

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on December 16, 2015 at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1-D, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member
Ellen M. Komar, RN
Geraldine Marrocco, RN
Gina M. Reiners, RN

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Long, APRN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

ALSO PRESENT: Alfreda G. Gaither, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH
Christian Andresen, Section Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations, DPH
Kathleen Boulware, Public Health Services Manager, DPH
Pamela Pelletier-Stevens, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Helen Centeno, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Sara Montauti, HPA, DPH
Matthew Antonetti, Principal Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, OLRC, 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 Porter and Chester Institute – Rocky Hill and Stratford Campuses, and Tunxis Community College’s Medical Assistant Program.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard had nothing new to report.

OPEN FORUM

No comments or concerns from the audience.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

There were no additional agenda items or reordering of the agenda.

NCSBN UPDATE

Chair Bouffard provided the recent NCSBN updates to the Board Members.

SCHOOL ISSUES – PORTER AND CHESTER INSTITUTE – INTENT TO ADD EVENING LPN CLASSES

Patricia Donovan, Director of the LPN Programs at Porter and Chester Institute (P&C), was present to advise the Board of their intent to add evening LPN classes to all five CT P&C campuses. They have had many requests from potential students to offer their curriculum in the evening so that they may be able to maintain full-time employment or manage to stay at home with young children yet be able to attend LPN classes. This will also be beneficial to P&C's current day students which would allow them the flexibility to move in the evening program hours should they have a life event that alters their ability to continue in the day program.

The evening curriculum will be identical to the day curriculum taught during the day (1,596) hours although it will be spread over a twenty-one month period of time vs. a twelve month period of time. Classes will be held Monday through Fridays evening from 5 PM to 10 PM. Students will be attending twenty hours per week vs. the thirty-five hours per week for the day program.

The first evening program will begin in April of 2016 at their Enfield Campus and will gradually be phased into the other four campuses. Once approved by the Board, P&C will be applying for separate NCLEX numbers to identify each of these classes and the NCLEX pass rate will provide the information on the success of the evening program. The program will admit a maximum of 20 students per admission cycle which will be approximately twice per year.

The Board did comment that they have concerns regarding current day students who choose to change over to the evening program.

The Board requested that they be kept apprised of the timeline and faculty for each location.

SCHOOL ISSUES – LINCOLN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE – STAFF CHANGES

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens apprised the Board of the recent staff changes at the New Britain Campus. Rosemarie Baker, Regional Director of Nursing for the Lincoln Technical Institute (LTI) was present to apprise the Board that the LTI New Britain campus vacancy has been filled pending Board approval. Also present is Carolyn Nicholson, who has been appointed as the new LTI Director for the New Britain campus, pending Board approval. Ms. Baker and Ms. Nicholson were present to answer any questions the Board may have.

Mary Brown moved to approve Ms. Nicholson as the new Interim Director of the LTI New Britain Campus and requested a formal plan for orientation with a follow-up after six months from Ms. Nicholson's supervisor. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners arrived at this time.

SCHOOL ISSUES – QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY – WAIVER REQUEST

Susan Lynch, Chair of Undergraduate Nursing, was present from the program to request a temporary faculty education waiver for Mary Beth Shafer.

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens provided the Board with an update regarding Ms. Shafer's educational background.

Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant a one-year temporary faculty education waiver for Mary Beth Shafer. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously.

Kathleen Boulware arrived at this time.

2016 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - FEBRUARY 3, 2016 – May 4, 2016

Kathleen Boulware updated the Board on the 2016 Legislative Session.

SCHOOL ISSUES - ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE – WAIVER REQUEST

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens provided the Board with a request from St. Vincent's College regarding a temporary faculty education waiver for Sharon Pranger. There was no one present from the program.

Gina Reiners moved to grant a one-year temporary faculty education waiver for Sharon Pranger who will be approved as the Clinical Skills Lab Instructor only. The motion was seconded by Ellen Komar and passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES – UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH CT – WAIVER REQUEST

Gina Reiners recused herself from this waiver discussion and voting due to her affiliation with USJ.

