

GEORGIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF LICENSED DIETITIANS
Conference Call/ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.

The Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians met via teleconference/ZOOM Friday, March 17, 2023. The Board's Executive Director hosted the meeting from the Professional Licensing Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

Board Members Present:

Holly Thaw, MS, RDN, LD, Chair
Cicely Thomas, M.Ed., RDN, LD, Vice-Chair
Rashelle Berry, MPH, MS, RD, LD
Caitlin Flatley, MS, RDN, LD
Michael Kaplan, Consumer Member

Office of Attorney General:

Alexis Cromartie, Esq., A.A.G.

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Amanda Allen, Licensing Supervisor
Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist
Sarah Collett, Licensing Analyst

Visitors Present:

Katherine Bechdol, GAND Liaison
Robin Steagall
Jet Toney

Ms. Holly Thaw, Chair, established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the Board meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Agenda: Approved

New Board Members:

- Benjamin Steele, Dietitian at Large
- Katherine Wiley, Educator

The Board would like to welcome new Board member appointments, Mr. Benjamin Steele, to succeed the Honorable Lisa Cooley Davies and Ms. Katherine Wiley, to succeed the Honorable Anita Nucci, both terms of office expiring July 1, 2026. Mr. Steele and Ms. Wiley were administered the Oath of Office by the Governor prior to today's Board meeting. Please note that Ms. Wiley was unable to attend today's meeting.

Meeting Minutes:

- December 9, 2022 C.C. Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as presented

Ms. Thomas moved, Ms. Berry seconded, and the Board voted to approve the December 9, 2022 Conference Call/ZOOM Meeting Minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Application Ratify List: Issued Date: 12/9/2022 - 3/16/2023

License No.	Licensee
LD-P000325	Destiney Kiara McDaniel
LD-P000326	Alisa Austin Meyer
LD-P000327	Megan Elizabeth Govedich

LD006364	Kara Dale Bourland
LD006365	Nino Alissandro Gonzalez
LD006366	Marissa Ann Avione
LD006367	Danielle Marleah Castellano

LD006368	Danielle Anne Genenz
LD006369	Anna Kathryn DuTreil
LD006370	Deanna Marie Staskel
LD006371	Jill Gerber
LD006372	Norma Angela Reid-Archibald
LD006373	Haley Donaldson Justus
LD006374	Anne Elizabeth Rubin
LD006375	Mallory Casey McDaniel
LD006376	Amy Elizabeth Geurin
LD006377	Kie'erra Nichole Washington
LD006378	Jennifer Buden Zambo
LD006379	Lindsey Georgiarose Seider
LD006380	Brooke Lauren Hamilton
LD006381	Megan Kathleen Bellinger
LD006382	Jesse Aaron Gilmore
LD006383	Courtney Lynn Frost
LD006384	Megan Nicole Koistinen
LD006385	Karen Kay Randall
LD006386	Sierra Jeneal Stamm
LD006387	Claudia Woodard
LD006388	Alexis Adaure Nosiri
LD006389	Sophia Artemis Lind
LD006390	Brittany Marie Emery
LD006391	Kayla M Morgiewicz
LD006392	Karlie Alicia Abrams
LD006393	Jenna Kristine Widman
LD006394	Adriana Palucci
LD006395	Andrea Lynn Bailey
LD006396	Patricia Paraison
LD006397	Aundrea Pateace Denson
LD006398	Sarah Elizabeth Davis
LD006399	Isabella Bregante
LD006400	Jennifer Marie Lafferty
LD006401	Rachel Renee Anthony
LD006402	James P Carmichael
LD006403	Miranda Rae Harbridge
LD006404	Julia-Anne Florio
LD006405	Nicole Geonnotti
LD006406	Lauren S Wenrich
LD006407	Jon Michael Williams
LD006408	Ellen York Schaefer
LD006409	Amanda Leigh Davis
LD006410	Elizabeth Anne Friedman
LD006411	Andrea Victoria Licht
LD006412	Juvonia Veronica Harris
LD006413	Zachary Loran Scott
LD006414	Joan Zeckler Cornier
LD006415	Erin Marie Sheehan
LD006416	Emily Kathleen Brown

