

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF DIETETICS/NUTRITION  
BOARD MEETING  
10:00 A.M.  
1135 KILDAIRE FARM ROAD, SUITE 200  
CARY, NC 27511

**[ELECTRONIC ONLY MEETING]**

OPEN MINUTES: January 16, 2026

Board Members: Sarah Thomas, Babbi Hawkins, Christie Nicholson, Deanna Didiano, 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:* Patricia Pitts

**Call to Order** – Sarah Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present. No conflicts of interest were presented.

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

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

Dr. Didiano joined the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

**Secretary's Report** – Sarah Thomas (for Patricia Pitts)

The December 2025 open and closed meeting minutes were provided for electronic review prior to the meeting. Christie motioned to approve the December 2025 minutes as presented. Dr. Didiano 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, Dr. Didiano – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

**Treasurer's Report** – Christie Nicholson

The December 2025 Cash Flow reports, Savings reports, Budget reports, and Investment reports were sent for prior review to the Board electronically. Janice motioned to approve the December financial reports 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.

**Public Comment** – Sarah Thomas  
- N/A

**Licensing Administrator Report** – Frances Cheung

Frances reported the total active licensee count at 5,218 and the Provisional licensee count at 9. Since the last administrative numbers report given during the last Board meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>, there have been 90 new licensees, five licensees have gone inactive, and two licensees have relinquished.

Green renewal postcards were mailed to licensees at the beginning of January, as well as email notification. A reminder email blast will go out in late January and a reminder postcard will be mailed out in mid-February.

485 licensees have renewed their licenses to date.  
4,665 licensees have not yet Renewed/Gone Inactive/Relinquished.

**Required Training for Board Members per 93B-5** – Marnie Jones

Marnie provided a training for the Board on laws relevant to the NCBDN per NC Generate Statute §93B-5 and will provide a pdf of the training after the Board meeting.

**Closed Session**

Maggie 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) and **Legal Consultation**, pursuant to Article 33C of Chapter 143, §143-318.11 (3) and NCBDN ByLaws, Article V (5) Section 4(3). Christie seconded the motion. No further discussion. Roll call to approve motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Dr. Didiano – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

**Application Review** – Marnie Jones and EdComm

The Board reviewed the application submission for YHart.

- Henry joined the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

**Legal Advisement** – Henry Jones

Henry provided an update on his outreach efforts to Legislative Services to get more information on the Social Security verification requirement.

- Henry left the meeting at 10:46am.

**Application Review** – EdComm and Marnie Jones

The Board reviewed the application submission for KAssaley.

The Board reviewed the application submission for RHousen.

Maggie motioned to reopen the meeting at 11:38 am. Dr. Didiano seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call to approve motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Dr. Didiano – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Patricia – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

**Open Session** – Sarah Thomas

Actions related to closed session:

- Christie motioned to deny re-consideration of syllabi for Applicant Hart, due to determination of the syllabi's non equivalence to human anatomy and physiology. Dr. Didiano seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call to approve the motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Dr. Didiano – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.
- Janice motioned to approve the application for licensure for Applicant Assaley. Maggie seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call to approve the motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Dr. Didiano – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.
- Dr. Didiano motioned for Marnie to draft a response to Applicant Housen for EdComm's review and approval. Maggie seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call to approve the motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Dr. Didiano – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

**Comment Period Closed, Periodic Rules Review** – Marnie Jones

Marnie reported that there were no comments received during the open comment period for the Periodic Rules Review. The next step would be for the report to go to the Rules Review Commission, and they will make the final determination if the rules are necessary.

Maggie motioned to send the agency report with agency determination that all rules are marked as necessary to the Rules Review Commission. Christie seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call to approve the motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Dr. Didiano – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Sarah – Yes.

**Update from Compact Webinar** – Marnie Jones

Marnie shared that staff attended the Dietitians Licensure Compact information session on January 15, 2026. Marnie reached out to the Physical Therapy Board's Executive Director in an effort to seek out learnings from other Boards who recently implemented a compact, which was recommended during the information session.

**Update on Funds for SSN Verification Project** – Marnie Jones

Marnie has prepared a letter to send to Bank of America to dispute the charge for \$5,000.

**Unfinished Business/New Business** – Marnie Jones

Two Board positions will be open in June 2026 due to current Board member terms expiring:

- Clinical RDN (replacing Christie Nicholson)
- Consulting/Private Practice RDN (replacing Patricia Pitts)

Marnie reminded Board members of upcoming Ethics Education training renewals that are past due.

- Christie was due to renew 9/13
- Dr. Didiano was due to renew 10/27

**Public Comment** – Sarah Thomas

- N/A

Christie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m. Pat seconded the motion. No further discussion. Roll call to approve motion: Babbi – Yes, Christie – Yes, Dr. Didiano – Yes, Janice – Yes, Maggie – Yes, Pat – Yes, Sarah – Yes.