

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on September 5, 2012 at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1-A, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair  
Mary M. Brown, RN  
Tarah Cherry, Public Member  
Jennifer Long, APRN  
Maria Pietrantuono, RN  
Carrie Simon, Public Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Heidi Darling, LPN

**ALSO PRESENT:** Alfreda G. Gaither, Counsel to the Board, DPH  
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, DPH  
Diane Cybulski, Investigations Supervisor, DPH  
Pamela Pelletier, Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Linda Fazzino, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH  
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

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Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

#### STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from Goodwin College and the University of Connecticut.

Chair Bouffard provided the students with an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs.

#### WELCOME – NEW BOARD MEMBER

Chair Bouffard welcomed Carrie Simon as the Board's newest Public Member appointed by the Governor on August 15, 2012.

#### OPEN FORUM

There were no comments from the audience.

#### ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

Memorandum of Decision – Elizabeth S. Scoran, LPN

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – SENATE BILL 30 – MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION BY HHAs

Jennifer Filippone apprised the Board of the recent activity on Senate Bill 30 – Medical Administration by Home Health Aides.

## SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE – FIVE YEAR SURVEY REPORT

Pamela Aselton, et. al., were present from the program for the survey review. Tarah arrived at 8:50 AM during the discussion. Mary Brown moved, seconded by Maria Pietrantuono, that Saint Joseph College has met all criterion in their survey report and will be granted full approval. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention: Carrie Simon as this was Ms. Simon's first Board Meeting.

## SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE – NAME CHANGE

Pamela Aselton, et. al., were present from the program for this discussion. The Board Office received a letter from Dr. Pamela Trotman Reid, President, to inform the Board that on June 8, 2012, Saint Joseph College formally changed their name to University of Saint Joseph Connecticut. The new Certificate of Incorporation for the University was filed with the Secretary of State on June 8, 2012. On January 20, 2012, the State Board of Education accepted the change.

## UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT – UPDATE ON MEIN PROGRAM

Dr. Regina Cusson, Interim Dean of the UConn School of Nursing, and Paula McCauley, Interim Associate Dean, were present for this discussion. Due to changing times, a bachelor's degree is now required and/or preferred in many hospitals for employment as a registered nurse. Magnet status is a goal of many hospitals and this status requires nursing to have a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The Board of Regents reviewed UConn's request to change the MEIN Program to a bachelor's degree granting program and saw no problem with this request, since it is already an approved University policy. UConn is changing their name of the program to CEIN-BS: Certificate Entry into Nursing – Bachelor's Degree, signifying that students will continue to earn a certificate as entry into the program and will earn a bachelor's degree upon program completion. The curriculum for new students will remain the same, since content for meeting the new essentials was incorporated into the curriculum in 2011. Former MEIN Students will be offered a 4-credit course covering the content areas and petition for a second bachelor's degree in nursing for a limited time only. Chair Bouffard questioned as to how this fit organizationally and it was the decision of the Board to table this to the October 3, 2012 meeting to be discussed during UConn's five-year review.

## CT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL – PROGRAM UPDATES

The Board office received documentation from Patricia Fennessy, Consultant at the CT Technical High Schools, stating that the Norwich Program currently has four instructors and one Department Head. A class of 40 students was scheduled to start on August 29, 2012. In addition, the CT LPN Programs will be utilizing "Survey Monkey" form to obtain graduate surveys. This will allow easier collation of the data received. The accreditation process is currently in process. The Kaynor LPN Program has been accredited and Ms. Fennessy anticipates the four remaining LPN Programs to obtain accreditation in the fall. In speaking with Ms. Fennessy on August 17, 2012, Ms. Pelletier was told that there were no changes regarding the A. I. Prince and Bullard-Havens LPN Programs since the last update and they have adequate faculty. After review of the updated report of August 13, 2012, the Board respectively requested that they be provided with notification upon completion of all six LPN program's accreditation from the Council on Occupational Education.

## PORTER AND CHESTER INSTITUTE – UPDATES RE: WATERTOWN AND BRANFORD CAMPUSES

Patricia Donovan, Corporate Director, was present to provide the updates.

