



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

3388 Brentwood Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-1700



MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
3388 Brentwood Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

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The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”) convened a regular meeting on **Wednesday, February 25, 2026** at the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy located at 3388 Brentwood Drive in Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and public notice was properly posted.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Richard M. Indovina, Jr., President, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. J. Robert Cloud delivered the invocation and Mr. Don L. Resweber led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. Richard M. Indovina, Jr., called upon Mr. David A. Darce, Secretary, to call the roll of members to establish a quorum.

Members Present:

- Dr. J. Robert Cloud, PharmD
- Dr. David G. Collins, PharmD
- Mr. David A. Darce
- Ms. Jennifer E. Dupree
- Ms. Jacqueline L. Hall
- Mr. Richard M. Indovina, Jr.
- Mr. W. Charles Jones
- Mr. Kevin LaGrange
- Mr. Marty R. McKay
- Ms. Chris B. Melancon
- Mr. J. Troy Menard
- Mr. Anthony G. Mercante
- Mr. Don L. Resweber
- Mr. Richard A. “Andy” Soileau
- Dr. Raymond J. Strong, PharmD

Members Absent:

- Mr. Richard Mannino
- Mr. Robert A. “Butch” Ray

Staff Present:

- Mr. M. Joseph Fontenot Jr., Executive Director
- Mr. Carlos M. Finalet, III, General Counsel
- Ms. M. Danielle Hartzog, Administrative Program Specialist
- Ms. Kelley L. Villeneuve, Office Manager

Guests:

- Dr. Valarie Melancon, PharmD – CVS
- Dr. Rob Geddes, PharmD – CVS
- Mr. Council Powell, Jr. – CVS
- Ms. Lynette Dukes – CVS
- Dr. Gam T. Nguyen, PharmD – CVS
- Dr. Leslie H. Hill, PharmD - CVS
- Mr. Malcolm J. Broussard – Hygeia Solutions
- Ms. Shelly Dupre - LARP
- Mr. Steve Cobb – CRx
- Ms. Kim Boasso – PharmCare of LA

- Ms. Jessica Elliot – LARP
- Ms. Sarah Perkins - BSW

Secretary Darce certified 15 members were present, constituting a quorum for the conduct of official business.

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS & ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Indovina asked if there were any additional agenda items to be added; none were requested. Without objection, the members adopted the posted agenda dated February 20, 2026. There were no objections to Mr. Indovina's request for authority to re-order the agenda should the President determine it appropriate to do so.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. Indovina reminded the members they had received the draft minutes from the regular Board meeting held on November 19, 2025. With no objections, he waived the reading of the draft minutes. With no requests for amendments or corrections, and with no objection, Mr. Indovina declared the minutes were approved as presented.

REPORT ON ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Indovina called upon Mr. Fontenot to present the report. Mr. Fontenot referred the members to the information provided in the meeting materials and solicited any questions from members. There were no member questions.

CONFIRMATION OF ACTS

Pursuant to Mr. Indovina's declaration that the officers, members and committees, and executive director had attended to the business of the Board since their last meeting in accordance with policies and procedures previously approved by the Board, Mr. McKay moved:

Resolved, that the decisions made and the actions taken by the Board officers, members and committees, and executive director in the general conduct and transactions of Board business since November 19, 2025 are approved, adopted, and ratified by the entire Board.

Mr. Mercante seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Indovina reminded the members and guests the Open Meetings Law requires all public bodies to provide an opportunity for public comment at all meetings and for each agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. He solicited general comments on non-agenda items from the guests present; none were offered.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Mr. Indovina reminded the members of the purpose and mission of the Board of Pharmacy by reciting the relevant portion of the Louisiana Pharmacy Practice Act. He urged the members to keep their legislative mandate in mind as they considered all the matters before them.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. Indovina confirmed there were no special orders for the day.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Indovina recognized Mr. Soileau to deliver the committee report. Mr. Soileau reported the committee has not met since the previous Board meeting and the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 11, 2026. He further explained that during the August Board meeting, the committee will consider the Board's "Compiled Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2025-2026" and provide a recommendation for consideration.

Mr. Soileau concluded his report by recognizing the other members of the committee: Dr. Collins, Mr. Jones, Ms. Melancon and Mr. Ray.

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Indovina recognized Ms. Melancon to deliver the committee report. Ms. Melancon reported that since the last Board meeting, no applications requiring committee review have been received, and therefore, the committee has not convened.

Ms. Melancon concluded her report by recognizing the other members of the committee: Dr. Collins, Mr. Darce, Mr. Mannino and Mr. Ray.

RECIPROCITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Indovina called upon Mr. Darce, in Mr. Mannino's absence, for the committee report. He reported that during the fourth quarter of calendar year 2025, 38 applicants were evaluated by staff and found to be eligible for licensure by reciprocity. None of them required an interview by the committee. In conformance with the policies and procedures previously approved by the Board, their applications were approved, and their licenses were issued by staff. A list of the pharmacists who were licensed by reciprocity during this quarter was included in the meeting material.

Mr. Darce concluded the report by recognizing the other committee members: Mr. Mannino, Mr. LaGrange, Mr. Mercante, Mr. Ray, and Mr. Soileau.

VIOLATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Indovina called upon Mr. Mercante for the committee report. Mr. Mercante reported the committee met on December 9, 2025 to consider several cases on their agenda. Following their interviews and subsequent deliberations, the committee developed recommendations for the Board's consideration. Mr. Mercante directed the members to copies of those proposals in their meeting materials and then proceeded to present the following cases:

Blanchard's Pharmacy, Inc dba Blanchard's Pharmacy (New Roads, LA) (PHY.008031): Mr. Mercante moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Mr. Menard seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For allegedly dispensing misbranded drugs by using generic insulin products in place of certain brand-name insulins, the Board suspended the permit for 5 years beginning on February 25, 2026, and terminating on February 25, 2031, suspended the suspension, then placed the permit on probation for the period of suspension, subject to conditions; and further, assessed a fine of \$10,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Trohn Peter Blanchard (PST.016704): Mr. Mercante moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For his accountability as pharmacist-in-charge (PIC) of Blanchard's Pharmacy (PHY.008031) regarding the alleged dispensing of misbranded drugs by using generic insulin products in place of certain brand-name insulins, the Board suspended his license for 5 years beginning on February 25, 2026, and terminating on February 25, 2031, suspended the suspension, then placed the license on probation for the period of suspension, subject to conditions; and further, assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative costs.

Wellness Pharmacy, LLC (Baton Rouge, LA) (PHY.008515): Mr. Mercante moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For permitting an individual to assist in the practice of pharmacy prior to obtaining a credential, the Board issued a letter

of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$1,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Olajide Brandon Bakare (PST.021337): Mr. Mercante moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For his accountability as PIC of Wellness Pharmacy, LLC (PHY.008515) for permitting an individual to assist in the practice of pharmacy prior to obtaining a credential, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed administrative costs.

Prelliana Marie Wilson (PTC.034292): Mr. Mercante moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For assisting in the practice of pharmacy prior to obtaining a credential, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250.

Mr. Mercante concluded his report by announcing the next scheduled informal conference is scheduled for March 17, 2026. He also recognized Dr. Cloud, Ms. Dupree, Ms. Hall, and Mr. Menard for their service on the committee.

IMPAIRMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Indovina recognized Ms. Hall to deliver the committee report. Ms. Hall reported that the committee convened the previous day. After conducting an interview and engaging in subsequent deliberation, the committee developed a recommendation for the Board's consideration. She then proceeded to present the following case:

Leslie Eileen Juneau (PST.016948): Ms. Hall moved to approve the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. The Board suspended her license for ten years, beginning on February 25, 2026, and terminating on February 25, 2036, suspended the suspension, then placed her credential on probation for the period of the suspension, subject to certain conditions enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Ms. Hall reported that the committee reviewed and recommended approval of the addition of the following practitioner to the *Roster of Approved Addictionists*: Andrew Z. Williams, MD. Ms. Hall moved to approve the addition. Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Hall concluded her report by recognizing fellow committee members: Dr. Collins, Mr. Darce, Mr. Menard, Mr. Resweber and Dr. Strong.

REINSTATEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Indovina recognized Dr. Strong for the committee report. Dr. Strong reported the committee convened the previous day. After conducting interviews and engaging in subsequent deliberations, the committee developed recommendations for the Board's consideration. He then proceeded to present the following cases:

James Lucas Johnson (CPT.007839): Dr. Strong moved to approve the request for reinstatement of the lapsed pharmacy technician certificate, contingent upon the completion of at least 250 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit by February 25, 2028. Mr. Soileau seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Sharon Robeau Marcel (CPT.009975): Dr. Strong moved to approve the request for reinstatement of the lapsed pharmacy technician certificate, contingent upon the completion of at least 250 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit by February 25, 2028. Mr. Soileau seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Keisha Latress Cole (CPT.002027): Dr. Strong moved to approve the request for reinstatement of the lapsed pharmacy technician certificate, contingent upon the completion of at least 500 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit by February 25, 2028. Ms. Melancon

seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Strong concluded his report by recognizing fellow committee members: Ms. Dupree, Mr. Jones, Mr. LaGrange, Mr. Mannino, and Mr. Mercante.

TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Indovina recognized Mr. Resweber for the committee report. Mr. Resweber reported the committee met the previous day as scheduled on the posted agenda. Updates were received from ULM College of Pharmacy, Xavier of Louisiana College of Pharmacy, the Louisiana Pharmacists Association, the Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association.

Mr. Resweber stated that in addition to receiving updates from these stakeholders, participants joined in a robust conversation regarding improving College of Pharmacy student enrollment numbers. The discussion was broad, and the committee committed to continuing the conversation at future meetings to be held in conjunction with a meeting of the Board at both ULM and Xavier.

Mr. Resweber concluded his report by recognizing fellow committee members: Ms. Dupree, Mr. Jones, Mr. LaGrange, Mr. Menard, and Dr. Strong.

REGULATION REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Indovina called upon Dr. Cloud for the committee report. Dr. Cloud reported that the committee last convened on February 3, 2026. As a result of that meeting, the committee developed several recommendations.

He directed members to the relevant items included in the meeting materials. For the benefit of the public, he advised that copies of proposals are accessible on the Board's website under "Rulemaking Activity".

Dr. Cloud then presented the following information:

Regulatory Proposal 2026-A – Off-Site Services, Draft #1

Dr. Cloud explained, during the February 19, 2025 Board meeting, the Board authorized a pilot project giving CVS Health authority to operate CVS Health Air Support utilizing their remote "final product verification" feature within a specified pharmacy district in Louisiana for a period of one year from the date of implementation, while the Regulation Revision Committee reviewed the current rules for offsite services and developed a regulatory proposal for the Board's consideration. As part of that authorization, the Board required CVS Health to provide quarterly reports to the Board which were included in the meeting materials.

Dr. Cloud then invited representatives from CVS to provide an update on the pilot project. Dr. Rob Geddes, accompanied by CVS pharmacists, presented an overview of the pilot project. The presentation was followed by a comprehensive discussion during which Board members posed numerous questions, all of which were addressed by the CVS representatives.

To begin the discussion regarding the proposal which would add the process of "final product verification" to the definition of "Remote Processing Services" in Section 1139, Dr. Cloud presented the following motions on behalf of the committee:

***Resolved**, to approve Regulatory Proposal 2026-A – Off-Site Services, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.*

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

***Resolved** to extend the Board's original approval giving CVS Health authority to operate CVS Health Air Support utilizing their remote "final product verification" feature within the currently approved pharmacy district in Louisiana until December 31, 2026.*

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With one question from a member and no public comments, the

motion was unanimously approved.

At this point, Mr. Indovina declared a recess. It was noted that the members recessed at 10:44 a.m. and then reconvened at 10:56 a.m.

Regulatory Proposal 2026-B – Advertising, Draft #1

Dr. Cloud reported, that the proposal seeks to amend Section 1115 of the Board's rules regarding advertising. Staff presented this proposal to the committee to address outdated terms for a pharmacy that the public no longer associates with a pharmacy permit. Today, the term 'apothecary' is generally understood by the public to refer to a business offering herbal or aesthetic over-the-counter products. Additionally, the term "chemist's shop" is not used in everyday language in the United States.

To bring this proposal forward for discussion, Dr. Cloud moved:

***Resolved**, to approve Regulatory Proposal 2026-B – Advertising, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.*

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Regulatory Project 2025-454 - Solicitation of Comments

Dr. Cloud stated, as reported during the August 2025 and November 2025 Board meetings, pursuant to Louisiana R.S. 49:964(B), agencies engaged in rulemaking are required to conduct a public hearing at least once every six years to receive input from interested parties on any rule they believe to be contrary to law, outdated, unnecessary, overly complex, or burdensome.

The Board held its public hearing on June 26, 2025, to fulfill this requirement. During the November 19, 2025 Board meeting the Board approved responses to two of the petitioners. During the committee's February 3, 2026 meeting, the committee reviewed the third petitioner's comments and developed proposals for the Board's consideration. Dr. Cloud noted the petitioner was in attendance and participated in the discussions. The petitioner's comments were included in the meeting material, and a paper copy was provided. Dr. Cloud then presented each comment by number identified in the letter and provided the committee's recommendation on each.

Comment Number One: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Section 105 – Board Procedures, and more specifically Subsection A, the citation of the Open Meetings Law has changed since this rule was promulgated. That law now begins at R.S. 42:11.

The committee noted the citation in the regulation is correct; no amendment is needed.

