

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on February 18, 2015 at the Department of Public Health Complex, Conference Room 470-A/B, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Jennifer Long, APRN
Geraldine Marrocco, RN
Gina M. Reiners, RN
Robin Rettig Cattanio, LPN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member
Ellen M. Komar, RN

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy M. Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH
Kathleen Boulware, Public Health Services Manager, DPH
Pamela Pelletier-Stevens, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Helen Centeno, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Frances Matkowski, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Alison Rau, Paralegal Specialist, PHHO, DPH
Lamont Quinitchett, DPH-IT
Patrick Deagan, Intern, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from Central CT State University, Goodwin College, UCONN, New England College, Southern CT State University.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard met with a class of Northwestern Senior Students to provide an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs.

OPEN FORUM

A few of the Board Members had issues with DPH security regarding parking the DPH back parking lot. They were told that they had to park in Lot C, which is an off-site parking lot on Capitol Avenue, and then they had to take the shuttle. Board Members stated that there was ample parking in the DPH lot, especially under the bridge, which was where they had been told to park last month. Board Members felt that since they are Volunteer Members, and do not receive reimbursement for any of their expenses, that they should at least be provided on-site parking. Kathleen Boulware said she would speak with Security.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

A Revised Agenda was posted yesterday to the Secure Web Site and also e-mailed to the Secretary of State.

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens advised the Board that Dr. Lisa O'Connor was unable to attend today's meeting from Quinnipiac University and would like to be placed on the March agenda. Chair Bouffard stated that the Board would move forward on Quinnipiac's waiver request as she did not foresee any issues.

2015 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kathleen Boulware provided the Board with an update on recent Legislation.

SCHOOL ISSUES – GOODWIN COLLEGE – CLARIFICATION OF CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Janice Costello was present for this clarification. The Board had reviewed documentation received from Goodwin College at their January 21, 2015 meeting. The letter stated that their nursing program had consolidated their outcomes from 11 to 6. The letter further stated that the consolidation of outcomes had not changed the intent of their nursing program objectives and therefore, is not a substantive change to their program. The Board requested that Janice Costello attend this meeting to explain this combination and answer a few questions that members had regarding this change. Ms. Costello had provided a two-page document for the members to review. The Board did advise Ms. Costello to change the language to read articulate instead of integrate. The Board thanked Ms. Costello for attending this meeting to answer the Board's questions.

SCHOOL ISSUES – CLN/CHARTER OAK REFRESHER – THREE YEAR REVIEW

Susan Deane was present to provide the Board with a three-year follow-up report regarding the CT League for Nursing/Charter Oak State College Virtual RN Refresher Course. The Virtual RN Refresher Course, which consists of two didactic and two virtual modules, was presented to the Board on June 2, 2010, approved on that date, and re-reviewed on September 7, 2011. The Board had requested that they be kept apprised of any changes. It has been three years since the last review.

During the fall of 2013 through the fall of 2014, 28 students enrolled in the program and of those 28 students, 22 have completed all four modules of the RN Refresher Program. The six students who did not complete the entire course withdrew for a variety of personal reasons. The students were primarily from CT, one from NY, 2 from West Virginia, and two from Ohio. The education preparation ranged from Diploma to Master's Degree. Students range from 1 to 20 years from practice and 62% of these students reported being away from active practice for ten years or less. Two students graduated in 2009 and had never worked as an RN due to inability to find employment, and seven students were already employed and looking to update their skill set. Six students had inactive licenses, three were required to retake the NCLEX Exam for licensure reinstatement, all passed the exam. Charter Oak has received four follow-up student reports to date regarding employment. Of the four, three have found employment and one is currently still looking – she has been out of practice for over 20 years.

Ms. Deane stated that the demographics have changed. There has been growth across the country with many out of state students participating in the program. There are also many new graduates who have not worked for the first couple of years since graduation and therefore signing up for the refresher program. The cost of the program, including books, is approximately \$3,200.00.

Gina Reiners moved to accept the three-year follow-up report Virtual RN Refresher Course of the CT League for Nursing/Charter Oak State College. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously. The next scheduled review will be a five-year follow-up in February, 2020.

SCHOOL ISSUES – QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY – LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Dr. Lisa O'Connor was unable to attend today's meeting. The Board felt that this should just be an FYI for the minutes and there was no need for Dr. O'Connor to attend the March meeting. Dr. O'Connor has been appointed by the Dean as Associate Dean of the School of Nursing and Dr. Susan Lynch has been appointed as Chair of the Undergraduate Nursing Program. Dr. Jean Lange remains Dean at Quinnipiac.