Dr. Patricia Morgan and Kathleen Conway, Undergraduate Clinical Coordinator, were present to request a temporary faculty education waiver for Sheila Garilli.

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens provided the Board with an update on Ms. Garilli's educational background.

Mary Brown moved to grant a six-month temporary faculty education waiver for Ms. Garilli. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed with all in favor.

SCHOOL ISSUES – UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH CT – WAIVER REQUEST

Gina Reiners recused herself from this waiver discussion and voting due to her affiliation with USJ.

Dr. Patricia Morgan and Kathleen Conway, Undergraduate Clinical Coordinator, were present to request a temporary faculty education waiver for Yara Mendez.

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens provided the Board with an update on Ms. Mendez' educational background.

Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant a one-year temporary faculty education waiver for Ms. Mendez. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed with all in favor.

SCHOOL ISSUES – STONE ACADEMY – WAIVER REQUEST

Stone Academy is requesting a temporary faculty education waiver for Christina Hoover. Present from the program were Karyn Therrien, LPN Program Director/Manager for Stone Academy, and Christina Hoover.

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens provided the Board with an update on Ms. Hoover's educational background.

Gina Reiners moved to grant a one-year temporary faculty education waiver for Christina Hoover for teaching classroom didactics on maternity and Med/Surg nursing only. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously.

Alfreda Gaither arrived at this time.

SCHOOL ISSUES – SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY – WAIVER REQUEST

Dr. Michael Dion was present from the program to request a temporary faculty education waiver for Natalie Garcia.

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens provided the Board with an update on Ms. Garcia's educational background.

Mary Brown moved to grant a six month temporary faculty education waiver for Natalie Garcia. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES – GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE – WAIVER REQUEST

Sheila Solernou, Director of Nursing and Allied Health, was present from Gateway to request a temporary faculty education waiver for Sabine Cayo, RN.

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens provided the Board with an update on Ms. Cayo's educational background.

Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant a one-year temporary faculty education waiver for Sabine Cayo which is limited to clinical instruction in Family Health Nursing. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES – SURVEY MONKEY TOOL

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens and Sara Montauti updated the Board on the Survey Monkey Tool which is used to capture student and faculty data from each nursing program in CT. The Board had requested to review the document to see if any changes needed to be made to the tool. This was also presented to the Deans and Directors for any additional changes and/or questions they wished to be added to the tool. As of today's date, there have been no additional changes submitted from the Deans and Directors.

Chair Bouffard will work with Pam on this regarding the letters to the program. Updates will be made to the grid and will be due in the Board Office by March 1, 2016. If the reports are not received in the Board Office by that date, the program will be required to attend the next scheduled Board Meeting.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE – CORRESPONDENCE & STATISTICS ON INQUIRIES

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens reviewed the scope of practice inquiries that were received in the Board Office during the month of November, 2015.

REINSTATEMENT HEARING REQUEST – TODD STOCKHEIMER, RN

Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt, along with her associate, Attorney Craig Howland, were present with Mr. Todd Stockheimer to request a reinstatement hearing. After review of the documentation that was provided to the Board Members prior to this meeting, Gina Reiners moved, which was seconded by Lisa Freeman, to grant Mr. Stockheimer's request for a reinstatement hearing. The motion passed unanimously and the hearing will be scheduled for March 23, 2016.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – ROBBIN CAPPA, RN

OLRC Principal Attorney Matthew Antonetti presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Robbin Cappa. Ms. Cappa was not present and did not have representation at this meeting.

Ellen Komar moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing.

PRELICENSURE CONSENT ORDER – ZYNIA D. ALVAREZ, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Consent Order for Zynia D. Alvarez. Ms. Alvarez was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Gina Reiners moved to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION

The Board reviewed the following Memoranda of Decision.

SHERI JULIAN, LPN

Mary Brown moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Julian's license. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision which becomes effective immediately.