Comment Number Two: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Section 109 – Standing Board Committees, and more specifically Subsection C, the Reciprocity Committee no longer functions as it did at the time this rule was promulgated. Perhaps the Application Review Committee could be substituted here, with an expansion of the scope to include all applicants for all credentials.

After reviewing the comment, the committee approved a draft proposal for Board consideration. Dr. Cloud moved:

***Resolved**, to approve the proposal - Standing Board Committees, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.*

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Three: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Section 113 – Rulemaking Procedures, and more specifically Subsection A, the use of electronic mail should be included as an option for the submission of rulemaking petitions.

At the direction of the committee, staff prepared a draft proposal to be clear, concise, and user friendly compared to the current language while including the electronic mail language requested by the

petitioner. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal - Rulemaking Procedures, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Four: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Section 301 – Board Hearing Procedures and Jurisdiction, and more specifically Subsection A, the citation of the definition of “person” should be updated; it has changed since this rule was promulgated. That definition is now found at R.S. 37:1164(35).

After reviewing the request, staff proposed removing the specific definition number and instead citing the relevant section of law to avoid future amendments caused by renumbering. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal - Board Hearing Procedures and Jurisdiction, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Five: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Section 355 – Reporting, the reporting requirements should be updated to include the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) Clearinghouse as well as the National Practitioner Data Bank.

The committee noted that reporting to the National Practitioner Data Bank is required under federal law, making additional regulatory language unnecessary. The committee also noted Governor Landry’s recent executive order and the legislature’s intent to reduce regulations and concluded that adding unnecessary regulatory language would run counter to those directives. Dr. Cloud moved to make no changes to Section 355.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Six: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Section 505 – Licensure, the other licensure status indicators such as Restricted, Gold Active and Gold Inactive could be described here.

The committee noted Section 505 contains the foundation for the status of a pharmacist license. The Board’s licensing database contains numerous pharmacist credential types and statuses that are useful administratively for staff, but do not change the basic status of a pharmacist license.

Once again, the committee also noted Governor Landry’s recent executive order and the legislature’s intent to reduce regulations and concluded that adding unnecessary regulatory language would run counter to those directives. Additionally, the intent of the solicitation of comments was to receive input from interested parties on any rule believed to be contrary to law, outdated, unnecessary, overly complex, or burdensome. Comment number six did not meet these criteria.

The committee was unable to identify any meaningful advantage to adding unnecessary regulatory language. Dr. Cloud moved to make no changes to Section 505.

Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Seven: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Paragraph 505(A)(2), the obsolete reference to R.S. 37:1184 should be updated to Rule 115. This issue is also applicable to several paragraphs in Chapters 12, 15, and 18.

The committee noted that R.S. 37:1184 titled “Fees” is not obsolete as it exists, and references R.S. 37:1182(A) which states the Board shall establish fees by regulation which is found in Section 115. Staff prepared a proposal removing the references to R.S. 37:1184 and replacing it with language citing the section to ensure consistency. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal identified as – Sections 505, 1203, 1525, and 1803, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. After Board discussion, one member question, and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Eight: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Section 507 – Continuing Education Program, additional options for continuing pharmacy education have been established by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) since this rule was promulgated. Joint Accreditation (JA) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) are options for pharmacists and are reported to CPE Monitor.

Comment Number Nine: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Paragraph 507(C)(3), additional requirements have been established for three topics: nuclear pharmacy, compounding and medication administration. While the rules for those topics include the continuing education requirement to demonstrate continuing competency in those areas, licensees searching for comprehensive continuing education requirements for renewal of licensure could benefit from seeing those specific requirements identified in this rule.

Regarding comments eight and nine, the committee recommended a proposal for Board consideration regarding Joint Accreditation and a listing of continuing education topics in Section 507. On behalf of the committee. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal – Pharmacists Continuing Education, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Cloud stated that committee members discussed the petitioner's request to add Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to the acceptable sources for Continuing Education credit. Members noted that if a licensee completes ACPE-approved courses as part of their CPD, those are already accepted by the Board. The committee determined that a rule change was not necessary and recommends no change to the regulation. Dr. Cloud moved to make no changes in reference to this portion of the request.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Ten: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Section 523 – Collaborative Drug Therapy Management, the Board has already approved a long-overdue update to that section. Please consider moving forward to update an overly complex rule with burdensome administrative requirements.

The committee noted, in February 2021 the Board decided to propose an amendment to this Section to be less burdensome to the Board's credential holders and subsequently approved Regulatory Proposal 2021-A ~ Collaborative Practice (Draft #1). Unfortunately, that proposal did not progress because a rule amendment by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) would be needed to align with this regulatory proposal and subsequent conversations with that Board on this topic were unsuccessful.

