

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING****DATE: June 21, 2023****TIME: 8:30 AM****LOCATION: Via Microsoft TEAMS****MEETING MINUTES**

Name	Member	Present (Y/N)		DPH STAFF	Present (Y/N)
Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, DNSc, Chairperson	RN Member	Y		Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board	Y
Cynthia L. Arpin, EdD, MSN, RN	RN Member	Y		Helen Smith, DPH	Y
Jason Blando	Public	Y		Dana Dalton, DPH	N
Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE	RN Member	Y			
Lisa S. Freeman, BA	Public	Y			
Jennifer C. Long, APRN, MSN, NNP-BC	APRN Member	N			
Geraldine Marrocco, EdD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP	RN Member	N			
Rebecca Martinez, LPN	LPN Member	Y			
Gina Reiners, PhD, APRN, PMHNP, PMHCNS	RN Member	N			
Brett M. Prestia, MD	Public Member	Y			

**1. CHAIR UPDATE:** Chair Bouffard attended meetings sponsored by CT Center for Nursing Workforce.

**2. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS, REORDERING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA :** No additional items or re-ordering. Cynthia Arpin moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Rebecca Martinez seconded. Unanimously approved

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

**4. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING / UPDATE :** Mary Dietmann informed the Board that she attended several meetings of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

**5. MINUTES**

- The Board reviewed the minutes from the May 17, 2023 meeting. Cynthia Arpin moved to accept the minutes. Mary Dietmann seconded. Unanimously approved.

**6. THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR NURSING WORKFORCE, INC – UPDATE :** Linda Wagner, Director for the School of Nursing at University of Bridgeport and Co-Chair of the Deans and Directors Council presented an update of workforce issues and issues of reciprocity with Connecticut graduates in Massachusetts.

- Porter and Chester Institute – LPN prelicensure data update: Marcia Proto presented. Hamden day has a 51% attrition rate. Hamden Evening has a 58% attrition rate. Ms. Proto further discussed Statewide Student Statistics Report for 2022.

## **7. SCHOOL ISSUES**

- Stone Academy – update: Sean Seepersad, Division Director and Timothy Larson, Executive Director of the Office of Higher Education reported that the AG, DPH, and OHE have been constructing an audit and should have final details within the week. Refund processes and discharge of federal loan details will be provided to students. OHE will issue transcripts and audits of transcripts to students. OHE has had conversations with Lincoln Tech and Griffin Hospital on how to address a Teach Out plan. The lack of clinical hours is of concern in transfers. Letters will be sent to students after the audit findings are available.
- Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers – Amanda Bell, Executive Dean, and Michelle Derbyshire presented an update and addendum of Stone Academy Teach-Out/Transfer Pathways. The actual teach-out students are transfer students who do not have the required clinical hours. Naugatuck site is facing supply chain issues. They have 3 cohorts to accommodate at a maximum capacity of 200 each. Hired about 13 faculty and will hire more. Students will take an entrance exam and will have 2 tries to take the exam. If they are unsuccessful there will be a 2-week remediation course provided and another opportunity to pass the test. Lisa Freeman moved to accept Griffin Hospital's addendum to the feasibility study for additional admission and the Stone Academy Pathway Plan. Rebecca Martinez seconded. Brett Prestia abstained. Motion unanimously approved
- Albertus Magnus College – Pre-Licensure BSN Nursing Program: Jaimie Sinutko was present for Albertus Magnus College.

Lisa Freeman moved to approve the feasibility study and curriculum for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Rebecca Martinez seconded. Mary Dietmann and Cynthia Arpin recused. Jason Blando abstained. The Board voted unanimously to oppose the motion.

Lisa Freeman moved to approve Jaimie Sinutko as Interim Nursing Director and Nursing Program Administrator. Jason Blando seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

- Norwalk Community College – Continuing Accreditation to Associate Degree Nursing Program  
. Informed board of accreditation with Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. *This discussion was informational purposes only. No votes were taken.*

- University of Connecticut – Request for Temporary Faculty Waiver - Kaila Toce, BSN, RN CPN, PED, BC . Lisa Freeman moved to approve a 12-month temporary waiver for Nursing 3444 to provide clinical instruction in a pediatric unit. Brett Prestia seconded. Motion unanimously approved.
- University of Saint Joseph – Request Approval of Appointment Nursing Chair – Denise M. Pula, PhD, MSN . Rebecca moved to approve Denise M. Pula, PhD, MSN as Chair of Nursing at the University of Saint Joseph.. Brett Prestia seconded. Motion unanimously approved.
- Updated NCLEX Test Results: Helen Smith presented an updated of all schools that failed to meet the NCLEX score requirement. Schools will first be required to present their corrective action plans. Helen Smith will divide the programs up between August and September 2023 for presentation. Lincoln Tech and Porter and Chester LPN programs to present corrective action plans at July 19, 2023 meeting.

University of St. Joseph's Accelerated Program met the NCLEX score requirement subsequent to conditional status. – Mary Dietmann moved to remove University of St. Joseph's Accelerated Program from conditional status. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Motion unanimously approved removal from conditional status.

