NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF DIETETICS/NUTRITION
BOARD MEETING
9:00 A.M.
1135 KILDAIRE FARM ROAD, SUITE 200
CARY, NC 27511

[ELECTRONIC ONLY MEETING]

OPEN MINUTES: February 20, 2026

Board Members:	Sarah Thomas, Babbi Hawkins, Christie Nicholson, Janice Shannon, Maggie King
Staff:	Marnie Jones, *Executive Director;* Frances Cheung, *Licensing Administrator;* Laine Moye, *Licensing Coordinator*
Guest(s):	Henry Jones, *NCBDN General Counsel*
Absent:	*Deanna Didiano, Patricia Pitts*

Call to Order – Sarah Thomas
The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was present. No conflicts of interest were presented.

The agenda was sent out to the Board electronically for review. Maggie made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Janice seconded the motion. Roll call to approve agenda:

- Babbi – Approve (& present)
- Christie – Approve (& present)
- Janice – Approve (& present)
- Maggie – Approve (& present)
- Sarah - Approve (& present)

Secretary's Report – Sarah Thomas (for Patricia Pitts)
The January 2026 open and closed meeting minutes were provided for electronic review prior to the meeting. Christie motioned to approve the January 2026 minutes as presented. Maggie seconded the motion. Sarah asked if there was any discussion on the motion. No further discussion. Roll call to approve motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

Treasurer's Report – Christie Nicholson
The January 2026 Cash Flow report, Savings report, Budget report, and Investment report were sent for prior review to the Board electronically. Marnie noted that a conditional refund has been issued for the $5,000 Social Security registration fee dispute submitted with Bank of America. The merchant has 60 days

to refute or open a dispute. Maggie motioned to approve the January 2026 financial reports as presented. Janice seconded the motion. Sarah asked if there was any discussion on the motion. No further discussion. Roll call to approve motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

Public Comment – Sarah Thomas
- N/A

Licensing Administrator Report – Frances Cheung
Frances reported the total active licensee count at 5,301 and the Provisional licensee count at 10. Since the last administrative numbers report given during the last Board meeting on January 16th, there have been 118 new licensees, thirty-one licensees have gone inactive, and four licensees have relinquished.

A reminder email was sent this week to all licensees with expiration date of 03/31/2026. Neon yellow reminder postcards will be mailed out next week.

2,021 licensees have renewed their licenses to date.
3,094 licensees have not yet Renewed/Gone Inactive/Relinquished.

- Henry joined the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

Closed Session
Christie motioned to close the meeting for discussion regarding **Applications**, pursuant to Article 33C of Chapter 143, §143-318.18(6) and Article 5 of the Bylaws, Section 4 (8), **Legal Consultation**, pursuant to Article 33C of Chapter 143, §143-318.11 (3) and NCBDN ByLaws, Article V (5) Section 4(3) and **Investigations**, pursuant to Article 33C of Chapter 143, §143-318.11(7) and NCBDN ByLaws, Article V (5) Section 4 (7). Maggie seconded the motion. No further discussion. Roll call to approve motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

Legal Consultation – Henry Jones and Marnie Jones

SS Verification Updates
- The Board and Counsel discussed the legalities surrounding the provisions in HB926.

Compact Updates
- Henry notes that he and Weldon will try to keep apprised of the status of the compact bill once the session begins.

Category D Reciprocity Inquiry
- A Florida licensee who is not a dietitian, is foreign educated and sat for the CDR exam in 2021 solely for FL licensure purposes has inquired with the Board on whether she qualifies for reciprocity under NCGS 90-360. To determine if she qualifies, the Board needs to determine whether the statute in FL in 2021 was substantially the same as the statute in NC.

Investigations – Marnie Jones and Henry Jones
A new complaint was received; however, neither the Complainant nor the Respondent are licensees of the Board. Marnie has drafted a letter to refer the Complainant to the proper agency.

- Henry left the meeting at 10:04am.

Application Review – EdComm and Marnie Jones

The Board reviewed the application submission for JLee.

Marnie provided an update on applicant RHousen.

Applicant Hart's application is still on a one-year hold.

Open Session – Sarah Thomas

Actions related to closed session:

- Maggie motioned that the Board determined that FL's Statute in 2021 was not substantially the same as NC's Statute. Christie seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call to approve the motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.
- Maggie motioned to approve draft letter and close public complaint 93VCI-ZZA8H. Janice seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call to approve the motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Recused, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.
- Christie motioned to approve Applicant Lee for licensure. Janice seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call to approve the motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

Compact Insights from PT Board & Timeframe – Marnie Jones
Marnie met with the Physical Therapy (PT) Board's current Executive Director and former Executive Director, in an effort to seek out learnings and insights from their Board. The PT Board has had a Compact since 2019.

- The PT Board shared that they had to increase their fees with the implementation of the Compact. Marnie is doing modeling for fees for range of ideas.
- The PT Board shared that there was heavy IT work involved with their in-house IT person building up their system from scratch.
- The PT Board receives a check from the Compact Commission every month.
- The PT Board advised being very clear on the pros and cons of Compact privilege and to have consistent messaging.
- There are 39 states in the PT Compact. If Boards implement a jurisprudence requirement, the PT Board advised to be clear on whose responsibility it is to police the completion of these requirements.
- The PT Board has had an increase in Complaints with the implementation of the Compact, which has increased workload burden.

- Marnie is planning to speak with the NC Psychology Board, which also has a Compact and will be more similar to our Board with regards to telehealth.

Policy Updates – Marnie Jones
Policy updates per regulation updates in 2023 are needed for the Filing A Complaint process and Sanctioning Guide.Marnie walked the Board through the updates that are needed.

Janice motioned to amend the policies to be in line with 2023 regulations. Christie seconded the motion. No further discussion. Roll call to approve motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

Unfinished Business/New Business – Marnie Jones

- Christie has completed the Ethics Education training and the Board is up to date with training renewals.

- The Board's insurance provider has started charging an annual fee of $50/year for state carrying coverage, per Article 30 and 31. Many agencies have joined the policy and the insurance provider has been covering the fee but will need to start charging a nominal fee from this year onward.

Public Comment – Sarah Thomas
- N/A

Christie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:45a.m. Maggie seconded the motion. No further discussion. Roll call to approve motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.