The committee developed a recommendation that without the cooperation of the LSBME, any rule change on the Board's part would lead to confusion for pharmacists and would not result in the desired change in practice. Dr. Cloud moved to make no changes to Section 523.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Eleven: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Section 907 – Scope of Practice, more specifically Subsection B, the prohibition on the compounding of high-risk preparations may need an update since the recent revision to the relevant USP chapters on compounding.

Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal – Pharmacy Technicians Scope of Practice, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Twelve: The petitioner wrote – With respect to Section 909 – Continuing Education, additional options for continuing education have been established by ACPE since this rule was promulgated. JA and CPD are options for pharmacy technicians and are reported to CPE Monitor.

Comment Number Thirteen: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Subsection 909(C), additional requirements have been established for two topics: compounding and medication administration. While the rules for those topics include the continuing education requirement to demonstrate continuing competency in those areas, licensees searching for comprehensive continuing education requirements for renewal of certificates could benefit from seeing those specific requirements identified in this rule.

Regarding comments twelve and thirteen, the committee recommended a draft proposal for Board consideration regarding Joint Accreditation and a listing of continuing education topics in Section 909. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal –Pharmacy Technicians Continuing Education, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Cloud stated that committee members discussed the petitioner's request to add Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to the acceptable sources for Continuing Education credit. Once again, the members noted that if a licensee completes ACPE-approved courses as part of their CPD, those are already accepted by the Board. The committee determined that a rule change was not necessary and recommends no change to the regulation. Dr. Cloud moved to make no changes to Section 909 regarding this portion of the request.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Fourteen: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Chapter 11 – Pharmacies, Subsection 1103(h) may need revision to remove the specific title of the pharmacy law book in favor of requiring access to authoritative information on pharmacy laws and rules. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal – Prescription Department Requirements, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Fifteen: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Subchapter B of Chapter 11, more specifically Sections 1123 and 1124, please consider a substantial revision of this overly complex set of rules. NABP's Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules could be a reasonable alternative approach. Some states have even shorter yet comprehensive requirements. One of the unintended consequences of such detailed rules is their reported use by entities such as PBMs to penalize pharmacies.

The Committee approved Draft #2 at its February meeting. After the meeting, staff identified opportunities for improvement which addressed stakeholder concerns, repealed an unnecessary definition, and improved upon a proposed amendment to a definition. Staff subsequently developed

Draft #3 which was presented for the committee chairman's review. Draft #2 and Draft #3 were included in the meeting material. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal – Records, Draft #3; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Sixteen: The petitioner wrote - Within Chapter 18 – Correctional Center Pharmacy, Paragraph 1813(D)(3) should be updated to conform to the Board's policy for the Reinstatement Committee (PPM.I.C.5.a) relative to the obsolete requirement for a Board hearing for the reinstatement of credentials lapsed for five years or longer.

The committee noted Sections 1811, 1813, and 1815 are regarding Emergency Drug Kits (EDKs) for Correctional Centers, supplied by Correctional Center Pharmacies. The Board's rules also address EDKs in Sections 1709 through 1713. Sections 1811 through 1815 are redundant, and the committee recommended a repeal of these sections instead of amending the EDK reinstatement language as requested. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal – Correctional Center Pharmacy EDK, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Cloud noted, within this same Chapter, staff identified language for the reinstatement of a Correctional Center Pharmacy Permit which is no longer applicable. The committee approved a draft proposal for the Board's consideration. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal – Correctional Center Pharmacy Permit Reinstatement, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Seventeen: The petitioner wrote – Within Chapter 24 – Limited Service Providers, the reference to the Louisiana Sanitary Code in Paragraph 2437(A)(2) could be improved with the inclusion of its location at Title 51 of the Louisiana Administrative Code.

The committee noted the simplicity of public access to the Louisiana Sanitary Code and determined that a rule change was unnecessary. Additionally, the intent of the solicitation of comments was to receive input from interested parties on any rule believed to be contrary to law, outdated, unnecessary, overly complex, or burdensome.

Comment number seventeen did not meet these criteria. The committee was unable to identify any meaningful advantage to amending the regulation and recommends no change to the regulation. Dr. Cloud moved to make no change.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Eighteen: The petitioner wrote - Within Chapter 25 – Prescriptions, Drugs and Devices, Subsection 2517(B) relates to equivalent drug product interchange during the prescription dispensing process. Subparagraph (1)(a) references a requirement for prescriptions reimbursable by the state Medicaid program. The relevant question is whether the Board should attempt to regulate or enforce a requirement from another agency.