LYNDSAY PAUL, RN

Geraldine Marrocco moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Paul's license. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision which becomes effective immediately.

ELLYN McDONALD, LPN

Mary Brown moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to place Ms. McDonald's license on suspension for one year with concurrent probation for five years. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision which becomes effective immediately.

HEARING – KATHERINE MEZZI, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Mezzi was pro se. Ms. Mezzi approached the Board requesting a continuance in order to seek legal counsel. Mary Brown moved to grant Ms. Mezzi's continuance request. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. The hearing will be rescheduled for April 20, 2016.

Break 10:25 AM – 10:40 AM

HEARING – MICHELLE A. MURPHY, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Brittany Allen was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Murphy was present pro se. Testimony was provided by Scott L. Stoppa, Drug Control Agent.

Mary Brown moved that Ms. Murphy be found as charged. The motion was seconded by Ellen Komar and ended in a tie vote.

Mary Brown amended her vote to not find Ms. Murphy on 3 C but to find on all other charges. The motion was seconded by Ellen Komar and again ended in a tie vote.

Lunch Recess 1:50 PM – 2:25 PM

A new motion was raised by Lisa Freeman to not find Ms. Murphy on charges 3 A, 5, and 6B. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed with all in favor with the exception of Mary Brown and Pat Bouffard who were opposed.

Mary Brown moved to place Ms. Murphy's license on probation for two years with drug/alcohol screens weekly for the first and last six months of probation and monthly reports for the 2nd and 3rd six months. During the entire probationary period Ms. Murphy is to have provided to the DPH Monitoring Office monthly employer and therapist reports, there will be a narcotic key restriction for the first six months after Ms. Murphy returns to work as a nurse, and within the first six months of probation she is to successfully complete coursework in Ethics, Medication Administration, and Documentation which is to be approved by the Department of Public Health. Ms. Murphy is not to work in home care or as a pool nurse. The Summary Suspension remains in place until the MOD is signed by the Board, there will be no tolling language, The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously.

HEARING – SHAWNA HARTLE, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Hartle was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. Board Counsel Alfreda Gaither had a question regarding the proof of delivery status from the USPS, therefore it was the unanimous decision of the Board to table this hearing until February 17, 2016. This should allow sufficient time for all mailings to either be delivered to Ms. Hartle or returned back to the Department of Public Health.

Ellen Komar left for the day.

HEARING – DEBRA SCHULER-BLANCHETTE, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Schuler-Blanchette was not present and was not represented at this hearing. Attorney Scoville made an Oral Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted as Ms. Schuler-Blanchette did not provide an Answer to the Statement of Charges. Mary Brown moved to grant the Department's Oral Motion to Deem, which was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, and passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved that Ms. Schuler-Blanchette be found as charged. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously.

Due to the fact that the Respondent did not attend the hearing and did not file an Answer to the Statement of Charges, Gina Reiners moved that Ms. Schuler-Blanchette's license be revoked as the Board only had the documentation provided by the Department to base their decision on. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously.

HEARING – KATHRYN A. JAWORSKI, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Jaworski was present pro se. Testimony was provided by Ms. Jaworski.

Lisa Freeman moved and Gina Reiners seconded that Ms. Jaworski be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Freeman moved to restart Ms. Jaworski's October 1, 2014 Consent Order with the following change in the drug screen frequency: the drug screens will be weekly for the first 18 months and the last month and in between the frequency will be monthly and there will be no tolling language. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

At the beginning of the hearing Ms. Jaworski had requested that the Summary Suspension restriction on her license be vacated. Lisa Freeman moved to grant Ms. Jaworski's request to vacate the Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously. A letter will be sent to the Practitioner Licensure Section at the Department of Public Health Thursday morning.

HEARING – LORI KAREN SALUPEN, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Salupen was present. Testimony was provided by Ms. Salupen.

Due to the fact that the Board had lost its quorum, Fact Finding in this case will take place on January 20, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 4:25 PM.

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