## **8. MEMORANDUM OF DECISION**

- Deborah Cochran, RN Petition No. 2019-809 : Mary Dietmann moved to approve the MOD. Lisa Freeman seconded. Motion unanimously approved.
- Kelly McCarthy Gordon, RN Petition No. 2021-444: Rebecca Martinez moved to approve the MOD. Mary Dietmann seconded. Motion unanimously approved.
- Brandon Pervis, RN, APRN Petition Nos. 2019-950, 2022-353 : Mary Dietmann moved to approve the MOD. Rebecca Martinez seconded. Motion unanimously approved.
- Brian Pervis, RN, APRN Petition Nos. 2020-187, 2022-338 : Mary Dietmann moved to approve the MOD. Lisa Freeman seconded. Motion unanimously approved.
- John E. Rodriguez, RN Petition No. 2022-851: Rebecca Martinez moved to approved the MOD. Mary Dietmann seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

## **9. MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

- Jennifer Barr, RN Petition No. 2022-734 Staff Attorney Joelle Newton appeared on behalf of the Department; Attorney Gretchen Randall appeared on behalf of Respondent: Cynthia Arpin moved to grant the motion. Brett Prestia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Sue-Elynn Heller, RN Petition No. 2023-708: Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan appeared on behalf of the Department ; Respondent did not appear. Mary Dietmann moved to grant the motion. Brett Prestia seconded. Cynthia Arpin abstained. Motion passed unanimously.
- Krysbeth Jean, RN Petition No. 2022-1106: Staff Attorney Joelle Newton appeared on behalf of the Department; Respondent did not appear. Mary Dietmann moved to grant the motion. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Christopher Kay, RN Petition No. 2023-696 : Staff Attorney Aden Baume appeared on behalf of the Department; Respondent did not appear; Rebecca Martinez moved to grant the motion. Brett Prestia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Tracy L. Rosenzweig, LPN Petition No. 2022-859: Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan appeared on behalf of the Department; Respondent did not appear. Mary Dietmann moved to grant the motion. Rebecca Martinez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mary Elizabeth Taylor Petition No. 2023-581: Staff Attorney Joelle Newton appeared on behalf of the Department; Respondent appeared. Brett Prestia moved to grant the motion. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **10. CONSENT ORDERS**

- Lisa Markiewicz, RN Petition No. 2022-920 : Staff Attorney Joelle Newton appeared on behalf of the Department; Respondent appeared on her own behalf. Mary Dietmann moved to approve the consent order. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Amy B. Tagg, RN Petition No. 2023-408 : Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina; Respondent did not appear. Lisa Freeman moved to approve the consent order. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

## **11. PREHEARING REVIEW**

- Rebecca E. Cuddy, RN Petition No. 2022-1051: Staff Attorney Joelle Newton appeared on behalf of the Department; Attorney Cody Guarnieri appeared on behalf of Respondent: Board discussed she should not have started an IV without orders. She practiced outside her scope of practice. Board suggested a 3-6 month probation requiring monthly employer reports, education in ethics and scope of practice, and a \$5000 civil penalty. *This discussion was informational purposes only. No votes were taken.*

## **12. HEARINGS**

- Selena Marie Acocella, RN, LPN Petition Nos. 2020-977, 2021-190: Staff Attorney Aden Baume appeared on behalf of the Department; Attorney William Palmieri appeared on behalf of Respondent. Respondent appeared on her own behalf. Second day of hearing.

Attorney Palmieri moved to dismiss the charges. Mary Dietmann moved to deny the motion to dismiss. Rebecca Martinez seconded. The Motion to deny the motion to dismiss the statement of charges was unanimously approved.

Fact Finding: Mary Dietmann moved to find that the Department met its burden of proof for all Charges. Rebecca seconded. Lisa Freeman abstained. The motion unanimously passed.

Remedy: Brett Prestia moved to revoke. Mary Dietmann seconded. Unanimously agreed to revoke.

- Michael Berkley, RN\* Petition No. 2023-381: Staff Attorney Joelle Newton appeared on behalf of the Department; Respondent failed to appear. Attorney Newton moved to deem the allegations admitted. Mary Dietmann moved to grant the motion. Brett Prestia seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

Fact Finding: Mary Dietmann moved to find that the Department met its burden of proof for all Charges. Cynthia Arpin seconded. (Lisa Freeman not present) Unanimously found on all charges.

Remedy: Mary Dietmann moved to revoke. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Lisa Freeman abstained. Unanimously agreed to revoke.

- Kerilee Francis, RN\* Petition No, 2022-1087, 2022-1169: Staff Attorney Aden Baume appeared on behalf of the Department; Attorney Dan Schopick appeared on behalf of Respondent; Respondent appeared on her own behalf.

Answered on the record: 1 admit, 2- admit she submitted an application but denies she did not fulfill the necessary program hours and/or clinical training, 3- deny

Cynthia Arpin moved to go into executive session to discuss sealed records. Mary Dietmann seconded. Motion unanimously approved, and the Board entered executive session at 2:48 pm. The Board returned to public session at 3:23 pm

Counsel for both parties jointly requested to continue the hearing and Cynthia Arpin moved to grant a continuance of the hearing. Rebecca Martinez seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

- Marcus A. Garcia, RN\* Petition No.2023-407: Staff Attorney Aden Baume appeared on behalf of the Department; Respondent failed to appear. Fact finding was tabled.

- Melissa Marti, LPN Petition No. 2022-853: Staff Attorney Joelle Newton appeared on behalf of the Department; Attorney Donovan appeared on behalf of Respondent. Cynthia Arpin moved to find that the Department met its burden of proof for Count One: allegations 1-4. Count Two: allegations 5, 7-9, 11 and 12, Count Three: allegations 13-15, and the Department failed to meet its burden of proof for Count Two: allegations 6 and 10. Lisa Freeman seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Rebecca Martinez moved to revoke Respondent's license and impose a civil penalty of \$18,000. Lisa Freeman seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

- Angel Predzimirski, RN\* Petition No. 2023-569: Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina appeared on behalf of the Department; Respondent appeared on her own behalf. Attorney Fazzina requested a continuance of the hearing. Brett Prestia moved to grant the continuance, Lisa Freeman seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn made by: Lisa Freeman

Seconded by: Brett Prestia

VOTE: Unanimous

Adjourned at: 5:56 pm

Patricia C Bouffard, RN, DNSc  
Chairperson