

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 23, 2026, Thursday

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular board meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Chiropractic Examiners was called to order by Board President, **Mark B. Kruse, D.C.** at **8:32 am** at the Board Offices, 8621 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL & ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

- **Present:** Mark Kruse, D.C., Board President;
 - Mike Traxler, Vice President;
 - Kelleigh Payne, Board Secretary/Treasurer;
 - Rafael Azuara, Consumer Member;
 - Board Member, Shay Corbin, D.C.;
 - Board Member, Jim Morvant, D.C.;
 - Board Member, Denise Rollette, D.C.
- **Absent:** None
- **Staff Present:** Shellie Hebert-Schmidt, Administrative Assistant
Staci Brimer, Administrative Assistant
- **Board Legal Counsel:** Attorney, Amy Lowe
- **Audience:** Attorney, Morgan Johnson
Dale Rollette, D.C.
Ron McMorris, D.C.
Kimberly Trainor, D.C.
Ben Savoie, D.C.
Attorney, Robert Garrity
Tim Chittom, CAL

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Board President, Dr. Kruse made three formal calls for public comment. Hearing none, the Board proceeded with the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion:** To approve/ratify the minutes of the April 16, 2026, board meeting, that was submitted as a draft to all board members for review.
Moved by: Dr. Corbin | **Seconded by:** Dr. Traxler | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously.

V. INTEGRITY CHECK

Board President, Dr. Kruse requested any reports from Board Members. Following discussion, the Board reached a consensus to discontinue this agenda item, with the understanding that members must submit any issues for consideration before future meetings.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Monthly Financial Statements – April, May, June

The Board reviewed the monthly financial reports which were prepared by the Executive Director, Patricia Oliver, prior to her last working day in the office. The Board reviewed the financial statements, and a motion was made to accept the statements as presented

- **Motion:** To approve financial statements for April, May and June

Moved by: Dr. Corbin | **Seconded by:** Dr. Morvant | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously.

B. Expenditure Log Review (April 1 – June 30)

The Board reviewed the Expenditure Log for the period of April 1 through June 30, as required by the auditors. Board members completed their review and signed the log as mandated.

C. CD Reporting

Dr. Payne, Board Secretary-Treasurer, assigned to monitor the Board's certificates of deposit reported that one CD will reach maturity in August. She stated that she will instruct the Board office to obtain rate information from additional financial institutions so she can compare options and determine whether it is more advantageous to renew the CD with the current institution or move it elsewhere.

D. Budget Review

Dr. Payne, Board Secretary-Treasurer reported that she reviewed the Board's expenditures and account activity to ensure spending remains within the approved budget categories. She stated that all items are in order and that current expenditure is within the budgeted amounts.

Dr. Kruse, Board President noted that, as part of ongoing efforts to upgrade the office, Ms. Schmidt, per his directive, has coordinated with the landlord, who will be painting the office and removing the old carpet to install new flooring. He further requested a list of items within the office in need of upgrading. Ms. Schmidt will prepare and provide a list of recommended items along with pricing.

E. Deposit Trends

The Board reviewed the spreadsheet reflecting year-to-year monthly deposit trends. The Board President stated that this item should be removed from future agendas. He requested that Ms. Schmidt continue maintaining the deposit log and provide the information to Board members upon request.

VII. CONDUCT & COMPLIANCE MATTERS

A. Complaints & Disciplinary Actions

The Complaint Chair presented his complaint report, noting 4 open matters, 7 closed, and 2 pending

Complaint #1615: The Complaint Chairman, Dr. Traxler presented a case involving unlicensed practice and recommended a consent agreement imposing a \$5000 fine.

- **Motion by Dr. Traxler:** To accept his recommendation to approve the consent agreement as presented.
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Rollette | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

Complaint #1608: The Complaint Chairman, Dr. Traxler presented a case involving uncertified x-ray technician in the chiropractic clinic and recommended a consent agreement imposing a \$750 fine.

- **Motion by Dr. Traxler:** To accept his recommendation to approve the consent agreement as presented.
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Payne | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

Complaint #1609: The Complaint Chairman, Dr. Traxler presented a case involving unprofessional conduct for not allowing a service dog on the premises and recommended a consent agreement imposing a \$250 fine.

- **Motion by Dr. Traxler:** To accept his recommendation to approve the consent agreement as presented.
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Kruse | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

Complaint #1612: Because the Complaint Committee had a conflict of interest, Dr. Kruse assumed responsibility for handling this complaint. Given the nature of the violations and the respondent's failure to appear for scheduled informal proceedings, the Board directed that the complaint be moved to a formal hearing. He recommends moving to a formal hearing and will have the attorney draft the formal hearing notice.

- **Motion by Dr. Kruse:** To accept his recommendation to approve moving forward to a formal hearing.
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Traxler | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

B. Regulatory Compliance Matters

- Our attorney, Ms. Amy Lowe, provided an overview of the **Louisiana Occupational Licensing Review Program** under La. R.S. 49:260. She explained that participation in the program is voluntary and is intended to provide active state supervision to protect licensing boards from federal antitrust exposure. She further advised that if the Board chooses not to participate in the OLRP training, it must instead adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Board Compliance Act (R.S. 37:41–47). She noted that annual antitrust training is available, and Ms. Lowe will coordinate with Ms. Schmidt to schedule training for a future board meeting. Following her explanation a motion was made.
- **Motion by Dr. Kruse:** Not to participate in the OLRP training
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Traxler | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

C. Peer Review Reports

- No peer review cases were submitted for review

V. Chiropractic Practices and Standards

A. LAC 46:XXVII.702 – Standards of Practice Review 2nd Edition Chiropractic Manual

- The Board discussed the agenda item regarding LAC 46:XXVII.702. Two board members had been assigned to review the rule but were unable to complete their review prior to the meeting. The Board President requested that this item be held over and placed on the agenda for the next meeting

B. Peptides – Scope Inquiry

- The Board received two scope-of-practice inquiries regarding whether peptides fall within chiropractic practice. The Board discussed the matter and determined that additional research is needed to evaluate whether peptides should be classified as a drug or a non-drug substance. The Board President requested that this item be held over and placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Ms. Schmidt was instructed to notify the two individuals who submitted the inquiries that the Board is still reviewing the matter and will provide a decision once the review is complete.

VI. LAW & LEGISLATION – Updates provide by the Law & Legislation Committee

A. HB 796 – Preceptorships (Board Bill) (Dr. Joe Stagni) – Update -

The Board received an update on HB 796, the Board's preceptorship bill, which passed the Legislature and has been enacted into law. The Board noted the Act's (ACT 840) effective 8/01/2026 and acknowledged that implementation steps are underway.

B. Preceptorship Act – Guidelines, Policies, and Applications-

- Dr. Corbin and the Board Attorney, Ms. Lowe presented the drafted guidelines, policies, and application materials required for implementation of the Preceptorship Act.
- **Motion by Dr. Kruse:** To accept the drafted materials as presented.
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Traxler | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

A motion was made and passed to accept the drafted materials as presented. The Board President directed Ms. Schmidt to assist Dr. Corbin in creating the finalized application forms, which will be posted on the Board's new website once completed.

C. HB 615 -- Broadcasting of Board Meetings (Mr. Mike Johnson) – Update

An update on HB615 Public Meetings; Live Broadcast Requirement would require certain public bodies to broadcast their meetings live and maintain accessible video archives. The bill remains pending in the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs.

D. SB 131 – Mr. Pressly – Recovery of Attorney Fees- Update

An update on SB 131, Limitations on Attorney Fees in Licensing Board Disciplinary Hearings provides limitations on when occupational licensing boards may recover attorney fees and costs in disciplinary proceedings. The bill has been enacted as Act No. 939, becoming law without the Governor's signature, with an effective date of August 1, 2026.

E. HB 1049 – Mr. Owen – Open Meetings Law – Update

An update for HB 1049, on Open Meetings Law, by clarifying requirements for public bodies, including provisions related to meeting procedures, public access, and compliance expectations. The Act will go into effect as of August 1, 2026.

F. HB 423 – Mr. Lacombe – Display of Licenses – Update

An update on HB 423, which establishes clear requirements for healthcare professionals to display their licensure in a manner visible to the public and to accurately identify their credentials in all forms of advertising, including digital platforms. The bill strengthens consumer protection by prohibiting misleading use of titles such as 'Doctor' without proper clarification of the practitioner's degree or licensure type. It further authorizes enforcement actions and penalties for misrepresentation under the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law. HB 423 has been enacted as Act 362 and will go into effect August 1, 2026.

