

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on March 6, 2013 at the Department of Public Health Complex, Room 470-A/B, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy M. Schulman, Counsel to the Board, DPH
Diane Cybulski, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Stephen Carragher, Health Program Supervisor, OPLC, DPH
Linda Fazzino, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Tynan E. Cooney, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from Western CT State University and UConn.

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

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard will be attending the Annual NCSBN Mid-Year Meeting in San Jose in March.

OPEN FORUM

Elizabeth Beaudin, CT Hospital Association, provided the Board with a brief update on the very busy 2013 Legislative Session with patient safety being at the forefront.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

No new items were added to the agenda.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – 2013 SESSION BEGAN JANUARY 9, 2013

There were no updates at this time.

SCHOOL ISSUES – PORTER AND CHESTER INSTITUTE – ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Patricia Donovan, LPN Program Administrator, presented the Board with an update on the administrative changes at the Porter and Chester Institute (PCI). Amber Irimia will be leaving PCI on March 7, 2013. Maribel Rivera-Smith will become the Interim Nursing Education Supervisor at the Rocky Hill Campus until a permanent replacement has been secured.

The Board was presented with her resume and transcript. Elizabeth D'Onofrio who is the current Nursing Education Supervisor at the Rocky Hill Campus will be transferring to the Enfield Campus on March 7th to replace Ms. Irimia. Mary Brown moved, seconded by Jennifer Long, to accept the appointment of Ms. Rivera-Smith as the Interim Campus Supervisor for Rocky Hill contingent upon receipt of her BSN and MSN Transcripts. The Board also requested Ms. Irimia's job performance documentation for the last year and her completion of the leadership course. The motion passed unanimously.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CRITICAL CARE NURSES

The Board reviewed documentation from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) Certification Corporation who is seeking the Board's approval of the AACN Certification Corporation as an authorized certification body acceptable to the Board for the certification of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP). The credential awarded to successful candidates will be ACNPC. Stephen Carragher, Health Program Supervisor at DPH in the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, was present for this discussion. Pursuant to Section 20-94a(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, in order to qualify for and maintain a CT APRN License, an applicant must hold and maintain current certification as a Nurse Practitioner, a clinical Nurse Specialist, or a Nurses Anesthetist from one of the following national certifying bodies that certify nurses in advanced practice: The American Nurses' Association, the Nurses' Association of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Certification corporation, the National Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates, or the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, their successors or other appropriate national certifying bodies approved by the Board of Examiners for Nursing.

Maria Pietrantuono moved to approve the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses as a certifying body as outlined above. Applicants certified by the AACN, regardless of the examination completed, would meet the certification requirement for licensure. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARD OF NURSING UPDATE

Jennifer Long attended the 2013 NCSBN Annual Institute of Regulatory Excellence (IRE) Conference in New Orleans January 15 - 17, 2013. There were more than 90 regulators from across the country to discuss discipline in nursing regulation.

Ethics, due process, and alternative to discipline programs were among the many topics presented at this year's conference. Presentations about the role and process of discipline in nursing regulation were given from a variety of industry perspectives, including lawyers, Boards of Nursing, and the Department of Health. There was also a session on how to interpret body language. A networking session was held at the famous Acme Oyster House. A live New Orleans Jazz Band played as attendees sampled the local fare, networked with fellow nurse regulators, and enjoyed the hospitality of New Orleans.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – ANTOINETTE VOSE, RN

Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Antoinette Vose. Ms. Vose was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Maria Pietrantuono moved to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order and Notice scheduling the hearing for March 20, 2013.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION – LISA CZARNECKE, RN

Janice E. Wojick presented the Board with this Memorandum of Decision. Mary Brown moved, and Carrie Simon seconded, to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Czarnecke's license. The motion passed with all in favor with two abstentions: Ellen Komar and Gina Reiners.

Break – 15 minutes

HEARING – JENNIFER M. GAUDINO, LPN

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzino was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Gaudino was present pro se at this hearing. Testimony was provided by Ms. Gaudino, Victoria Prince, and Priscilla Priors. The hearing concluded. Mary Brown moved to find Ms. Gaudino on all charges with the exception of 3a(ii) and 3F. The motion was seconded by Maria Pietrantuono and passed unanimously. Mary Brown then moved for revocation of Ms. Gaudino's LPN license. The motion was seconded by Maria Pietrantuono and passed unanimously. The Board stated that this was abuse of a very vulnerable population. Abuse is not tolerated, there is "zero" tolerance for abuse. There was no pattern of bad behavior at the facility regarding Ms. Gaudino therefore that this was a very difficult decision.