SCHOOL ISSUES - STONE ACADEMY – WAIVER REQUEST

Dale DeMille, Program Manager for Stone Academy, was present from the program to request a one-year temporary faculty education waiver for Sue Grabowski who is currently a matriculated student at the University of Hartford with an anticipated graduation date of May, 2016. Gina Reiners moved to grant the one-year waiver requested. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES - STONE ACADEMY – CAMPUS MANAGEMENT UPDATE

A letter was received in the Board Office on January 22, 2015 notifying the Board that Deborah Weslet had resigned her position as Program Manager of the West Haven Campus. In the interim Gina Kolstad has been placed as Interim Program Manager until a replacement has been hired. Mary Brown moved to approve Gina Kolstad as the Interim Program Manager of the West Haven Campus. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

LINCOLN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE – TERMINOLOGY CHANGE

Present from the program was Patti DeLucia, LTI's Regional Director. A letter was received in the Board Office on January 28, 2015 regarding a job title change for their LPN Programs. The current title of Program Manager has been changed to Director of Nursing for the Day Programs and Assistant Director of Nursing for the Evening Programs. There is no change to the job description.

In addition, Patti DeLucia, Regional Director for the Lincoln Technical Institute LPN Programs, was present to discuss Joann Maffeo's resignation and a status update in finding a Director of Nursing for the Day Program at the New Britain Campus.

The Board has grave concerns regarding the above and asked that Ms. DeLucia keep Pamela Pelletier-Stevens apprised of all changes made.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE – CORRESPONDENCE/STATISTICS ON INQUIRIES

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens reviewed the calls received in the Board Office during the month of January, 2015. Regarding APRNs there were many scope of practice calls including independent practice. There was not a lot of school activity as many programs were on break. There was a call from Indiana University regarding an on-line LPN to BSN program. If this course moves forward, the University will have to have a physical presence in Connecticut.

NCSBN UPDATE

Chair Bouffard is unsure if she will be able to attend the Annual Delegate Assembly in August as the NCSBN has changed the meeting date to the third week of August (the 19th to the 21st) when many nursing programs will be starting their fall semester. Kathleen Boulware was unable to attend the criminal background check conference due to

illness.

2015 NCSBN Virtual Conference: Regulatory Perspectives in Prelicensure Distance Education Programs

This Conference will be held on April 28, 2015 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM (central time). There is no cost for this virtual conference which you can do at your own desk. The Registration deadline is April 15, 2015 and is for NCSBN Members only.

Objectives:

- A. Discuss new technology in distance education that could affect the regulation of prelicensure nursing programs.
- B. Describe quality indicators and best practices in prelicensure distance education with an emphasis on BON's approval processes.
- C. Identify some of the regulatory/education issues with distance education in nursing.
- D. Present NCSBN's regulatory guidelines for prelicensure programs and a timeline for BONs to adopt them.

CONSENT ORDER – MARY K. FIELD, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Consent Order for Mary K. Field. Ms. Field was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to table this Consent Order due to questions the Board had regarding the language on page 4 regarding the frequency of the alcohol/drug screens and on page 9 the words "must or shall."

PREHEARING REVIEW – CARISSA HUSSEY, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney David Tilles presented the Board with a Prehearing Review for Carissa Hussey. Ms. Hussey was present. After review of the documentation provided, that Board stated that it was a very serious incident which was the result of a systems breakdown. It was the recommendation of the Board that this does not rise to the level of Board discipline. Prior to today's meeting, Ms. Hussey has completed the appropriate coursework and her charts have been audited.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION

The Board reviewed the following Memoranda of Decision which were e-mailed to them.

CATHLEEN DAHM, RN

Gina Reiners moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Dahm's license. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

JENNIFER GENOVA, RN

Carrie Simon moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Genova's license. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

JEMMA WETTISH, RN

Jennifer Long moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Wettish's license. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

NINA M. VECCHIARELLI, RN

Jennifer Long moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to reprimand Ms. Vecchiarelli's license. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

GINA VINCENZI, RN

Gina Reiners moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to place Ms. Vincenzi's license suspension for six months with concurrent probation for four years. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of the voting, Chair Bouffard signed all five Memoranda of Decision.

Break 9:55 AM – 10:30 AM

HEARING - MICHAL KARBOWSKI, RN – MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES

OLRC Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville was present representing the Department of Public Health in the second day of this hearing. Mr. Karbowski was present out in the hallway pro se, he did not enter the hearing room. Prior to the start of this hearing, and after discussion with Attorney Scoville, Mr. Karbowski agreed to sign a Voluntary Surrender. As Mr. Karbowski had just signed a Voluntary Surrender, Jennifer Long moved to grant the Department's Oral Motion to Withdraw the Statement of Charges. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard will sign the written Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges upon receipt from the Department of Public Health.

SHERRI LOUBIER, RN – MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Yesterday, late afternoon, the Board Office received an e-mail from OLRC Staff Attorney Brittany Allen stating that Ms. Loubier had signed a Voluntary Agreement not to Renew or Reinstate her License which was accepted and signed by the Department. Ms. Loubier was not present at today's meeting and was not represented. Attorney Allen presented the Board with a Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges. Jennifer Long moved to grant the Department's Motion to Withdraw the Statement of Charges. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 10:35 AM.

STUDENTS

After the adjournment of today's meeting, Chair Bouffard, Kathleen Boulware, and Leslie Scoville provided the students with an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs.

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