

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 July 6, 2022 via Microsoft TEAMS.

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gina Reiners, PhD, APRN, PMHNP, PMHCNS - (RN Member, Acting Chair)  
Jason Blando - (Public Member)  
Jennifer C. Long, APRN, MSN, NNP-BC - (APRN Member)  
Geraldine Marrocco, Ed.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP - (RN Member)  
Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE - (RN Member)  
Lisa S. Freeman, BA - (Public Member) (8:57 a.m.)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cynthia L. Arpin, RN, MSN – (RN Member)  
Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, D.N.Sc. - (RN Member, Chair)  
Joseph Bierbaum (Public Member)  
Rebecca Martinez, LPN – (LPN Member)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH  
Dana Dalton, RN, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Jeff Kardys, Board Liaison, DPH

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The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

### **CHAIR UPDATES**

Gina Reiners was acting chair in place of Patricia Bouffard. Nothing to report.

### **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA**

Jeff Kardys advised that hearing of Candace Staines has been continued and removed from the agenda. Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco to approve the agenda as revised. The motion passed unanimously.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Nothing to report.

### **NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING**

Chair Reiners had nothing to report.

Dana Dalton reported on the NCSBN Executive Officer Summit in Chicago that she attended.

### **Recusal/Abstention**

Stacy Schulman, Staff Attorney, Board Counsel

Attorney Schulman presented on the differences between recusal and abstention of Board members with respect to voting. Geraldine Marrocco suggested a Board orientation for new Board members. Jeff Kardys will email the Board members with the orientation information. Dana Dalton advised NCSBN has helpful information for new Board members and she will send out the link.

## **CONNECTICUT LEAGUE FOR NURSING – Monthly Update**

Marcia Proto provided an update from the Connecticut League for Nursing and the Deans and Directors. Marcia reported on the findings from the research and data gathered regarding disproportionate attrition rates in LPN schools. Marcia reported that the Connecticut League for Nursing merged into the CT Center for Nursing Workforce effective June 30, 2022.

## **SCHOOL ISSUES**

### University of Bridgeport – CCNE Accreditation

Helen Smith reported that the CCNE has granted accreditation for the University of Bridgeport Baccalaureate nursing degree until June 30, 2032.

Chair Reiners congratulated Linda Wagner on the University of Bridgeport's accreditation.

### Capital Community College – Appointment of Interim Division Director

Catherine Leary and Duncan Harris appeared on behalf of Capital Community College.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion to approve Catherine Leary, RN, MSM, RRT as the Interim Division Director of Capital Community College effective July 1, 2022, Mary Dietmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Stone Academy – Appointment of Interim Program Administrator

Gary Evans, Dr. Brian Pervis, and Lisa Palmer appeared on behalf of Stone Academy.

Jennifer Long made a motion to approve Brian Pervis, DNP, MSN, RN, APRN, LPN, as Interim Program Administrator of Practical Nursing effective June 13, 2022. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman, with all in favor, with the exception of Jason Blando who abstained.

### Goodwin University – Corrective Action Plans

Bruce Hoffman, Dr. Michael Pardales, Dr. Vivienne Friday and Paula Dowd appeared on behalf of Goodwin University.

Lisa Freeman made a motion to reject the corrective action plan submitted by Goodwin University for the associate degree program. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marracco and passed unanimously.

Lisa Freeman made a motion to reject the corrective action plan submitted by Goodwin University for the accelerated bachelor's degree program. The motion was seconded by Mary Dietmann and passed unanimously.

Goodwin University will revise the corrective action plans and resubmit to DPH by September 4, 2022 for the September 21, 2022 meeting.

### University of Saint Joseph – Corrective Action Plan

Dr. Janet Knecht and Dr. Denise Puia appeared on behalf of University of Saint Joseph.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion to accept the University of Saint Joseph's corrective action plan for the accelerated bachelor's degree of science nursing program. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

Lincoln Technical Institute – Corrective Action Plain

Patricia DeLucia, Dr. Deborah Little, Dr. Susan Naples and Sara Johnson appeared on behalf of Lincoln Technical Institute.

Geradline Marrocco made a motion to approve Lincoln Technical Institute’s corrective action plan for the Shelton campus day program. The motion was seconded by Mary Dietmann and passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

*Sabrina J. Ernst, R.N.,* *Petition No. 2022-611* *Staff Attorney Joelle Newton*

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Sabrina J. Ernest. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

Jennifer Long moved 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 public health, safety, and welfare. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for August 3, 2022.

**PRE HEARING REVIEW**

*Suzanne P. Minor, R.N.,* *Petition No. 2021-526* *Staff Attorney Joelle Newton*

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a pre-hearing review packet in this matter. Respondent was present and represented by Attorney Cody Guarneri. The Board recommended dismissal of the charges.

*Angela P. Oakes, R.N.,* *Petition No. 2021-527* *Staff Attorney Joelle Newton*

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a pre-hearing review packet in this matter. Respondent was present and represented by Attorney Cody Guarneri. The Board recommended dismissal of the charges.

**CONSENT ORDERS**

*Adrianna Avila, R.N.,* *Petition No. 2021-849* *Staff Attorney Joelle Newton*

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented a Consent Order in this matter. Respondent was not present and not represented.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand and probate for a period of six months. The motion passed unanimously.

*April M. Palombizio, RN, APRN* *Petition Nos. 2021-998: 2022-426* *Staff Attorney Joelle Newton*

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented a Consent Order in this matter. Respondent was not present and not represented.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand and probation for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine Marrocco left the meeting at 1 p.m.

## **HEARINGS**

*Olesja Whalen, RN*                      *Petition No.: 2020-336*                      *Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina*

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present with her counsel, Attorney Ellen Costello.

On a motion by Jennifer Long, seconded by Lisa Freeman, the Board entered executive session to accept testimony regarding confidential health information from Olesja Whalen, RN.

The Board was in executive session from 12:59 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. to accept testimony regarding confidential health information.

Hearing was continued to the next meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm on a motion by Lisa Freeman, seconded by Mary Dietmann.

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