LD006417	Emily Rose Conyers
LD006418	Emily Margaret Tewksbury
LD006419	Lynette A Newhart
LD006420	Melissa Kathleen Buscetta
LD006421	Ana Srahi Ulloa
LD006422	Michele Leigh Szafranski
LD006423	Debra Williams
LD006424	Chelsea Christine Taylor Long
LD006425	Linda Balian Yerardi
LD006426	Courtney Perkins Schauder
LD006427	Kelly Marie Blackburn
LD006428	Diana Bryn Manning
LD006429	Juan Luis Cruz Colon
LD006430	Jennifer Cindy Shapiro
LD006431	Megan Renee Perez
LD006432	Cherita Peterson Wright
LD006433	Emily Leslie Tauschek
LD006434	Kendra Zoe Imani Wilder Taylor
LD006435	Jennifer Elizabeth Moore
LD006436	Cameron Noelle Rabdau
LD006437	Tameka Janay Watson
LD006438	Madison Nancy Dodsworth
LD006439	Katelyn Elizabeth Filippi
LD006440	Haleigh Michele Gaines
LD006441	Megan Dean Kochenour-Lugo
LD006442	Claire Augusta Bass
LD006443	Taylor K Brown
LD006444	Stephanie Marie Kile
LD006445	Kari Ruth Houge
LD006446	Michael E Becker
LD006447	Benjamin Joe Ditto
LD006448	Jacqueline Rae Shemaria
LD006449	Krista Lynn Kendig
LD006450	Laurel Lynne Fetzer
LD006451	Honora Ambika Gandhi
LD006452	Madison Maria Sutton
LD006453	Ge Zhan
LD006454	Sarah Anne Perkins
LD006455	Whitney Chantell Wallace
LD006456	Cassie Ilana Steinberg
LD006457	Shefali Dewan
LD006458	Natalie Lauren Dabbs
LD006459	Chiya Louise Hermano Delgado
LD006460	Aaron David Durden
LD006461	Morgan Cheyenne Foreman
LD006462	Hannah Maureen Byrne
LD006463	Jamie Rasmussen

Ms. Thomas moved, Ms. Berry seconded, and the Board voted to ratify the listing of licenses issued between meetings as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Board Rules Discussion:

- 157-2-.02 Applications for Licensure
- 157-2-.03 Volunteers in Dietetics – Refer to AG’s Office for MOA
- 157-5-.01 Requirements and Definitions (Have MOA; From June 17, 2022 Board Meeting)
- 157-5-.02 Documentation Requirements
- 157-5-.03 Acceptable CE

Mr. Kaplan motioned, Ms. Thomas seconded, and the Board voted to approve the proposed amendments and additions for Board Rule 157-2-.03 Volunteers in Dietetics, and to refer the proposed amended rule to the Attorney General’s office for a Memo of Statutory Authority, and to post publicly the proposed rule for the minimum thirty days upon receipt, with a public rule hearing to follow as soon thereafter. None opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Kaplan motioned, Mr. Steele seconded, and the Board voted to accept the AG’s MOA for Board Rule 157-2-.02 Applications for Licensure, 157-5-.02 Documentation Requirements and 157-5-.03 Acceptable CE in addition to adding rule 157-5-.01 Requirements and Definitions from June 2022 meeting and to post publicly the proposed rule for the minimum thirty days, with a public rule hearing to follow as soon thereafter. None opposed, motion carried.

GAND Liaison Report:

Katherine Bechdol provided the Board with GAND available updates.

GAND Board Appearance: 9:30 a.m.

- Proposed Dietetic Licensure Law Legislation – Robin Steagall, Public Policy Coordinator, GAND and Jet Toney, GAND Lobbyist

Mr. Kaplan moved, Ms. Thomas seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(h), O.C.G.A. § 43-26-5(c) and O.C.G.A. § 43-26-11 to receive and review information pertaining to Applications, Complaints, the Assistant Attorney General’s report and to review the previous meetings Executive Session meeting minutes. Voting in favor of the motion were those Board members present Thaw, Thomas, Kaplan, Flatley, Berry and Steele.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, March 17, 2023, Ms. Thaw declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

Proposed Dietetic Licensure Legislation – GAND – HB996

Following Board discussion in executive session regarding the presentation by GAND reintroducing proposed dietetic practice act legislation, the Georgia Board of Dietitians would like to provide GAND with a copy of the official letter of opposition that the Board previously voted on and sent to the committee during the February 18, 2022 Board Meeting. This proposal changes the name and makeup of the Board and adds new license types to be created and implemented.

