

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on January 21, 2015 at the Department of Public Health Complex, Room 470-A/B, 410 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
Jennifer Long, APRN
Geraldine Marrocco, RN
Gina M. Reiners, RN

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Rettig Cattanio, LPN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy M. Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH
Christian Andresen, Section Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations, DPH
Kathleen Boulware, Public Health Services Manager, DPH
Jolanta Gawinski, Health Program Supervisor, DPH
Pamela Pelletier-Stevens, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Helen Centeno, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Alison Rau, Paralegal Specialist, PHHO, DPH
Lamont Quinitchett, DPH-IT
Jose Cortes, DPH-IT
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Patrick Deegan, Intern, PHHO/OLRC, DPH
Andrew Paluch, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:55 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from the RN to BSN Program at Central CT State University.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard had no new updates.

OPEN FORUM

There were comments from Central CT State University faculty regarding parking issues in the DPH parking lot. Kathleen Boulware said she would speak with Security regarding the parking issues.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

Transition to Electronic Transmissions – Alison Rau (PHHO) and Lamont Quinitchett (DPH-IT) will be in attendance instead of Marianne Horn who had a scheduling conflict.

2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Kathleen Boulware stated that it was still early in the 2015 Legislative Session. Ms. Boulware brought to the Board's attention several "Acts" which may be of interest to the Board.

TRANSITION TO ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS

For the January and February 2015 Agenda Packets, the documents have been placed on the DPH Secure Web Site and a hard copy was/will be mailed to each Board Member. A memo was e-mailed to all Board Members on January 9, 2015 requesting a response to Alison Rau ASAP regarding the option they plan to utilize at the meeting to access the agenda items. There were two representatives from DPH's IT Department to set up the lap tops. There are a few problems that have to be worked out with the system which should be done by the next BOEN Meeting.

SCHOOLS ISSUES

CENTRAL CT STATE UNIVERSITY – WAIVER REQUEST

CCSU is requesting a one year temporary waiver for Nancy Clements. Present from the program were Dr. Meg Levvis and Dr. Nancy Peer. Ms. Clements is currently a matriculated MSN student at Sacred Heart University with an anticipated graduation date of June, 2015. Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the one year temporary faculty education waiver for Nancy Clements. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH CT – WAIVER REQUEST

USJ CT is requesting a one year temporary waiver for Tara Ferrauolo. Dr. Patricia Padula-Morgan was present from the program. Ms. Ferrauolo is currently a matriculated MSN student at Sacred Heart University with an anticipated graduation date of August, 2015. Gina Reiners recused herself from the discussion and the voting. Mary Brown moved to grant the one year temporary faculty education waiver for Tara Ferrauolo. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY – WAIVER REQUEST

Quinnipiac University is requesting a one year temporary waiver for Mary Beth Shafer. Dr. Lisa O'Connor was present from the program. Ms. Shafer is currently a matriculated in the BSN to DNP program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with an anticipated graduation date of May 2017. Mary Brown moved to grant the one year temporary faculty education waiver for Mary Beth Shafer. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. Originally this was a request for a permanent waiver which was not doable as Ms. Shafer does not have a credential to waive on.

FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY – WAIVER REQUEST

Fairfield University is requesting a one year temporary waiver for Mary Beth Shafer. Dr. Terry Quell was present from the program. Ms. Shafer is currently a matriculated in the BSN to DNP program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with an anticipated graduation date of May 2017. Jennifer Long moved to grant the one year temporary faculty education waiver for Mary Beth Shafer. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously.

UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT – FEASIBILITY STUDY

Dr. Stephen Healey, Associate Provost at the University of Bridgeport, and Dr. Carol Papp of the University of Bridgeport were both present to present the Addendum to the Feasibility Study for the University of Bridgeport that was presented to the Board on December 3, 2014. The Board had requested additional information before making their final decision. The Board reviewed the documentation presented and complimented Dr. Papp and Dr. Healey for all the work that was put into this report in such a short amount of time and also during the holiday season. Mary Brown moved to approve the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing transition to the University of Bridgeport for their BSN Program. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously.

UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT – DEAN APPOINTMENT

At the Board's December 3, 2014 the Board tabled the Dean Appointment until further information was provided regarding the Feasibility Study for the University of Bridgeport. Dr. Stephen Healey, Associate Provost at the University of Bridgeport, and Dr. Carol Papp of the University of Bridgeport were both present requesting Board approval of Dr. Carol Papp filling the position of Dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Bridgeport. Dr. Papp will transition to Dean of the University of Bridgeport BSN Program effective immediately upon Board approval from the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing. Dr. Papp has been employed at Bridgeport Hospital since 1985 and as Dean of the School of Nursing since March of 2011. Geraldine Marrocco moved to approve Dr. Papp's transition to Dean of the University of Bridgeport's School of Nursing from the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing as Dr. Papp's credentials meet the requirements of the DPH Nursing Education Programs and Licensure Regulations. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. The Board did request that as the program evolves, that the Board is updated regarding the progression of the School of Nursing. Also, a site visit must be made prior to the admission of any students to the program.

