

The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on March 15, 2023, via Microsoft TEAMS.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, D.N.Sc. - (RN Member, Chair)
Cynthia L. Arpin, RN, MSN – (RN Member)
Jason Blando - (Public Member) out at 10:50
Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE - (RN Member)
Lisa S. Freeman, BA - (Public Member)
Jennifer C. Long, APRN, MSN, NNP-BC - (APRN Member)
Geraldine Marrocco, Ed.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP - (RN Member)
Rebecca Martinez, LPN – (LPN Member)
Brett M. Prestia, DO – (Public Member)
Gina Reiners, PhD, APRN, PMHNP, PMHCNS - (RN Member)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH
Dana Dalton, RN, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Christian D. Andresen, Chief of Practitioner licensing and investigations
Lita Orefice, Chief of Staff, DPH
Linda Wagner, University of Bridgeport, Co-chair for Deans and Directors
Marsha Proto, Executive Director, CT Center for Nursing Workforce
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH
Craig Sullivan, Staff Attorney, DPH
Aden Baume, Staff Attorney, DPH
Dianne Bertucio, DPH

The meeting commenced at 8:35 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chairperson Patricia Bouffard participated in A Lunch to Learn hosted by the Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Cindy Arpin moved and Brett Prestia seconded the motion to approve the tentative agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Nothing to report.

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Update on the National Council State Boards of Nursing – Board members Patricia Bouffard, Mary E. Dietmann, Geraldine Marrocco, along with Dana Dalton from the Department, will attend the mid-year meeting being held in Seattle Washington from March 28th to the 30th.

Update on the APRN round table – there will be a Roundtable meeting on March 16, 2023.

No additional updates on the National Council.

THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR NURSING WORKFORCE, INC – Monthly Update (for informational purposes only, no votes taken)

Marcia Proto, Executor of the Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce, Inc. recognized Linda Wagner of the University of Bridgeport, Zeke Dominique from Norwalk, Bruce Hoffman from Goodwin University and Jeanette Lubinacci, for their outstanding work as leaders. Ms. Proto discussed their webinar with Yale, as well as the various workshops offered and posted on their websites. Ms. Proto mentioned the 5 Workforce Development Boards that are creating Regional Sector Partnerships with various industries.

The Department of Labor is offering an extension grant for individuals participating in the “good jobs” challenge. There was a discussion regarding the celebration and funding for all state schools for nursing and social work programs.

Geraldine Marrocco discussed S.B. 6149 concerning nurse practitioners/APRNs. S.B. 6149 removes barriers for nurse practitioners from out of state who are now classified as new graduates, despite their number of years of practice and experience.

Chris Andresen commented that there are two components of this proposed legislation: (1) out of state practice/experience as APRNs will be credited towards the CT 3-year (or 2000 hours) requirement of supervised practice; and (2) APRNs and not physicians will supervise such APRNs.

Geri Marrocco suggested that the board members should be informed of proposed legislation related to nursing so that they can provide their input before the legislation is passed. Marcia Proto commented that Kim Sandor, Executive Director of the CT Nurses Association, is tracking pending legislation concerning to the nursing profession.

Mary E. Dietmann raised the question of new nurses leaving the profession and what is needed to retain them. Rebecca Martinez commented that in most cases, especially in long term care facilities, the ratio of patients to nurses is 30 to 1, which is overwhelming,

stressful and permits only 2 minutes of care per patient per hour. Everyone agreed that this situation is jaw dropping and not sustainable.

Linda Wagner explained that the purpose of the CT Horizons grant was to increase student enrollment with staff support for the increased number of students as a means to address retention.

SCHOOL ISSUES

Lincoln Tech

Dr. Susan Naples and Patty Delucia appeared on behalf of Lincoln Technical (“LTI”) which requests a modification of the Board-approved Shelton Modify Action Plan which increased the number of day campus students to 40, based on faculty and clinical availability.

Campus NCLEX action plan to include a voluntary cap on the Shelton day campus group of up to 30 additional students per cohort in an effort to assist Stone Academy students.