WATERTOWN – All 16 students have completed their clinical make-up and have successfully passed the NCLEX Exam. The October graduating class will complete the 750 required hours by their graduation date.

BRANFORD - All ten students have completed their clinical make-up and have taken the NCLEX Exam. Eight students have passed and two are still pending. The January graduating class will also complete the 750 hours by their graduation date. The next update will be December 5, 2012.

ROCKY HILL CAMPUS – The Board reviewed the credentials of Elizabeth Donofrio for the position of LPN Program Supervisor at the Rocky Hill Campus. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Jennifer long, to approve Ms. Donofrio as her credentials meeting the regulations for nursing programs. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Donofrio will start on September 10, 2012.

CAMPUS SUPERVISORS – The following is the current list of LPN Campus Supervisors at the Porter and Chester Campuses: Branford – Marianne Baril; Enfield – Amber Irimia; Rocky Hill – Elizabeth Donofrio; and Watertown – Robin Theborge.

#### NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE – NEW INTERIM DIRECTOR

Dr. Mary Schuler retired on June 29, 2012 as Director of Nursing and Allied Health at NCC. Coral Presti was appointed as Interim Director on July 9, 2012. Ms. Presti was present for any questions the Board may have. Mary Brown moved, seconded by Tarah Cherry, to approve Ms. Presti's appointment as Interim Director of Norwalk community College's Nursing Program and Allied Health. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Presti expects to complete her PhD within the year.

#### CENTRAL CT STATE UNIVESITY – FIRST NCLEX RESULTS AND UPDATE

Dr. Linda Wagner, Chair of the Department of Nursing at CCSU, was present for the update and any questions the Board may have. CCSC has successfully graduated their first class of 45 BSNs. Thirty-six students have taken the NCLEX-RN and two have failed which is a first-time pass rate of 94%. Nine students are pending – some of whom have moved out of state. Dr. Wagner is present to request that the CCSU Program be taken off of Conditional Status. Maria Pietrantuono moved and Jennifer Long seconded to grant the CCSU Nursing Program Full Approval. The motion passed unanimously. The Program's next review will be September 4, 2013.

#### YALE – MASTERS ENTRY PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST

Dr. Margaret Grey, Dean, and Dr. Linda Pellico, Associate Professor, were present to request from the Board that the Graduate Entry Pre-specialty in Nursing (GEPN) students be eligible to sit for the NCLEX Exam upon completion of eleven months within their three-year specialty program. In addition, the Board understands that the GEPN Program will remain a certificate granting program. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Mary Brown, that the GEPN students be allowed to sit for the NCLEX Exam upon completion of eleven months. The motion passed unanimously. The Board wished continued success with the program.

#### NCLEX – SECOND QUARTER

RN PROGRAMS: Connecticut's first-time pass rate for the second quarter of 2012 was calculated to be 93% which has increased 3% from the first quarter of 2012.

LPN PROGRAMS: Connecticut's first-time pass rate for the second quarter of 2012 was calculated to be 78% which has decreased significantly, 11%, from the first quarter of 2012 which was 89%.

Patricia DeLucia, Program Administrator for the CT LPN Lincoln Technical Institute's Program (LTI) and Rosemary Baker, Interim Program Manager for LTIs Shelton Campus, was present to answer questions the Board may have and also to discuss the incorrect pass rates and also to present the Board with an Action Plan for the Shelton Day Program.

As the regulations cohort is May through April, the Board will do a yearly review at their October meetings.

#### ANNUAL NCLEX REVIEW

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Section 20-90-47(b)(2)(A), the CT Board of Examiners for Nursing is charged with evaluation the performance of Board approved nursing education programs. It was the unanimous decision of the Board that the Annual NCLEX Review will be conducted at their October meeting beginning October 3, 2012. In accordance with the regulations, programs with a pass rate of lower than 80% for first-time test takers for the period of May 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> of a given year may be placed on conditional status.

Subsequently during the Board's April 3, 2013 meeting and annually thereafter, the Board will again review the NCLEX scores for each program and may request a Plan of Correction (POC) for any program that has been identified as experiencing a lower than the 80% first time pass rate. If a POC is requested by the Board, this action may be helpful in preventing your program from being placed on conditional status following the October review and may result in improving the program's test scores. The request for an April POC will be at the Board's discretion.

