

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on June 17, 2015 at the Legislative Office Building, Room 2-C, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, Chair
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member
Geraldine Marrocco, RN – *left at Noon – lost quorum*
Gina M. Reiners, RN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary M. Brown, RN
Jennifer Long, APRN
Ellen M. Komar, RN

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy M. Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH
Alfreda G. Gaither, Legal Co-Counsel to the Board, DPH
Christian Andresen, Section Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations, DPH
Diane Cybulski, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Pamela Pelletier-Stevens, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Helen Centeno, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Matthew Antonetti, Principal Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from A.I. Prince Tech, Norwich Tech, Lincoln Technical Institute: Shelton and New Britain Campuses; Porter and Chester Institute: Branford and Enfield Campuses, and Central CT State University.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard updated the Board on Nursing Accreditation for the ADN Programs which is up for authorization by the U.S. Department of Education.

OPEN FORUM

Diane Cybulski attended this meeting to advise the Board that she is retiring the end of this month. Diane thanked the Board for the ten plus years that she and the Board have worked together. Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt was in the audience and she also spoke of working with Diane over the years and wished her well in her future endeavors. Diane will truly be missed.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

FYI – Draft of 2016 BOEN Meeting Dates

2015 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2015 Legislative Session ended June 3, 2015. Christian Andresen provided the Board with an overview of the 2015 Legislative Session.

SB:981 - Medical Assistant's Giving Vaccinations did not pass.

SB:467 – Telemedicine and Telehealth

HB:6287 – Mandatory Reporting of Impaired Health Care Practitioners did not pass.

HB:6856 - Substance Abuse and Opiate Prevention

Mr. Andresen reviewed activity on other bills although the above were the bills that the Board had the most interest in.

FACT FINDING - VIRGINIA JULIAN, RN

At the conclusion of this hearing held on May 20, 2015, the Board had lost their quorum. Therefore, Fact Finding for the Virginia Julian case was rescheduled for today's meeting. All exhibits and transcripts were provided to all Board Members prior to today's meeting. Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt was present for the Fact Finding although the Department was not present.

Geraldine Marrocco moved that Ms. Julian be found as charged. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

Geraldine Marrocco moved that no further action be taken against Ms. Julian's license as she does not appear to be a risk to the public. This was an unusual event which has been addressed in the coursework already completed by Ms. Julian. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES – STONE ACADEMY – PLAN OF CORRECTION – NCLEX SCORES

Helen Centeno updated the Board on Stone Academy's West Haven Campus NCLEX Scores. At the Board's May 20, 2015 meeting Stone Academy's West Haven Campus was placed on conditional status effective June 4, 2015 for one year for their first time NCLEX pass rate of 67% for their evening program and 70% for their day program. Gina Kolstad, program manager of the West Haven Campus, was present today to submit a three page Plan of Correction for the Board's review and to answer any questions the Board may have. Gina Reiners moved to accept the Plan of Correction that has been presented. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously. The next graduating class will be July 25, 2015.

LOB FIRE DRILL – Building had to be evacuated

SCHOOL ISSUES – FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY – PLAN OF CORRECTION – NCLEX SCORES

Present from the program were Dr. Meredith Wallace Kazer, Dean and Professor, and Dr. Audrey Beauvais, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, to present Fairfield's Plan of Correction.

Helen Centeno apprised the Board that at the Board's May 20, 2015 meeting, Fairfield University's traditional BSN Program was placed on Conditional Status for one year effective June 4, 2015 for their first time pass rate of 73%. After review of the documentation presented, and the discussion with Dr. Kaver and Dr. Beauvais, Gina Reiners moved to accept and approve the Plan of Correction presented. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. The Board stated that the program did an excellent job with their Plan of Correction.

SCHOOL ISSUES – UCONN – WAIVER REQUEST

Dr. Paula McCauley was present from the program to request a faculty education waiver for Mary Beth Shafer for UCONN's Storrs Campus. Ms. Shafer currently has two one-year temporary waivers that were approved on January 21, 2015 at Quinnipiac University and Fairfield University. Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the one year temporary faculty education waiver for Mary Beth Shafer for the Storrs Campus. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES – NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE – WAIVER REQUESTS

Dr. Kathleen Fries was present to request faculty education waivers for Leslie Youngblood and Brenda Hooper, who both have an anticipated graduation date of December, 2016.