G. ADA Compliance for Board Website

Dr. Kruse, the Board President reported that he will be entering in a contract with Cultivate, which was approved for him to do so at the last board meeting, to complete ADA compliance for the Board's website, which is approximately 99% finished. The service includes a one-time fee of \$1,785 and an annual maintenance fee of \$295 to keep the site in compliance. Under the DOJ's final ADA Title II web-accessibility rule, our compliance deadline is **April 26, 2028**, for public entities serving under 50,000 people.

VII. TESTING – Examination Summary Report

Ms. Schmidt prepared the Testing Report, and it was read into the record by Dr. Kruse, the Board President. All items contained in the report were read aloud and entered into the minutes. The results read in that report are as follows:

- 23 -New Applications Requested
- 11- New Application Received
- 9 – Completed Board Examination
- 1 – Application Pending Statutory Items
- 9 – License Issued

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

Employee Leave Time

Dr. Payne, Secretary-Treasurer, has reviewed all employee leave records for Ms. Patricia Oliver and Ms. Shelly Hebert-Schmidt and reported that all leave time has been reviewed, verified, and found to be in order. She has signed off on the leave records, and they are available for any Board Member to review upon request.

Administrative Update – Former Executive Director

Since the last meeting in which Ms. Oliver announced that she was beginning the retirement process, Dr. Kruse, the Board President entered the following information into the record: Ms. Oliver's last working day in the office was **July 15, 2026 (Friday)**. She utilized two weeks of leave time through **August 2, 2026**, and her official retirement date with the State of Louisiana is **August 3, 2026**.

Executive Director Open Position

Dr. Kruse, the Board President reported that, following discussion among himself and the two Board officers and with guidance from the Board's attorney, the position of Executive Director was offered to **Ms. Shelly Hebert-Schmidt** at a salary of **\$75,000**, effective **July 18, 2026**.

- **Motion by Dr. Traxler:** To accept the hiring of Ms. Shelly Hebert-Schmidt as the new Executive Director
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Corbin | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

Administrative Assistant Appointment

The Board President reported that, following discussion among himself and the two Board officers and with guidance from the Board's attorney, the Administrative Assistant position was offered to **Ms. Staci Brimer** at a salary of **\$40,000**, effective **July 20, 2026**

- **Motion by Dr. Corbin:** To accept the hiring of Ms. Staci Brimer as the new Administrative Assistant
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Traxler | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

IX. PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

The Board President read the prepared Performance Indicator Report, which summarizes all work completed at the Board office for the period of April through June 30. The detailed items are listed below.

- Phone Calls – 289
- Paid Applications – 11
- New Open Complaints – 4
- Complaints Closed w/ Fines / Action – 0
- Open Complaints – 25
- Return Renewals -0
- License Verification Orders – 216
- X-Ray Certifications Issued – 21
- Public Records Requests – 0
- Seminars for Review – 26
- CD/List/Mailing Labels sold – 4
- Peer Review Request – 0
- Duplicate Lic. – 1
- Duplicate Renewal Vouchers – 0
- Law Books Purchased – 0
- Travel to Treat – 1
- New Application Requested - 23
- New License Issued – 9
- Complaints Closed w/ out Fine or No Action - 0
- Pending Closure currently on Probation / Suspension – 6
- Renewals Processed – 1
- Delinquent Fee For Renewals – 2
- X-Ray Renewals – 264
- Subpoena's Rec. – 0
- CE Inquiries – 6
- Nat'l Alerts Received – 3
- Dry Needling Cert. Issued – 0
- Duplicate X-Ray Cert. – 0
- License Pocket Cards Purchased -0
- Minute Subscriptions – 0
- Approx. Emails Rec. - 1157

X. GENEARL COREPSPONDENCE

The Board received an invitation from the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards to participate in the upcoming Regulatory Hour. No Board member was available to participate at this time.

XI. SEMINAR REVIEW REPORT

Dr. Payne reported that she reviewed 26 continuing education seminar submissions since the last Board meeting, and the Board collected \$3,900 in associated fees.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Website Launch Update: Dr. Kruse, Board President, provided an update on the upcoming launch of the Board's new website. He and Ms. Schmidt have been working with Netshapers on the new database, application and renewal portals, and overall site design. Dr. Kruse distributed examples of the database layout and presented a preview of the new site and its features.

B. Credit Card Processing Approval: Dr. Kruse explained that the website vendor, Coastline, requires separate Board approval to add credit-card processing capabilities to the new system.

- **Motion by Dr. Traxler:** Motion to grant full authority to enter into any necessary contract with Coastline for the website upgrade and credit-card functionality
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Rollette | **Outcome:** One abstention; six ayes – Motion Carried

C. LEASE RENEWAL UPDATE:

Ms. Schmidt provided the information on the new lease proposal from the landlord, noting the monthly amount of \$2,970 for a five-year term, with the new lease beginning October 1, 2026. Motion by Payne to accept the lease terms; second by Traxler. Dr. Kruse added that during this five-year period, he would like the Board to explore alternative locations, either for lease or potential purchase.

- **Motion by Dr. Payne:** Motion to accept new lease as presented
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Traxler | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

XIII. NEW BOARD BUSINESS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -

Dr. Kruse, Board President presented his proposal to establish an Executive Committee composed of all Board officers. He explained that the committee would address emergency matters and other pertinent issues that arise between Board meetings, allowing discussion and decision-making by the officers rather than solely the President. Any actions taken by the Executive Committee would be brought before the full Board for review, feedback, or vote.

B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BOARD COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL:

Dr. Kruse, reiterated the importance of Board members keeping the Executive Director informed and maintaining open communication. He reviewed the areas in which the Board would like consistent updates from the Board office to ensure everyone remains on the same page. Dr. Payne noted that if a matter is strictly informational and does not require a response from each Board member, then only an acknowledgment is needed rather than a full reply.

C. PROSECUTORIAL ATTORNEY AVAILABLE POSITION

The Board President informed the Board that former prosecutor attorney Celia Cangelosi has retired, leaving the position vacant. He noted that Jim Rains of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson will attend the next Board meeting for the Board to meet and interview him for the vacant role. Dr. Kruse added that he will be utilizing Mr. Rains for the pending formal case in the interim.

D. LICENSE SUSPENSION TERMINATION/REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

A request was submitted by Dr. Kimberly Trainor, Gretna, LA. Her Attorney, Robert Garrity, asked the Board to lift her suspension, noting that she has completed all requirements of her Consent Agreement. The agreement specifies of up to three-month suspension beginning May 1, 2026 and ending July 31, 2026. Because the Board will not meet again until October, they are requesting approval at this time so her probation may begin as scheduled. Motion by Payne to accept the request and lift the suspension effective August 1, 2026.

- **Motion by Dr. Traxler:** Motion to accept request to lift suspension on August 1, 2026
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Payne | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

E. POINT OF ORDER – ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Following the motion, Dr. Kimberly Trainors, attorney, Robert Garrity, requested a point-of-order opinion from the Board regarding whether a respondent may have attorney representation during executive session. The Board's attorney asked to address the matter and noted that she has not received any written request from Mr. Garrity regarding this opinion. She explained that executive session is limited to matters authorized under statute, and that a licensee has the right to be represented by counsel and the right to waive counsel during any disciplinary proceeding, including when the Board enters executive session for that purpose. She clarified that this is a statutory requirement, not a Board-created policy, and stated she would be happy to provide the applicable statutory language to Mr. Garrity.

F. LICENSE SUSPENSION TERMINATION / REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

A request was submitted by Dr. Patrick Haydel to end suspension; however, neither the licensee nor his attorney was present. The Board asked Ms. Schmidt whether he has complied with all requirements of his Consent Agreement. Ms. Schmidt reported that he still has outstanding CE hours and fees owed. The Board directed Ms. Schmidt to notify the licensee that once he has fully completed all requirements of the Consent Agreement, he may submit a new request. Until that time, he must cease and desist from any practice if he is currently doing so.

