA Senate in the near future.
  - Ms. Oliver notes that HB 615 by Mr. Johnson is regarding the "**broadcasting of board meetings**". More information to follow.
  - HB 1049 by Mr. Owen regarding "**open meetings laws**" is in the legislative process.
  - Dr, Kruse notes continued discussion previously noted regarding the **Federal ADA requirement** for all boards and commissions to be required to have **ADA accessibility** on all websites. Dr. Kruse has secured new contract information to hire Cultivate Creative agency to bring the Board's new future website into compliance as "Netshapers" web platform company does not provide that service. Motion made by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Corbin, to hire Cultivate Creative for the ADA website compliance work. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

- **TESTING Committee Report:**

  - Ms. Oliver reports a review of an application for licensure is needed for **Applicant P-1-B** due to contradicting information on application and background check report. Motion made by Dr. Corbin, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to hold an Executive Session to discuss the application of Applicant P-1-B. Roll call vote: Azuara – Yes; Payne – Yes; Traxler – Yes; Morvant – Yes; Kruse – Yes. With 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries unanimously.
    (--------------------------------Executive Session--------------)
    Motion made by Dr. Corbin, seconded by Dr. Morvant, to conclude the executive session. With 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries unanimously.
    Motion made by Dr. Morvant, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to accept the new application submitted by **Applicant P-1-B**. With 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries unanimously.

  - Ms. Oliver notes Dr. **Payne** attended the NBCE **Part IV test development** meeting in February in Greeley, CO.

  - Ms. Oliver notes, due to schedule conflicts, there will be no LA board examiner participation in the upcoming **May 2026 Part IV** exam administration.

  - **Testing report** handout given to the Board covering the period from 01/01/2026 – 03/31/2026:
    - 12 applications requested
    - 15 licenses issued
    - 12 new applications received, and fees paid
    - 15 took licensure exam
    - -0- applicants pending background reports
    - -0- background information rejected by State Police/FBI
    - -0- application folders are incomplete
    - 1 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**,** who stated paperwork and leave records are in order and properly documented.
  Dr. Kruse notes the AO Committee composed of president, past president (vice president) and secretary-treasurer met earlier today and recommends a 2% cost of living salary increase to **Ms. Oliver** and **Ms. Hebert-Schmidt**. Motion made by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Corbin, to grant a 2% raise to both employees. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

- **OFFICE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT:** Board Office activity/work product covering the period of 01/01/2026 – 03/31/2026:
  - Phone calls received: 354
  - Licensure Application packets requested & mailed: 12
  - New Applications Received w/Fee: 13
  - New Licenses Issued: 15
  - Complaints Filed & Opened: 4
  - Complaints closed without action: 4
  - Complaints closed with action: -0-
  - Complaints Pending: 29
  - DC license renewals received & processed: 104
  - DC license renewals returned as "incomplete" or "missing CE": 12
  - Delinquent license renewal fees paid: 18
  - License verifications Requested/Reports Issued Via Mail: -0-
  - License verifications Requested/Report Issued Via Email: 485
  - New X-ray certificates issued: 5
  - X-ray certs renewed: -0-
  - Public records requests: 2
  - Subpoenas received: -0-
  - Seminars reviewed: 38
  - CE locate requests received: 21
  - List requests received and processed: 6
  - National licensee alerts received and logged: 3-
  - Peer Review Requests: -0-
  - Dry Needling certificates issued: -0-
  - Duplicate Licenses Issued: 1
  - Duplicate Xray Certificates Issued: -0-
  - Duplicate Renewal Vouchers: -0-
  - License Renewal Cards Purchased: 26
  - Blue Books purchased: -0,
  - Minutes Subscriptions: -0-
  - "Travel to Treat" temporary licenses: -0-
  - # of Emails Received: 1,757
  - 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.
  - More 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. Additional information requested. Ms. Oliver directed to respond as needed.

- **SEMINAR REVIEW by Dr. Payne:**
  38 seminars were received and reviewed in time frame of 01/01/2026 – 03/31/2026, however, no programs require 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.

Continued discussion on correspondence from the Division of Administration regarding upcoming expiration of the **Board office lease**. The lease will expire in September 2026. Ms. Oliver has area square footage quotes for office space leasing. The Board office owner, Mr. Charles Cramer, has contacted Ms. Oliver and will be submitting paperwork for the new lease proposal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr, Kruse discusses office and board meeting protocol. He reminds everyone any **board records** should be mailed, emailed or faxed to the Board office as the Board office is the official board document depository. Dr. Kruse notes the Board office staff should be notified when any board member will be **absent** for a board meeting.