HEARING – EWURAMA HAYFORD, APRN

Attorney David Tilles was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Hayford was present and represented by Attorney Edward M. Mayer, Jr. Testimony was provided by Ms. Hayford, Michael Gaudet, Kathryn McDonnell, and Susan Denisco. The hearing concluded at 4:45 PM. Due to lack of a quorum, Fact Finding will take place on April 3, 2013.

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

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on March 20, 2013 at the Department of Public Health Complex, Room 470-A/B, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair
Tarah Cherry, Public Member
Jennifer Long, APRN
Gina M. Reiners, RN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary M. Brown, RN
Ellen M. Komar, RN
Maria Pietrantuono, RN

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy M. Schulman, Counsel to the Board, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
Bonnie Pinkerton, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from the University of Hartford, Southern CT State University, and Western CT State University.

Students left the meeting before Chair Bouffard could provide them with an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – LARISSA CRANSTON, RN

DPH Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Larissa Cranston. Ms. Cranston was not present at this meeting and was not represented by counsel. Jennifer Long moved to grant this Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Tarah Cherry and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Order and the Notice of Hearing scheduling the hearing for April 3, 2013.

HEARING – ANTOINETTE VOSE, RN

DPH Attorney Ellen M. Shanley was present representing the Department. Ms. Vose was present pro se. Testimony was provided by Ms. Vose and Bonnie Pinkerton.

Jennifer Long moved that the Board can find Ms. Vose on all charges as Ms. Vose had admitted to all the charges and the Board can also find on CGS 20-99(b)(5). The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed with all in favor with exception of Tarah Cherry who was opposed.

Jennifer Long moved to extend Ms. Vose's probation for one additional year. Currently she has two years remaining on the November 17, 2010 Consent Order. The probationary terms will restart upon signature of the MOD as follows: drug/alcohol screen reports weekly for the first and third years, and twice per month for the second year; employer and therapist reports are to be provided monthly for the entire three years, there will be no key restriction, and all other terms remains the same. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long then moved to vacate the Summary Suspension immediately. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

HEARING – JILL WITHEY, LPN

DPH Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Withey was not present and did not have representation at the hearing scheduled for February 20, 2013. The Board went forward with the hearing, closed the hearing, and it was the decision of the Board to revoke Ms. Withey's license. At the conclusion of the meeting Chair Bouffard spoke with the students in the audience. During this time Ms. Withey arrived for her hearing stating that she was told a different time than what was written in the Notice of Hearing. Chair Bouffard advised Ms. Withey to file a Motion to Reopen the Hearing which she did. The Motion to Reopen the Hearing was granted and rescheduled for today. Ms. Withey was present pro se. Testimony was provided by Ms. Withey. Due to incomplete treatment records, the Board continued the hearing to May 15, 2013 at 8:30 AM. DPH has not received any current treatment records since October, 2012.

HEARING – SAMANTHA COLBERT, LPN

DPH Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Colbert was present pro se. Testimony was provided by Ms. Colbert during which time Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Gina Reiners, to move into Executive Session to question Ms. Colbert on the sealed documents entered into the record from Saint Francis Behavioral Care. Upon completion of the questioning, Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Gina Reiners, to return to the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously. After additional testimony, the hearing concluded.

Jennifer Long moved that the Board could find Ms. Colbert on all charges as she had admitted to all of the charges. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed with all in favor with the exception of Tarah Cherry who was opposed.

Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Gina Reiners, to move into Executive Session to discuss the sealed exhibits again. The motion passed unanimously, which lasted approximately five minutes, then Jennifer Long moved to exit Executive Session, which was seconded by Gina Reiners, and passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved and Gina Reiners seconded that Ms. Colbert's license be placed on suspension for six months, effective immediately through September 20, 2013, the summary suspension remains in place until the Memorandum of Decision is signed, random drug/alcohol screens are to be provided weekly during the first and fourth years, and twice per month during the second and third years, therapist and employer reports are to be provided monthly for the entire probationary period, Respondent is not to have access to the narcotic keys for the first year of returning to work as a nurse, and the usual remain terms including no pool/solo work. By September 20, 2013 the Board requested that a therapist evaluation be provided and approved by the Board regarding Ms. Colbert as to whether or not she is safe to return to the practice of nursing. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 10:25 AM.

Patricia C. Bouffard, Chair
Board of Examiners for Nursing