G. LICENSE SUSPENSION TERMINATION / REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

Dr. Ben Savoie appeared before the Board to request reinstatement of his chiropractic license. The Board advised the licensee of their option to present their matter in Public Forum or in Executive Session. The licensee stated they wished to proceed in Executive Session. A motion to enter Executive Session was made by President Kruse and seconded by Dr. Traxler. A roll-call vote was conducted by Ms. Schmidt, all members present. Dr. Kruse, Dr. Traxler, Dr. Rollette, Dr. Payne, Dr. Corbin, Dr. Morvant, Mr. Azuara and the motion passed. The Board entered

Executive Session, and all individuals other than the Board, staff and its council were asked to leave.

The licensee presented their reinstatement request to the Board. Following the presentation, the Board requested that the licensee step out temporarily so the Board could deliberate. After deliberation, a motion was made by Dr. Kruse and second by Dr. Traxler to exit Executive Session, Ms. Schmidt conducted a roll-call vote, and the Board returned to open session.

The Board informed Dr. Ben Savoie that, pursuant to the Consent Order originally executed at the time of his suspension, he is required to obtain a second opinion through Pine Grove prior to further consideration of reinstatement.

H. MILITARY SPOUSE / CE WAIVER REQUEST

The Board received correspondence from Dr. Alicia Smith, who is a military spouse requesting a waiver of the Continuing Education requirements for the upcoming 2027 license renewal due to her relocation related to her spouse's military service.

- **Motion by Dr. Rollette:** Motion to waive CE requirements for the 2027 license renewal, however if moves back early will be required to obtain CE hrs for license renewal.
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Corbin | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

H. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUEST – MASTER'S DEGREE CREDIT

The licensee asked whether she could use the Master's degree she recently obtained to satisfy the Continuing Education requirements for her 2027 license renewal.

- **Motion by** Dr. Corbin to accept her Master's degree for her 2027 license renewal.
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Payne | **Outcome:** Carried unanimously

I. DECLARATORY STATEMENT 2019-03

The Board received a request from the Chiropractic Association of Louisiana to revisit Declaratory Statements 2019-03 and 2021-02. After discussion, a motion was made to rescind Declaratory Statement 2021-02 and adopt Declaratory Statement 2026-01

- **Motion by** Dr. Kruse to accept new Declaratory Statement 2026-01
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Traxler| **Outcome:** 6 Ayes and 1 Nay – motion carried

The Board President made a motion to allow the Board to review the items listed below that were not included on the posted agenda. The motion was seconded and approved by roll-call vote.

- Board Resolution
- New License Renewal Form
- FCLB Conference
- Board Elections

A. FINANCIAL AUTHORITY – BOARD RESOLUTION

Dr. Kruse, the Board President reported that Ms. Amy Lowe prepared a Board Resolution to authorize Ms. Schmidt to be added to all financial institutions as an authorized signer and to remove Ms. Oliver. He explained that the Capital One account, opened in 2004, was not established as a true commercial account, and updated documentation and Board minutes are required for the financial institutions to proceed with the changes

B. LICENSE RENEWAL FORM

Ms. Schmidt presented the Board with a newly drafted license renewal form for review.

- **Motion by** Dr. Corbin with a few changes to accept form
- **Seconded by:** Dr. Traxler| **Outcome:** carried unanimously

C. FCLB CONFERENCE

Dr. Kruse announced that the FCLB will hold an upcoming conference on September 12, 2026, in New Orleans, and stated that he will attempt to attend.

E. BOARD ELECTIONS

Election of Officers Under the previously approved amended agenda, the Board conducted its election of officers. Nominations were received, and the Board elected the officers as listed below:

- **President:** Dr. Mark B. Kruse
- **Vice President:** Dr. Michael Traxler
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Dr. Kelleigh Payne

ADJOURNMENT

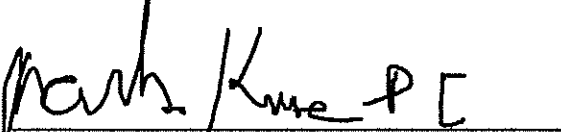
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at **10:53 am**.

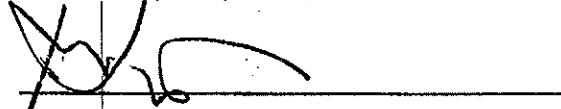
Respectfully submitted,



Shellie H. Schmidt, Executive Director

APPROVED BY:



Mark Kruse, D.C., Board President

Kelleigh Payne, D.C., Board Secretary/Treasurer