LTI is focusing on Stone Academy students that meet LTI admission requirements, specifically the December 2022 and January 2023 cohorts. The discussion continued to the issues of space and hiring faculty to cover additional coursework and clinicals. The topic turned to the stability of the staff and administration as well as NCLEX scores and costs of the program. Cindy Arpin made a motion to amend the action plan for LTI to increase enrollment to a maximum increase of 30 students, seconded by Gina Reiners. Cindy Arpin amended her motion to clarify the wording that up to 30 students will be added to the 40 students already approved, for a maximum of 70 students. The additional students will be taught in 2 separate cohorts, based on faculty and clinical availability. Gina Reiners seconded Cindy Arpin’s amended motion. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

Porter and Chester

Dr. Vicky Kane and Sherry Greifzu appeared on behalf of Porter and Chester Institute (“PCI”) which requests the approval of the appointment of Sherry Greifzu as Director of Nursing. Gina Reiners made a motion to accept the appointment of Sherry Greifzu, seconded by Rebecca Long, effective as of February 2, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding the status of PCI in response to the February 2023 Concerns. It was decided that a report addressing the students’ concerns should be prepared and presented to the Board at the Board’s May meeting.

Sean Seepersad, Division Director of Academic Affairs, Office of Higher Education (“OHE”) provided an update on the closure of Stone Academy. OHE has obtained some records of the active students for auditing purposes. OHE held a 3-day student information fair with LCI, Griffin Hospital, PCI, the National Guard, and the Department of Education in attendance. Approximately 450 of the 845 students from Stone Academy attended. There were questions regarding federal financial aid and the differences

between discharge and forgiveness of student loans. The Board chair asked Sean Seepersad to request a representative from the US Department of Education to attend the next Board meeting.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Arlene Clarke, LPN

Petition No. 2022-580

Gina Reiners moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded a motion to affirm the Memorandum of Decision as presented, which revokes Respondent's LPN license. The motion passed unanimously.

Olesja Whelan, RN

Petition No. 2020-336

Jennifer Long moved and Mary E. Dietmann seconded the motion to affirm the Memorandum of Decision as presented, which orders a one-year probation with conditions on Respondent's license. The motion passed unanimously.

Danielle Works, LPN

Petition No. 2021-519

Gina Reiners moved and Mary E. Dietmann seconded the motion to affirm the Memorandum of Decision, as presented, which revokes Respondent's LPN license. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Tiona A. Stewart, LPN,

Petition Number: 2023-151

Staff Attorney Aden Baume

Staff Attorney Aden Baume presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension of Tiona A. Stewart's LPN license. Respondent was not present and was not represented. Jennifer Long moved and Gina Reiners and Lisa Freeman seconded the motion to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that Respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to the public health, safety, and welfare. The motion passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for April 19, 2023.

CONSENT ORDERS

Ashley Avelino, LPN,

Petition No. 2022-204

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Consent Order in the matter of Ashley Avelino, LPN. Respondent was not present and was not represented. Gina Reiners moved and Brett Prestia seconded the motion to approve the Department's Consent Order as presented. The Consent Order reprimands Respondent's license and orders a six-month probation with conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

Sharon M. Gauthier, RN, Petition No. 2019-276 Staff Attorney Joelle Newton

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board a Consent Order in the matter of Sharon M. Gauthier, RN. Respondent was not present, but was represented by Attorney Arnold Menchel. Jennifer Long moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded the motion to approve the Department's Consent Order as presented which imposes a reprimand on Respondent's license, a civil penalty of \$4,000.00 and a 18-month probation with conditions. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Brett Prestia abstaining.

Kristy Ilewicz, RN, Petition No. 2020-534 Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan

Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan presented the Board a Consent Order in the matter of Kristy Ilewicz, RN. Respondent was not present and was not represented. Gina Reiners moved and Cindy Arpin seconded the motion to approve the Department's Consent Order as presented which imposes a 3-year probation with conditions. After discussion regarding the delay in the Department's handling of this matter, the motion passed unanimously with Dr. Prestia abstaining.

Christy L. Keene, RN, Petition No. 2022-504 Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board a Consent Order in the matter of Christy L. Keene, RN. Respondent was present and was represented by Attorney Marissa Vitolo. Jennifer Long moved and Mary E. Dietmann seconded the motion to approve the Department's Consent Order as presented which imposes a 4-year probation with conditions on Respondent's license. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Prestia abstaining.

HEARINGS

Kelly McCarthy Gordon, RN Petition No. 2021-444 Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina represented the Department. Respondent was not present and was not represented by counsel. Gina Reiners moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded a motion to approve the Department's oral motion to deem the allegations admitted. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Prestia abstaining.

Following the close of the hearing, the Board conducted fact-finding.

Gina Reiners moved and Mary E. Dietmann seconded a motion to find on all charges. The motion passed unanimously. As a remedy, Gina Reiners moved and Mary E. Dietmann seconded the motion to revoke Respondent's license. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m. on a motion by Lisa Arpin, seconded by Rebecca Martinez.

Patricia C. Bouffard, D.N.Sc.
Chair Board of Examiners for Nursing