Committee members agreed that the current language is helpful to pharmacists and noted that both

Medicaid and the Board are part of the Louisiana Department of Health. Considering this, the committee determined that a rule change was unnecessary and recommends no change to the regulation. Dr. Cloud moved to make no change.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Nineteen: The petitioner wrote - Section 2525 – Prescription Expiration includes a one-year expiration date for all prescriptions with the exception of those issued for controlled substances listed in Schedules II through IV. Please consider a change to two years or some period of time even longer, with the exception of any prescriptions limited by some other federal or state law.

The committee discussed concerns about changing the expiration date of a prescription for a non-controlled drug to two years or longer. Some disease states require more frequent patient follow up, and while the prescriber would have the authority to give a shorter expiration date on a prescription than the maximum allowed, a rule change would put an additional burden on the prescriber if they desired to do so. If a prescriber writes multiple prescriptions with different expiration dates, it could cause confusion for the prescriber and the pharmacist. Additionally, members expressed the need to discuss the topic with LSBME before initializing such a rule change if a need to do so is determined in the future.

The committee determined that a rule change was not necessary at this time and recommends no change to the regulation. Dr. Cloud moved to make no change.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Twenty: The petitioner wrote – Section 2533 – Definitions includes one or more terms that are not used within the chapter. Perhaps they could be removed from this section.

The committee considered a proposal repealing terms defined but not currently used in the chapter. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal – Compounding Definitions, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Twenty-One: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Chapter 29 – Prescription Monitoring Program, it may be necessary to update Subsection 2914(B) in the event House Bill 210 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature is enacted.

Dr. Cloud reported that the committee has already approved a revision to this regulation on June 18, 2025. The final rule is expected to be published in March. No action is necessary.

Comment Number Twenty-Two: The petitioner wrote - With respect to Chapter 30 – Pharmacy Benefit Managers, in the event the Board still issues duplicate permits, then Paragraph 3005(D)(2) should be updated to remove the obsolete reference to R.S. 37:1184 in favor of the current fee structure in Rule 115 (which does not appear to contain a fee for a duplicate credential).

The committee approved a draft repealing the paragraph noted by the petitioner. Dr. Cloud moved:

Resolved, to approve the proposal – PBM Maintenance of Permit, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comment Number Twenty-Three: The petitioner wrote - When revising some of the chapters, there are opportunities to update the rules to current style standards used by the state register, particularly for older references to “these regulations” or “the board’s rules” or other similar obsolete style. In

particular, please consider the following:

- In Chapter 13: Subsections 1303(A) and 1305(A).
- In Chapter 19: Subsections 1901(A) and 1905(A).
- In Chapter 21: Subsection 2101(A).
- In Chapter 24: Paragraphs 2435(D)(1), as well as 2437(B)(1), (C)(1) and (C)(2).
- In Chapter 31: the definition of the term Significant Financial Interest in Section 3103, as well as Subsections 3107(A), 3109(A), 3109(B), 3115(C), and 3117(B).
- In Chapter 33: Section 3301.

Dr. Cloud reported that the editor of the *Register* stated these changes were not substantive, did not change the meaning, and kindly made the changes without having to go through the rulemaking process.

Rule Review

Dr. Cloud explained, Act 192 of the 2024 Legislative Session mandates that the Board conduct a comprehensive review of all its rules over a five-year period. The Board must determine whether each rule is necessary and consistent with law and the agency's mission, and a determination whether the probable benefits of the rule outweigh the burdens and costs on persons regulated by the rule.

Calendar year 2026 is the Board's third year of the review. During the February 3, 2026 committee meeting, the committee reviewed 54 sections of rules. Of these, the committee has recommended repealing 3 sections and amending 13 sections in proposals presented today and in past meetings. The committee concluded the remaining 38 sections are necessary and consistent with law and the Board's mission. The committee also determined that the benefits of these rules outweigh any burdens or costs to regulated parties. A list of these recommendations is included in the meeting material. Dr. Cloud moved:

***Resolved**, the 38 sections of rules reviewed by the Regulation Revision Committee, that are not recommended for amendment or repeal, are necessary and consistent with law and the Board's mission. Additionally, the probable benefits of the rules do outweigh the burdens and costs on persons regulated by the Board.*

(LAC 46:LIII.703, 707, 709, 711, 901, 903, 904, 906, 911, 913, 1101, 1109, 1113, 1121, 1125, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1135, 1143, 1147, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1211, 1213, 3101, 3103, 3105, 3107, 3109, 3111, 3113, 3115, 3117, 3119, and 3301).