GOODWIN COLLEGE

For the Minutes: the Board Office received a letter from Janice Costello, Chair of the Nursing Department, stating that Goodwin College has consolidated their outcomes of the nursing program from 11 to 6. The letter further stated that this consolidation of outcomes has not changed the intent of their nursing program objectives. Therefore, this is not a substantive change in their program.

The BOEN voiced concerns during the meeting, surrounding content analysis, how assessments are to be performed, and how the students can achieve the six identified outcomes within a 2 year program. The BOEN has requested Janice Costello's presence at the February 18, 2015 meeting for further discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE/SCOPE OF PRACTICE CALLS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens discussed the calls received during the months of November and December. Public Act 14-119 became effective on October 1, 2014 which prohibits LPNs from performing cosmetic procedures in the medical spa settings. LPNs working in a private physician's office must have RN/APRN supervision – LPNs **cannot** work under the direction of an MD. Another caller questioned whether or not unlicensed assistant personnel can manage a patient on a ventilator - the answer is no. Medical Assistants also asked if entering prescription renewals in the electronic medical record was acceptable. If this occurs, the delegating authorized prescriber assumes the responsibility. NCSBN surveys continue on the average of four to five per month. The NCSBNs transition to practice survey results were surprising – at the present time they do not believe that there was sufficient evidence to regulate transition to practice programs for nursing. Many hospitals have established structured programs and the lack of participation by non-hospital sites leaves a gap in the data needed about transition to

practice. More research is needed. New graduates in the hospital based transition programs had fewer errors, fewer negative safety practices and, a higher overall competence ratings – self as well as preceptor reports.

NCSBN UPDATE

Chair Bouffard and Kathleen Boulware will be attending the NCSBN Mid-Year Meeting March 16 – 18, 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky. At this meeting Chair Bouffard will check with Pearson View to find out whether or not schools will be able to get their scores sent directly to the program.

2015 BOEN MEETING CALENDAR

The Board unanimously agreed to add an additional date to their calendar. The Board was scheduled to meet on August 19, 2015 and the NCSBN Annual Meeting in Chicago will be taking place at that time therefore the Board had changed with August meeting to August 5th. Prior to the 2015 Fall School Semester starting, the Board Office usually receives several faculty education waiver requests. Therefore the Board scheduled an additional meeting date for August 26, 2015 which will be held at the Legislative Office Building at 8:30 AM. Ms. Boulware also discussed Conferences regarding the Nurse Licensure Compact, Criminal Background Checks, and the Institute of Regulatory Excellence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2014

The Board reviewed the minutes for the December 3rd meeting. Mary Brown moved to approve the minutes as edited. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners, and passed with two abstentions: Jennifer Long and Geraldine Marrocco.

CONSENT ORDER - KRISTIN CHECKOSKY, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Consent Order for Ms. Checkosky. Ms. Checkosky was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Ellen Komar moved to deny the Consent Order as presented. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously. It was the recommendation of the Board that Ms. Checkosky's license be placed on probation for one year with the following terms: drug/alcohol screens once per month, therapist and employer reports monthly, and coursework in medication administration and documentation standards.

UBONG SAMUEL INYANG, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Consent Order for Mr. Inyang. Mr. Inyang was present and did not have representation at this meeting. Geraldine Marrocco moved to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and failed as all were opposed. It was the recommendation of the Board that this case does not rise to the level of Board action.

VALERIE CORMIER, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Consent Order for Ms. Cormier who was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Mary Brown moved to accept the Consent Order as presented. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

KATHRYN A. JAWORSKI, LPN – MODIFICATION OF CONSENT ORDER

OLRC Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Modification of a Consent Order for Ms. Jaworski who was not present nor did she have representation at this meeting. Jennifer Long moved to accept the Consent Order as presented. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Modified Consent Order.

JUDITH BRIGGS-CZOCHARA, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for Ms. Briggs-Czochara who was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Gina Reiners moved to accept Consent Order as presented. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and failed as all were opposed. It was the recommendation of the Board that Ms. Czochara successfully complete coursework related to boundary issues.

MICHAELA LOVE, RN

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

MEMORANDA OF DECISION

The Board reviewed the following Memoranda of Decision.

DEBORAH KENNEDY, LPN

Gina Reiners moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to reinstate Ms. Kennedy's license to probation. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision.

ARLENE DUMAIS, RN, APRN

Mary Brown moved to affirm the Board's prior decision to place Ms. Dumais' license on probation. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed with one abstention: Geraldine Marrocco. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision.

Break 10:50 AM – 11:10 AM

REORDERING OF HEARING AGENDA

Attorney Ellen M. Shanley requested that the Board change the order of today's hearings to move the hearing for Denise LaBonte first as Attorney Linda Fazzina was representing the Department for the remaining four hearings on the agenda. Attorney Fazzina had no objection to this request. Geraldine Marrocco moved, Gina Reiners seconded, to grant Attorney Shanley's request to hear the Denise LaBonte case first. The motion to reorder passed unanimously.

HEARING – DENISE LABONTE, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Ellen M. Shanley was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Labonte was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. There was no testimony provided. Attorney Shanley filed a written Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. Jennifer Long moved to grant the Department's Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

Jennifer long motioned that Ms. Labonte be found as charged. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded that Ms. Labonte's license be placed on probation for one year with 40 hours of supervised med passes, monthly employer reports, coursework in HIPAA Compliance. Mary Brown made a friendly amendment to increase the probation to two years with monitored narcotic administration, one on one, for one year. This friendly amendment was accepted by Jennifer Long and Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously.

HEARING – KRISTINE R. ALEXANDER, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Alexander was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. There was no testimony provided. Attorney Fazzina made an Oral Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. Mary Brown moved, which was seconded by Gina Reiners, to grant the Department's Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted, which passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved to find Ms. Alexander as charged. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

Mary Brown then made a motion to place Ms. Alexander's license on suspension for one year with concurrent five year probation. She is to provide weekly random drug/alcohol screen reports, therapist reports, and employer reports for the first, second, and fifth years of probation and monthly for the third and fourth years. Also, Ms. Alexander is to attend mandatory support group meetings at least once per week, there is to be a key restriction during the second year of the probationary period, and Ms. Alexander is not to work in any type of home care or nursing pool agency. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman for discussion. After a lengthy discussion, Chair Bouffard called for a vote at which time the motion failed as all were opposed with the exception of Mary Brown.

A new motion was raised by Jennifer Long for revocation of Ms. Alexander's license. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed with all in favor with one abstention: Mary Brown. The reason for revocation was based on a very lengthy discipline history dating back to 1998, Ms. Alexander's failure to remedy her problem with alcohol, failure to provide a written response to the Statement of Charges, as instructed in the Notice of Hearing dated December 3, 2014, and failure to attend today's hearing. Revocation places the responsibility on Ms. Alexander to get the help needed to get her life back in order if she intends to request a hearing before the Board to reinstate her Registered Nurse license.

HEARING – KAREN V. HAMLEY, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Hamley was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. This is day two of this hearing as there was a question of notice on December 3, 2014. Mary Brown moved to reaffirm the Department's Oral Motion Deem Allegations Admitted at the December 3, 2014 Hearing. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. There was no testimony provided.

Ellen Komar moved that Ms. Hamley be found as charged. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

Ellen Komar moved for revocation of Ms. Hamley's license based on the fact that she did not file an Answer to the Statement of Charges, she did not attend either hearing, and her license was revoked in Massachusetts. Therefore the Board had to make their ruling based on the exhibits provided by the Department. Gina Reiners seconded the motion for revocation and stated that the Board had no other choice. The motion passed unanimously.

Lunch Recess: 12:40 PM – 1:20 PM during which time Geraldine Marrocco left for the day

During the lunch recess both Attorney Fazzina and Janice E. Wojick checked their desk voice mails/e-mails and also checked with their office staff to see if Donna Stevenson had contacted the Department as to why she was not in attendance at today's hearing. Ms. Stevenson did not call in with a reason for her non-attendance at today's hearing and she did not leave any voice mail messages or e-mail messages.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES KELLI M. RUSSELL, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Diane Wilan was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Russell was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. Attorney Wilan provided the Board with a Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges as Ms. Russell had signed a Voluntary Surrender Affidavit. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Ellen Komar, to accept the Department's Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING – DONNA STEVENSON, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Stevenson was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. Ms. Stevenson had contacted the Board Office on January 20, 2015 at approximately 1:00 PM stating that she would be late for the hearing as the bus left her town at 8:20 AM. Ms. Stevenson was told that this would not be a problem. Attorney Fazzina made an Oral Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. Based on the fact that Ms. Stevenson did not show up for today's hearing and did not file an answer to the Statement of Charges, Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded to grant the Department's Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. The motion passed unanimously. There was no testimony provided.

Mary Brown moved that Ms. Stevenson be found as charged. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

Due to the fact that Ms. Stevenson did not show up for today's hearing, did not call in with an explanation, and did not file an Answer to the Statement of Charges, Mary Brown stated that the decision of this hearing had to be made on the documents provided by the Department of Public Health. Mary Brown moved, which was seconded by Lisa Freeman, that Ms. Stevenson's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING – GINA TAVANO, UNLICENSED

OLRC Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Tavano was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. There was no testimony provided.

Mary Brown moved that Ms. Tavano be found as charged. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved that immediately Gina Tavano was to Cease & Desist the practice of nursing as she is not currently a licensed nurse in the State of Connecticut. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 2:00 PM.

STUDENTS

After the adjournment of today's meeting, Chair Bouffard 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