Gina Reiners moved to grant Ms. Leslie Youngblood a one-year temporary faculty education waiver. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved to grant Ms. Brenda Hooper a one-year temporary faculty education waiver. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES – ELI WHITNEY TECHNICAL SCHOOL UPDATE

Patricia Fennessy was present to update the Board on the Eli Whitney move from High Meadows in Hamden to Platt Technical High School in Milford CT for the school year 2015-16. The construction at Eli Whitney THS, 100 Fairview Avenue, in Hamden CT will be completed for fall 2016 and the LPN program will be moved back to the Fairview Avenue location permanently. Ms. Fennessy will contact Pam Pelletier-Stevens to schedule a date and time for the inspection of the LPN site at Platt THS in Milford, CT.

2016 DRAFT BOEN CALENDAR – (Short Legislative Session – February 3, 2016 through May 4, 2016)

(Department of Public Health Meetings – Room 470-A/B)

FEBRUARY 17 (Snow Date - March 2, 2016)
MARCH 23 (4th Wed) (Snow Date - April 6, 2016)
APRIL 20

(Legislative Office Building Meetings – Room 1-D)

JANUARY 20
MAY 18
JUNE 15
JULY 20
AUGUST 24 (4th Wed)
SEPTEMBER 21
OCTOBER 19
NOVEMBER 16
DECEMBER 21

The Board Office is awaiting approval from DPH regarding the February, March, and April meetings which would be held at DPH. All other 2016 meetings would be held at the Legislative Office Building (LOB). The Board Office is also awaiting approval from the LOB Management Office regarding the 2016 meeting dates.

The reason that the March and August meetings are scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of those two months is that the NCSBN has scheduled their Mid-Year Meeting and the Annual Meeting during the third week of those two months.

CORRESPONDENCE/STATISTICS ON INQUIRIES

Helen Centeno reviewed the monthly inquiries with the Board.

NCSBN UPDATE

The President Network Conference Calls will be held on the third Monday of every other month at Noon CENTRAL time effective July 20, 2015 and the calls will be approximately for one hour.

- Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) Issues Follow-Up to the NCSBN Special Delegate Assembly held on May 4, 2015 in Chicago. The Legislative Strategy Team (LST) met on May 14th in Chicago, highlights include:
- NCSBN Staff is working on a list to identify national organizations who support the NLC that can be used at the state level.
- Potentials opponents of the NLC were identified.
- Resources are beginning to be developed such as FAQs, talking points and a response to state attorney general opinions.
- NCSBN will hire a new State Legislative Associate with a focus of coalition building at the state level.
- The next step will be to identify states that will potentially be ready to move forward with compact legislation in 2016.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 20, 2015

The Board reviewed the minutes presented. Gina Reiners moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously.

CONSENT ORDER - LINDA BARD, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Consent Order for Linda Bard. Ms. Bard was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. This case was presented to the Board at their May 20, 2015 meeting and the Board had tabled their ruling requesting more clarity. Gina Reiners moved to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed with Geraldine Marrocco in opposition. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

CONSENT ORDER - CONNIE-JO GIBEAULT, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Consent Order for Connie-Jo Gibeault. Ms. Gibeault 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 Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION - MATTHEW HOPKINS, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Matthew Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Gina Reiners moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing scheduling the hearing for July 15, 2015.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION - ELLYN McDONALD, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Elynn McDonald. Ms. McDonald was present pro se. Gina Reiners moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension which was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing scheduling the hearing for July 15, 2015. Ms. McDonald was hand served at the meeting by Janice E. Wojick with the Summary Suspension Order, the Notice of Hearing, and the Statement of Charges.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – DENISE LaBONTE, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Denise LaBonte. Ms. LaBonte was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Lisa Freeman moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing scheduling the hearing for July 15, 2015.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – ANDREA BUNNELL, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Andrea Bunnell. Ms. Bunnell was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Gina Reiners moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing scheduling the hearing for July 15, 2015.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – LYNDSAY PAUL, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Lyndsay Paul. Ms. Paul was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing scheduling the hearing for July 15, 2015.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – MICHAELA LOVE, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Michaela Love. Ms. Love was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Carrie Simon moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing scheduling the hearing for July 15, 2015.

FACT FINDING – CHRISTINE HETRICK-SHAMASNA, RN

At the conclusion of this hearing held on May 20, 2015 the Board had lost their quorum. Fact Finding was rescheduled for today's meeting. As the Respondent is currently residing in Louisiana, she will not be attending today's Fact Finding. All exhibits and transcripts were provided to all Board Members prior to today's meeting. Gina Reiners moved that Ms. Hetrick-Shamasna be found as charged as she had admitted to all of the charges at the hearing. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. