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## **Minutes**

### **Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission**

### **September 12, 2023**

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission met Tuesday, September 12, 2023, in Room 153 in the Claiborne Building. Prior to the start of the meeting, Chair James Fontenot took a moment to acknowledge long-time Commission member, Mr. James Dorris, who passed away suddenly in August. Commission members all expressed admiration and appreciation for Mr. Dorris. Chair Fontenot then called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The roll was then called by Ms. Courtney Britton and a quorum was established. There were no public comments to be read.

#### **Commission Members Present**

Melanie Amrhein, Vice Chair  
Chris Broadwater  
Sherrie Despino  
James Fontenot, Chair  
Carmen Million  
Randy Plaisance

#### **Staff Members Present**

Courtney Britton  
Antonio Williams  
Chandra Cheatham

#### **Guests Present**

(See Appendix)

#### **Commission Members Absent**

Jada Lewis  
Susana Schowen

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from the Commission's meeting on July 11, 2023.

**On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Melanie Amrhein, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously adopted the minutes of the July 11, 2023, Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission meeting.**

The next item considered by the Commission were initial applications for licensure. The first initial license application was from Clinical Lynks, located in Metairie, LA. This application was deferred from the July meeting, with the request that the school owner provide additional information regarding her financials and business plan for the

Commission's consideration. The school was represented by owner, Ms. Kwanza Gaines. Ms. Britton reviewed the materials for the Commission members, informing them that the institution was proposing to offer one program: Phlebotomy Technician, 48 hour, 4-week program. Commission members commended Ms. Gaines on her persistence in pursuing her goal and expressed appreciation at the obvious work she had put in to provide the additional requested materials.

**On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Clinical Lynks, Metairie, Louisiana.**

The second initial license application was from Unimed Academy, located in New Orleans, LA. The school was represented by owners, Dr. Princess Denny and Dr. Darlonda Harris. Mr. Antonio Williams reviewed the materials for the Commission members, informing them that the institution was proposing to offer one program: Professional Advance Career Education Certification – Medical Assistant (Hybrid), 488 hour, 48-week program.

Discussion included the owners' backgrounds, the need for the school, the owners' goal to provide for additional training of Medical Assistants and the increased need in the area, average salary expectations, the curriculum and how it was modeled after national recognized certification material, the marketing plans, instructors and plans for students who might not be progressing.

**On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Carmen Million, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Unimed Academy, New Orleans, Louisiana.**

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was operating license renewals. Over the previous two months, 38 schools submitted complete renewal applications. Two schools, Rockbridge Training Institute, Shreveport and NODC School for Dental Assisting, Harvey chose not to renew their license. After staff shared they were collecting records from the closed schools, discussion also included the challenges in collecting records from past schools where owners or operators are unresponsive to staff requests.

**On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Carmen Million, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents renew the licenses of the following proprietary schools:**

160 Driving Academy-Shreveport - License #2364  
Acadiana Area Career College, Lafayette, LA - License #2357  
Accelerated Academy-Denham Springs - License #2154  
Accelerated Academy-Lafayette - License #2219

Accelerated Academy-Baton Rouge - License #2220  
 Accelerated Academy-Monroe - License #2223  
 Accelerated Academy-Slidell - License #2224  
 Accelerated Academy-Houma - License #2228  
 Accelerated Academy-Metairie - License #2230  
 Accelerated Academy-Hammond - License #2235  
 Accelerated Academy-Lake Charles - License #2308  
 Advance Nursing Training, New Orleans, LA - License #2197  
 Ark-La-Tex Dental Assisting Academy, Shreveport, LA - License #2131  
 Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy-South - License #2305  
 Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy - License #2335  
 Blue Cliff College-Alexandria - License #2358  
 Blue Cliff College-Lafayette - License #2359  
 Blue Cliff College-Metairie - License #2360  
 Blue Cliff College-Metairie, Satellite - License #2361  
 Camelot College, Baton Rouge, LA - License #680  
 Coastal College-Alexandria - License #991  
 Cross Road CDL Academy, Harvey LA - License #2321  
 Digital Media Institute, Shreveport, LA - License #2198  
 Fortis College, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2134  
 Healthcare Training Institute, Kenner, LA - License #2109  
 Life Care, Marrero, LA - License #2182  
 MedCerts, Livonia, MI - License #2337  
 Medical Training College, Baton Rouge, LA - License #969  
 NOLA Institute of Gaming, New Orleans, LA - License #2322  
 OceanPointe Dental Academy of Prairieville - License #2363  
 Opelousas Academy of Nondestructive Testing - License #2275  
 RelyOn Nutec USA, Houma, LA - License #2156  
 Remington College - Baton Rouge - License #2277  
 River Cities School of Dental Assisting, Shreveport, LA - License #2089  
 Smith Institute, Shreveport, LA - License #2362  
 Stick It Phlebotomy, Jonesboro, LA - License #2226  
 Synergy Massage Institute-Slidell - License #2336  
 Synergy Massage Institute-Metairie - License #2365

The next agenda item was an update on program approvals. Chair Fontenot reminded the Commission that program approvals were being shared for informational purposes only. No questions were brought forward regarding the following program approvals.

1. Crossroad CDL Academy, LLC  
    Harvey, LA  
    Add  
    Diesel Mechanic Technician – 2000.0 clock hours
2. River Parishes Institute  
    Gonzales, LA  
    Add  
    Medical Assistant – 540.0 clock hours  
    Sterile Processing Technician – 540.0 clock hours

Additional business included the notice that proposed dates for 2024 meetings would be shared next meeting, along with the general and financial reports for Fiscal Year 2023.

The next meeting of the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission is scheduled for November 14, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 1-153 of the Claiborne Building. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

APPENDIX A  
GUESTS

Dr. Princess Dennar	Unimed Academy
Kwanza Gaines	Clinical Lynks
Dr. Darlonda Harris	Unimed Academy
Amanda LaGroue	LA Department of Justice