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Regulatory Proposal 2026-C – Pharmacy Interns Professional Experience Hours, Draft #1

Dr. Cloud reported that this proposal is a result of the committee's rule review. The current experience requirement for a pharmacist supervising an intern is two years of licensure as a pharmacist. The committee noted the Board's recent rule change to the experience requirement for a pharmacist to hold the pharmacist-in-charge privilege, from two years to one year of licensure. The committee is recommending a change to the experience requirement for a pharmacist supervising an intern to align with the change made to the PIC privilege. Dr. Cloud moved:

***Resolved** to approve Regulatory Proposal 2026-C – Pharmacy Interns Professional Experience Hours, Draft #1; and further, to authorize the Executive Director to promulgate the proposed rule changes; and further, to authorize the President to approve any necessary amendments that may arise during the promulgation process.*

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Cloud concluded his report by acknowledging the contributions of fellow committee members: Mr. Darce, Ms. Hall, Mr. McKay, Ms. Melancon, Mr. Menard, and Mr. Soileau.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Indovina reported that the committee met the previous day to consider the items on its posted agenda.

He noted that Ms. Hall was prepared to present motions on behalf of the committee and reminded members that the related documents were included in the Board meeting materials.

Proposed Revision PPM.I.C.5.a – Reinstatement Committee – Case Management

Mr. Indovina explained, the committee is proposing an amendment to the reinstatement policy to reflect current Reinstatement Committee guidance. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to approve proposed revision PPM.I.C.5.a – Reinstatement Committee – Case Management, Draft #1.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Proposed Revision PPM.II.A.4 - Equal Employment Opportunity

Mr. Indovina explained, State Civil Service is requiring state agencies to ensure their policies contain the amended language found in the draft proposal. While departments and agencies are expected to develop their own policies, each policy must contain language stating that employment decisions shall be based strictly on merit without regard to religious or political beliefs, gender, race, or any other non-merit factor. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to approve proposed revision PPM.II.A.4 - Equal Employment Opportunity, Draft #1.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Proposed New Policy PPM.II.D.1.h – Web Accessibility Compliance

Mr. Indovina reported, in compliance with the Division of Administration (DOA) Policy and Procedure Memoranda (PPM) Number 74, the attached new policy regarding the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy's web properties is being proposed. PPM 74 established guidelines each agency must follow to ensure people with disabilities can access online government services and provide consistency for web users across state websites and mobile applications. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to approve new policy PPM.II.D.1.h – Web Accessibility Compliance, Draft #1.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Proposed Revision PPM.III.A – Credentials Division – Delegation of Authority

Mr. Indovina reported that the committee is proposing an update to the Board's current policy regarding the Executive Director's ability to delegate certain licensing functions to Board employees. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to approve proposed revision PPM.III.A – Credentials Division – Delegation of Authority, Draft #1.

Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Proposed Revision PPM.III.J – Criminal Background Check

Mr. Indovina stated, the Board recently streamlined its criminal background check process by partnering with state police to automate procedures. This transition has reduced turnaround times from 6 - 8 weeks to as little as 24 hours for checks without rejections. As a result, the committee is proposing an update to the Board's current policy. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to approve proposed revision PPM.III.J – Criminal Background Check, Draft #1.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Proposed Revision PPM.IV.B.2 - Facility Inspections - Service Reviews

Mr. Indovina reported, the committee reviewed the NABP Pharmacy Inspection Blueprint Program's requirements for sterile compounding inspection frequency. Currently, the Board's policy requires inspections within 18 months of the previous review, while the NABP Blueprint standard is 24 months. The committee recommends aligning with the NABP Blueprint standard, which will reduce compliance staff workload and provide a more user-friendly process for credential holders. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to approve proposed revision PPM.IV.B.2 - Facility Inspections - Service Reviews, Draft #1.

Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Pharmacy Practice

Mr. Indovina and Mr. Fontenot provided a proposed statement developed by the committee to the members and the public in attendance at the meeting. The proposal was to address questions being received by the Board office regarding the use of AI in pharmacy practice.

After discussion, comments of support, and no objection, members agreed by consensus to use this statement as a response to public questions regarding AI as well as publication in the Board's next quarterly *Newsletter*. The statement reads as follows:

Because artificial intelligence (AI) is a rapidly evolving field, the following reflects the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy's current position, as of February 25, 2026, and may be updated as developments occur.

The Board recognizes the use of AI as a tool to assist pharmacists in automating routine tasks, enhancing efficiency, and improving patient safety. However, AI shall only be used as a support mechanism and not replace the pharmacist's professional judgment, clinical decision making, patient counseling, final verification, or responsibility for regulatory compliance and direct patient care.