Celia Cangelosi has submitted an amendment for the legal representation contract capped amount to be increased before the end of the fiscal year as the original capped amount of the contract has already been reached. Motion made by Dr. Traxler, seconded by Dr. Corbin to approve the contract amendment. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

Request made by Dr. Rollette, to discuss '**background checks**" for licensees, however, due to her absence, matter "tabled" until the next meeting.

Request from **Jennifer Sever, DC**, Metairie, LA, regarding "**peptide**s" in the scope of practice. Ms. Oliver will notify Dr. Sever this topic has been referred to the Standards & Practices committee for research. Committee will report findings as the next meeting. Ms. Oliver notes **Tyler Gravely DC**, Mandeville, LA, also made inquiry about "**peptides**" in the scope of practice.

Ms. Oliver notes neither Dr. Corbin or Dr. Kruse will be attending the upcoming **FCLB annual conference** at delegate and alternate voters in Atlanta, GA due to their schedule conflicts and further, Ms. Oliver stated she will not attend since she is not the voting delegate or alternate for either the FCLB or the NBCE business meetings and therefore she did not want to incur travel expenses to the conference.

Correspondence received from **Karen Carter DC**, Ponchatoula, LA, stating she did not renew her license for 2026 because of recurring health problems and multiple hospitalizations. Dr. Carter is requesting all renewal requirements for 2026 renewal be waived. Motion made by Dr. Kiruse, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to waive all renewal requirements for the 2026 renewal contingent upon receipt of Dr. Carter's medical documentation regarding her health issues. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

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; Payne – Yes; Corbin – Yes; Traxler – Yes; Kruse – Yes. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

Request received from **William Fey, D.C**., Sulphur, LA, regarding reinstatement of his license. Ms. Oliver notes all documents, background check report and fees have been received. Motion by Dr. Traxler, seconded by Dr. Payne, to reinstate Dr. Fey's license effective today. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

Request received from **Ned Martello, D.C**., Baton Rouge, LA, to re-issue a lost check for his Board per diem totaling $55.35. Motion by Dr. Traxler, seconded by Dr. Corbin, to reissue the check. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

Request from **Ron McMorris, D.C**, Livingston, LA, requesting the allowance of distance learning classes for hyperbaric training as there are no local adequate courses. Also, Dr. McMorris noted that Dec. 2019-03 should be rescinded. Motion made by Dr. Payne, seconded by Dr. Morvant, to rescind Dec. Statement 2019-03. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.
Board states the live, in-person class requirements will remain intact.

Ms. Oliver notes **SB 131** by Mr. Pressly was introduced relative to **limitations on recovery of attorney fees and costs in occupational licensing board disciplinary hearings**. Ms. Lowe asked to research, Dr. Morvant will contact Mr. Pressly about adding the Board to the list of agencies who are exempt.

Ms. Oliver notes directive received from **LA Office of Child Support Enforcement** to temporarily suspend the license of **Tammie Gibson, D.C**. , Belle Chasse, until notification of compliance of state child support payment directive from that agency. Ms. Oliver sent out the suspension notice to Dr. Gibson. Upon receipt of clearance from that agency, Dr. Gibson's license was released to return to practice.

Request from **Michael Goff, D.C**., Baton Rouge, LA, to terminate probation period. Ms. Oliver notes all requirements have been met and fees paid. Motion made by Dr. Kruse, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to terminate the probation effective today. With no objections, motion carries unanimously.

Ms. Oliver announces she is beginning the retirement process after 45 years' employment in various capacities with the State of Louisiana and specifically 39 years with the Board. The effective date of her retirement is not known due to paperwork and procedure to be completed with State Retirement and Civil Service. She stated she will continue to work until the retirement date however; this is her last board meeting, and she will not be present for the 07/23/2026 board meeting.

Upcoming Events:
- NBCE Part IV Testing nationwide– 05/16-17/2026
- Next Board Meeting – 07/23/2026
- Xray Proficiency Certificate renewal deadline – 07/31/2026
- Annual license renewal deadline, 12/31/2026.

Motion made by Dr. Corbin, seconded by Dr. Traxler, to adjourn. With no objections, the meeting is adjourned at approximately 11:12 a.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED 11:12 a.m.