The Department will send out a letter informing the programs that a yearly NCLEX Review will be conducted for all programs per the Regulations (May 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>). This review will be presented yearly at the Board's October Business Meeting effective October 3, 2012. In April, the Board will re-review the NCLEX scores and may request a (POC) for potential programs that may be experiencing low scores to prevent conditional status with the October review. This will be at the Board's discretion. The Board also requested that the Department send out a notification letter quarterly for programs experiencing low NCLEX scores.

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING UPDATE

Chair Bouffard and Jennifer Long attended the NCSBN Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas August 8 – 10, 2012 to consider pertinent association business with its Member Boards of Nursing. Highlights of some of the significant actions approved by the delegates included: Adoption of the proposed revisions to the NCSBN Model Practice Act and Rules; Adoption to the 2013 NCLEX-Rn test Plan; Acceptance of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, Nursing Council of New Zealand and College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia as associate members; and, election of new directors to the Board of Directors and members of the Leadership Succession Committee. The NCSBN will meet August 14 – 16, 2013 in Providence, Rhode Island for the 2013 NCSBN Annual Meeting.

Break 10:10 AM – 10:30 AM

#### DISCIPLINE – REINSTATEMENT HEARING REQUEST – TRACY SHUGRUE KANE, RN

Ms. Shugrue-Kane was present to request from the Board a reinstatement hearing regarding her RN license which was revoked in 2008. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Jennifer Long, to grant Ms. Shugrue-Kane's request for a hearing. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing will be scheduled for December 5, 2012.

#### CONSENT ORDER – CHARLES MONCK, RN

David Tilles apprised the Board that Charles Monck has withdrawn his request for a Consent Order. Ms. Monck signed an Interim Consent Order on May 25, 2011 which suspended his license which will remain in effect until a Final Order has been issued.

#### CONSENT ORDER – WESLEY ROSS, RN

Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for Wesley Ross. Mr. Ross was not present as he is currently living in Florida and he was represented by counsel at this meeting. Jennifer Long moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention; Tarah Cherry.

#### CONSENT ORDER – CHARLES SHAPIRO, RN

Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for Charles Shapiro. Mr. Shapiro was not present as he currently lives in California. Mr. Shapiro's counsel was not in attendance due to a scheduling conflict. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to deny the Consent Order as written. The motion passed unanimously. The Board stated that Mr. Shapiro practiced outside the scope of practice for a registered nurse and it was the recommendation of the Board that he be charged \$25,000.00 per incident along with the recommendation that he not be allowed to work in Connecticut.

#### CONSENT ORDER – LARISSA CRANSTON, RN

Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Consent Order for Wesley Ross. Ms. Cranston was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Jennifer Long moved and Tarah Cherry seconded to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed unanimously.

#### MEMORANDA OF DECISION

Janice E. Wojick presented the Board with the following Memoranda of Decision:

#### TANIA THOMAS, LPN

This was presented to the Board at their August 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and tabled as the language regarding therapist reports was not contained in the Order. Jennifer Long moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to accept the Memorandum of Decision as presented. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Carrie Simon.

#### ELIZABETH SCORAN, LPN

Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to affirm the Board's prior decision. The summary remains in effect until Ms. Scoran complies with Order No. 1. The motion passed unanimously.

#### HEARING – CAROLE RUGGIERO-RUIZ, RN

First hearing held August 15, 2012. Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Ruggiero-Ruiz was present with counsel, Attorney Martha Murray. The Board questioned Ms. Ruggiero-Ruiz on some issues. Attorney Murray raised a question to the Board that if Ms. Ruggiero-Ruiz was granted reinstatement, could the Board issue a provisional license to allow her to take a refresher program and then the NCLEX. If she has to wait for the Memorandum of Decision to be issued and signed, it could possibly take six months. The record closed. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Tarah Cherry, to grant Ms. Ruggiero-Ruiz' licensure reinstatement request. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Tarah Cherry, to grant a provisional license preapproved by the Department in order to allow entering into an RN refresher program. The motion passed unanimously. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Maria Pietrantuono, to grant Ms. Ruggiero-Ruiz probation for two years, after she successfully completes the RN refresher program, the NCLEX-RN exam. She must provide weekly drug/alcohol screen reports, monthly therapist and employer reports, no access to narcotic meds for the first six months when she returns to work as a nurse, and no pool work during the entire probationary period. The motion passed unanimously.