Legislative Proposal 2026-A - CDS Schedules Update

Mr. Indovina reported that each year, the Board of Pharmacy works with the State Police Crime Lab to update the state's controlled substances list, ensuring it reflects federal scheduling actions since the last legislative session. Typically, this proposal would go to the Regulation Revision Committee for its consideration, but the State Police Crime Lab chemist did not complete a review of Mr. Fontenot's draft until after the last Regulation Revision Committee meeting. The Regulation Revision Committee referred the matter to the Executive Committee instead of calling a special meeting about this one item. Ms. Hall then moved:

Resolved, to approve Legislative Proposal 2026-A - CDS Schedules Update, Draft #1.

Mr. McKay seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Consideration of Impairment Program Outsourcing – Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana

Mr. Indovina reminded members that during the November Board meeting, they heard a presentation from Dr. J. David Hammond, M.D., Executive Medical Director of the Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana (HPFL).

Dr. Hammond met with the committee and provided a proposal to provide professional impairment services to the Board of Pharmacy. Dr. Hammond's proposal included a phased approach, phase 1 of a possible 2-phase plan. The initial contract included pharmacists only. Once the HPFL established a program for pharmacists, it hopes to fully develop a plan for technicians, technician candidates, and pharmacy interns in the next 18 – 24 months.

The committee agreed that a phased approach was not the preferred option for outsourcing the impairment program and chose to postpone consideration of the proposal. There were no comments or questions from the members.

Delegated Signature Authority for Contracts

Mr. Indovina explained, in accordance with La. R.S. 39:1595.1(B), the Division of Administration's Office of State Procurement requires the Board to maintain a record of delegated signature authority for its contracts. Each year, the Board must authorize the Executive Director to execute contracts and agreements on its behalf for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Hall then moved:

***Resolved**, to authorize M. Joseph Fontenot, Jr., in his role as the Board's Executive Director to execute contracts and agreements on behalf of the Board for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.*

Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Notice of Exceptions Report

Mr. Indovina explained, in accordance with Board policy, the Board President is authorized to review and respond to requests for exceptions to laws, rules, and policies between Board meetings. The policy also authorizes the Executive Director, with the concurrence of the Board President, to issue Special Work Permits and approve dual PIC privileges, with notice provided to the Board at its next meeting. The committee reviewed the current *Exceptions Report*, which was available in the meeting materials, and is now presented to the full Board. No action is required. There were no comments or questions from the members.

Mr. Indovina concluded his report by acknowledging the contributions of fellow committee members: Ms. Hall, Mr. Resweber, Dr. Cloud, and Mr. Darce.

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. Indovina recognized Mr. Finalet to present his report. Mr. Finalet then submitted the following proposed voluntary staff consent agreements for the Board's consideration:

Frank LaCorte (PST.018743): Ms. Hall moved to accept the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For failing to report an order issued by the Florida Board of Pharmacy on March 27, 2025, on his Louisiana pharmacist license renewal application for the year 2026, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$1,000 plus administrative costs.

Houry Lepedjian (PST.025064): Ms. Melancon moved to accept the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Ms. Hall seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For failing to report an order issued by the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy on December 3, 2024, on her Louisiana pharmacist license renewal application for the year 2025, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$1,000 plus administrative costs.

Iriel Balinda Crouch (CPT.015855): Ms. Melancon moved to accept the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Ms. Hall seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician reinstatement application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Thinh Quoc Le (PST.022016): Ms. Melancon moved to accept the proposed voluntary consent agreement. Ms. Hall seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved. For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacist license renewal application for the year 2026, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$1,000 plus administrative costs.

Mr. Finalet then indicated completion of his report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Indovina called upon Mr. Fontenot to present his report. Mr. Fontenot referred members to the quarterly

report of the Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) included in the meeting materials. There were no questions or comments from the members.

Mr. Fontenot then directed the members to review requests from 4 pharmacies seeking a waiver from the duty to submit zero prescription transaction reports to the PMP. Mr. McKay then moved:

***Resolved**, to authorize the issuance of full PMP reporting waivers to the following permits once they have executed the standard consent agreement for that purpose:*

- PHY.009043-NR HealthDyne Specialty Florida, LLC
- PHY.009106-NR NuFactor, Inc.
- PHY.009072-NR Specialty Rxcare
- PHY.009071-NR TelyRx

Ms. Melancon seconded the motion. With no discussion from Board members and no public comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Fontenot then indicated completion of his report.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS ADDED DURING MEETING

There were no new agenda items added during the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Indovina advised members that their announcements were included in their meeting material.

ADJOURN

Having completed the tasks listed on the posted agenda, with no further business pending before the Board and without objection, Mr. Indovina adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Joe Fontenot and then approved as presented during the subsequent meeting on May 6, 2026.

David A. Darce
Secretary