Opposition letter of HB996:

February 18, 2022

The Honorable Alan Powell
Chairman, House Committee on Regulated Industries
613-B CLOB
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: HB 996

Dear Representative Powell,

The Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians (henceforth the “Board”) voted unanimously during their meeting of February 18, 2022 to submit this letter to the House Committee on Regulated Industries of their opposition and concerns related to House Bill 996, an act to amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Chapter 11A, the Dietetics Practice Act. The Board wishes to direct your attention to the following:

- O.C.G.A. § 43-11A-18 (8), Lines 40 – 52 of the current version of the Bill:

Striking the existing language in this section of the current law would pose a danger to the public. The current language is designed to protect consumers from receiving oral or written information about food and dietary products that is intentionally deceptive or fraudulent. The proposed addition of language related to dietary products that have been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is in and of itself misleading as the FDA does not approve dietary supplements for safety or effectiveness.

- O.C.G.A. § 43-11A-18 (10), Lines 53 – 54 of the current version of the Bill:

The term “general nutrition information” about the use of food, food material, or dietary supplements is not defined. Dietary supplements may contain vitamins, minerals, herbs/botanicals, amino acids, and other substances which may be harmful to persons with medical conditions. The FDA suggests that individuals consult with healthcare professionals before using a dietary supplement (source: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/fda-101-dietary-supplements>). The current law is consistent with the FDA recommendation as it permits persons licensed to practice dentistry, medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, nursing, and pharmacy to engage in dietetic practice when incidental to their professional practice. The current law also permits persons to provide weight control services if the program has been reviewed by and consultation is available from a licensed dietitian. These measures are intended to protect the public from receiving information that may be detrimental to their health.

- O.C.G.A. § 43-11A-18 (11), Lines 55 - 59 of the current version of the Bill:

The existing language in the current law defines dietetic practice (a term used interchangeably with medical nutrition therapy) as the integration and application of principles derived from the science of nutrition through the provision of nutrition care services including: conducting nutrition assessments, establishing nutrition priorities and goals, and providing nutrition counseling. Under the current law, a Dietitian is licensed to practice medical nutrition therapy based upon education, supervised practice and passing an examination.

In the proposed change to the act, including language that any “person” may provide individualized food and nutrition guidance, assessments, evaluation, recommendations, etc. allows for individuals who do not meet the standards of the current law to provide medical nutrition therapy. The proposed change would be harmful to the public as unlicensed persons, without liability, may provide information that is inappropriate for individuals with medical conditions. The current statute already allows for other credentials not currently recognized by the Board to be presented to the Board for review/approval or not. Reference: O.C.G.A. § 43-11A-9.(3) and O.C.G.A. § 43-11A-13.(a)

In summary, the Board supports the existing Georgia Dietetics Practice Act; it is comprehensive and allows persons educated in the science of nutrition by an accredited academic institution to provide medical nutrition therapy and protect the public. We express a deep concern about any substitute language as it will allow the provision of misleading, fraudulent, and deceptive nutrition information to individuals with and without apparent medical conditions as defined by International Classification of Diseases codes (source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/index.htm>) and cause unintended adverse health consequences, including death.

Sincerely,

THE GEORGIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF LICENSED DIETITIANS

Anita Nucci, Ph.D., RD, LD - Chair 2021
Holly C. Thaw, MS, RDN, LD - Vice-Chair 2021
Cicely Thomas, M.Ed, RDN, LD
Rashelle Berry, MPH, MS, RD, LD
Caitlin M. Flatley, MS, RD, LD
Michael M. Kaplan, Consumer Member



Mr. Kaplan motioned, Ms. Thomas seconded, and the Board voted to approve a copy of the above letter of opposition of HB996 be sent to GAND as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Board has also requested ED Zimmerman write the GAND representatives presenting the proposed statutory changes today requesting they keep the Board up to date on all activities with this proposed legislation (Session 2024).

Applications:

- S.S.
- K.L.

Recommendation:

Approve-Pending receipt of additional information
Approve reinstatement

Ms. Thomas moved, Mr. Steele seconded, and the Board voted to accept the recommendation for the application discussed above as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

AG's Office Report:

Alexis Cromartie, Esq AAG., provided a status report which included information for any cases referred for action, advice and /or requests for authority for proposed rules received.

Mr. Kaplan moved, Ms. Thomas seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Attorney General's Report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Cognizant's/Complaints Report:

- **Pending – AG's office:** DIET230004
- **Pending Receipt of Additional Information:** DIET230007, DIET230008, DIET230009

Mr. Kaplan moved, Ms. Thomas seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Cognizant Report as presented. None opposed, motion carried

Executive Session Minutes:

- December 9, 2022 C.C. Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as presented

Ms. Berry moved, Mr. Kaplan seconded, and the Board voted to approve the December 9, 2022 Conference Call/ZOOM Executive Session Minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

HOLLY THAW

Chair

BRIG ZIMMERMAN

Executive Director

These minutes were approved: June 16, 2023