#### HEARING – KIMKELLY MYERS, LPN

First hearing was held June 20, 2012. Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Myers was present with counsel, Attorney Matthew Gaidos. Closing arguments were provided by the Department and Attorney Gaidos. The hearing closed. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to find Ms. Myers on all charges. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Carrie Simon. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Mary Brown, that Ms. Myers' license be revoked. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Carrie Simon. The Board questioned their counsel, Attorney Alfreda Gaither, as to whether or not anything could be done to prohibit Ms. Myers from ever working with children again. Attorney Gaither said she would look into the matter and get back to the Board.

#### HEARING – KRISTEN WEBBER, RN

Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Webber was present with Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt. Attorney Gaither, Counsel for the Board, entered exhibits into the Record. Counsel for the Department and the Respondent also entered exhibits into the record. Discussion took place between the Counsel for the Department, the Board, and the Respondent. Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt requested a continuance to the next available hearing date. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant the continuance to September 19<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 11:45 AM.

Patricia C. Bouffard, Chair  
Board of Examiners for Nursing

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on September 19, 2012 at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1-A, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair  
Mary M. Brown, RN  
Jennifer Long, APRN  
Maria Pietrantuono, RN

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tarah Cherry, Public Member  
Heidi Darling, LPN  
Carrie Simon, Public Member

**ALSO PRESENT:** Stacy M. Schulman, Counsel to the Board, DPH  
Pamela Pelletier-Stevens, Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH  
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

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Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM.

#### STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from Porter and Chester Institute, Stone Academy, and Goodwin College.

Chair Bouffard provided the students with an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs.

#### SCHOOL ISSUES - LINCOLN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - WAIVER REQUESTS

##### HAMDEN CAMPUS - Temporary Waiver Request for Karen Greene:

Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant the waiver request for discussion. All were opposed. Mary Brown made a new motion to deny the request for a waiver for Karen Greene as she does not meet the Regulations (Section 20-90-51(d) (2) (iii) for a temporary waiver request. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

##### SHELTON CAMPUS - Permanent Waiver Request for Amy Johnson

Mary Brown moved, seconded by Jennifer Long, to grant the permanent waiver request for Amy Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

##### SHELTON CAMPUS - Temporary Waiver Request for Donna Gucwa:

Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant the one-year temporary faculty education waiver. The motion passed unanimously.

#### CONSENT ORDER – ROBIN SHINN, RN

Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Consent Order for the Department. This Consent Order was previously presented to the Board on May 16, 2012 and now includes what the Board has asked for. Ms. Shinn was not present and was not represented by counsel at this meeting. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Marie Pietrantuono, to accept the Consent Order as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

#### CONSENT ORDER – REBECCA L. BERGMAN, RN

Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Consent Order for the Department. Ms. Bergman was not present and was not represented by her counsel, Attorney Michelle Holmes at this meeting. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Maria Pietrantuono, to accept the Consent Order as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

#### HEARING: EWURAMA HAYFORD, RN, APRN

Attorney David Tilles was present representing the Department of Public Health. Attorney Edward M. Mayer, Jr. was present with Ms. Hayford. Testimony was provided by Michael Gaudet and Kathryn McDonnell. The hearing was continued to November 7, 2012.

#### HEARING: KRISTEN WEBBER, RN

Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Webber was present with Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt. Testimony was provided by Ms. Webber. Testimony regarding Ms. Webber's medical records was done in Executive Session.

Mary Brown motioned to find Ms. Webber on all charges. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved that Ms. Webber's license be placed on probation for four years with the usual probationary terms including no access to narcotic keys for one year upon her return to work as a nurse. Ms. Webber does not have to retake the NCLEX-RN exam and does not have to complete a refresher program. The Board stated that her PCP must submit progress reports to the Department every six months throughout the entire probationary period. The motion passed unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 4:45 PM.

Patricia C. Bouffard, Chair  
Board of Examiners for Nursing