

**SOUTH CAROLINA PANEL FOR DIETETICS
PANEL MEETING MINUTES**

March 4, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. -WebEx
110 Centerview Dr., Columbia, SC 29210

Call to Order: Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Dietetic Panel's Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and on the Panel website and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Meeting called to Order

Maureen Finger, Panel Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:11 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Maureen Finger made a motion to approve the agenda. Katherine Bernard seconded the motion and it carried unopposed.

2. Panel Mission – Maureen Finger

Maureen Finger read the Panel's mission statement.

The purpose of the Panel for Dietetics is to advise LLR in the development of regulations, statutory revisions, and other matters as LLR may request in regard to administration of the Dietetics Practice Act. The Panel also investigates complaints and conducts application and disciplinary hearings in accordance with State statutes and regulations.

3. Introduction of Panel Members

Maureen Finger
Katherine Bernard
Amanda Groesbeck
Elizabeth Griffith

LLR Staff Present: Alexis Bell, Esq., ODC; Brandy Duncan, Esq., Advice Counsel; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator; Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator; Ryan Belton, DOTS.

Others in attendance: Robin Reibold, Court Reporter.

4. Approval of Excused Absences

Heather Barraco

Maureen Finger made a motion to excuse Heather Barraco. Elizabeth Griffith seconded the motion and it carried unopposed.

5. Approval of Panel Meeting Minutes

a. Panel Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2025

Kathrine Bernard made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 9, 2025, Panel meeting. Maureen Finger seconded the motion and it carried unopposed.

6. Administrative Reports

a. OIE Statistical Report- For Information Only – Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator

From January 1, 2025 to March 3, 2026, there have been 2 complaints, 0 active investigations, and 1 case closed.

b. ODC Report – For Information Only- Alexis Bell, Esq.

There have been 0 cases opened.

7. Panel Executive Report – Patrice Deas

a. Financial Report

Patrice Deas reported as of January 31, 2026, the cash balance for the Panel of Dietetics is \$549,224.17.

b. Total Number of Licensees

As of February 23, 2026, the Panel has 2240 active licensees.

c. Statement of Economic Interest

Patrice Deas reminded the Board to electronically file a Statement of Economic Interest with the SC Ethics Commission by noon on March 30, 2026.

8. New Business

a. IRC Member

Patrice Deas informed the Panel of the need to obtain a new IRC member, and asked the Panel to give recommendations for individuals who may be interested in this role.

b. Approval of 2027 Meeting Dates

- **Wednesday, March 3, 2027**
- **Wednesday, September 8, 2027**

Maureen Finger moved to approve the 2027 Panel meeting dates as amended to reflect March 3, 2027, instead of March 4, 2027. Katherine Bernard seconded the motion and it carried unopposed.

c. Approval for Electronic License

Patrice Deas presented a proposal to the Panel to adopt electronic licenses, which gives licensees the autonomy to print their own license certificate. This process will be used to cut cost of mailing and streamline time frames for licensees receiving their license certificate. With this process, the licensees would be able to print a digital copy of the license within 48

hours and will utilize the agency's current security measures for accessing the license and their account.

Amanda Groesbeck made a motion to accept the proposal to adopt electronic licenses.

Elizabeth Griffith seconded the motion and it carried unopposed.

9. Legislative Update – Brandy Duncan

Brandy Duncan informed the Panel of the status of a potential Legislative update, as they were seeking to have some items amended or added to the Practice Act. Patrice Deas, Brandy Duncan and Maureen Finger met with the SCAND president to discuss those concerns. SCAND will review those items and follow up at a later time.

S160, the Dietitians Compact Act, has passed the Senate as of February 19, 2026, and has been referred to the House 3M committee. It is not currently on any agendas for consideration, but could be assigned to a sub committee before adding it to a full committee agenda. This is being watched for the outcome.

House Bill 3021 and Senate Bill 254, which pertain to regulatory oversight, are currently residing in the senate judiciary subcommittee, and may potentially pass this year.

10. Approval to Travel

FNCE Conference October 24-27, 2026, San Antonio, Texas

Maureen Finger made a motion to approve 2 Panel members, 2 staff members, and the Program Director to attend the FNCE Conference. Elizabeth Griffith seconded the motion and it carried unopposed.

11. Panel Member Election

Elizabeth Griffith made a motion for Maureen Finger to remain the Chair and Katherine Bernard to remain the Vice Chair. Amanda Groesbeck seconded the motion and it carried unopposed.

12. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

13. Adjournment

Elizabeth Griffith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 am. Katherine Bernard seconded the motion and it carried unopposed.