

**THE LOUISIANA STATE
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**MINUTES
OF
SPECIAL CALL
MEETING**

**APRIL 6, 2020
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

A Special Call Meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, pursuant to lawful notice, was convened and called to order at 9:00 a.m., Monday, April 6, 2020, by order of the President, with the following members participating via videoconferencing.

Board Members present as follows:

Roderick V. Clark, M.D., President
Terrie R. Thomas, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer
Rita Y. Horton, M.D.
Lester Wayne Johnson, M.D.
Patrick K. O'Neill, M.D.
Kim S. Sport, JD
James A. Taylor, Jr., M.D.
Christy Lynn Valentine, M.D.
Leonard Weather, Jr., M.D.

The following members of the Board's staff were present:

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., M.D., Executive Director
Lawrence H. Cresswell, DO, JD, Director of Investigations
Mary K. Peyton, Esq., General Counsel
Thadra C. White, Esq., Compliance Counsel
Susan Allen, Research Associate
Alan Phillips, Director of IT
Jacinta Duthu, Administrative Program Specialist
Rita L. Arceneaux, Executive Staff Officer

Legal counsel to the Board was present as follows:

Philip O. Bergeron

Don K. McKinney

Members of the public present as follows:

None

1. Welcome. The President thanked everyone for his or her attendance, asked for a moment of silence for the physicians, healthcare workers, victims and Board staff for their dedication, and continued safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted there was now a specific public comment link on our website where the public could provide comments to items on the agenda.

2. Minutes of March 30, 2020 Meeting. The Board reviewed the minutes of its meeting of March 30, 2020 held via videoconferencing. It was the consensus of the Board to defer approval at this time.

3. General Administrative Matters; Executive Director's Report. The Board received the verbal report of its Executive Director on his activities since the last meeting of the Board. Dr. Culotta reported that unique license numbers would be generated for the issuance of emergency licenses and permits during the COVID-19 pandemic. He reported on a call he received from the Attorney General Jeff Landry asking that the Board put guidelines on the website relating to the off-label, use of hydroxychloroquine. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to table this matter pending receipt of more information that was forthcoming and call another special meeting if necessary.

[4.] Minutes of March 30, 2020 Executive Sessions. On the motion of Dr. Thomas, duly seconded by Dr. Horton and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Board convened in executive session to review the minutes of its executive session conducted during the meeting of March 30, 2020. The Board deferred approval at this time.

[5.] Investigative Reports. On the motion of Dr. Valentine, duly seconded by Dr. Weather, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Board convened in executive session, to consider the investigative reports as matters relating to the character and professional conduct of a licensee, and allegations of misconduct, La. Rev. Stat. §42:17A(1), (4) and (5). Following review and discussion the Board resumed in open session. On the motion of Dr. Horton, duly seconded by Dr. Thomas and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Board made the following decisions:

a. Closed/Dismissed: The following matters were approved for closure/dismissal:

Investigation No., 19-1125
Investigation No., 19-1053
Investigation No., 19-927
Investigation No., 19-813
Investigation No., 19-1122
Investigation No., 20-049
Investigation No., 19-1077
Investigation No., 19-656
Investigation No., 19-652

Investigation No., 19-1015
Investigation No., 20-050
Investigation No., 20-121
Investigation No., 19-1061
Investigation No., 19-1070
Investigation No., 19-1046
Investigation No., 19-894
Investigation No., 20-023
Investigation No., 19-1016

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CALL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2020, 9:00 A.M.

Investigation No., 19-1101	Investigation No., 19-1094
Investigation No., 19-450	Investigation No., 19-1097
Investigation No., 19-649	Investigation No., 20-012
Investigation No., 19-840	Investigation No., 19-1130
Investigation No., 19-949	Investigation No., 20-114
Investigation No., 19-937	Investigation No., 20-028
Investigation No., 19-1068	Investigation No., 20-051
Investigation No., 20-162	Investigation No., 20-063
Investigation No., 19-850	Investigation No., 20-065
Investigation No., 20-129	Investigation No., 20-1072
Investigation No., 20-075	Investigation No., 20-102

b. Closed Complaint Case Report: The Board noted the Closed Complaint Case Report for the month February 2020.

6. General Administrative Matters; New Item; Off-Label Use of Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine. On the motion of Dr. Johnson, duly seconded by Dr. Thomas, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Board voted to take up an item of new business, the Off-Label Use of Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine. Dr. Culotta reported on correspondence he received from Drs. Ghali and Bailey, LSUHCS, Shreveport, expressing their concerns with its widespread use. Following review and discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to defer action until everyone had a chance to review the documents from Drs. Ghali and Bailey.

[7.] General Administrative Matters; New Item; Drug Testing of Licensees. On the motion of Dr. Taylor, duly seconded by Dr. Valentine, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Board voted to take up an item of new business in executive session, drug testing of licensees as a matter relating to the character and professional conduct of a licensee, and allegations of misconduct, La. Rev. Stat. §42:17A(1), (4) and (5). Following review and discussion the Board resumed in open session. On the motion of Dr. Taylor, duly seconded by Dr. Horton and passed unanimous voice vote, the Board voted to allow all licensees in the Physicians Health Program for a year or more to provide drug testing within 24 hours at their hospital site or at an assigned site until termination of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

8. General Administrative Matters; Telehealth Guidance. The Board review the Telehealth Guidance document presented for review and discussion. Following several suggested changes on the motion of Ms. Sport, duly seconded by Dr. Weather and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Board approved the Telehealth Guidance as corrected for dissemination on the website.

9. Next Meeting of the Board. The President noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting was set for April 27, 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true and correct account of the proceedings of the meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, save for executive session of the Board conducted therein, held on April 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., and approved by the Board on the 27th day of April, 2020.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CALL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2020, 9:00 A.M.

Witness my hand and seal of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners this 27th day of April 2020.

Terri Roselyn Thomas, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

Attest:

Roderick Vince Clark, M.D., MBA
President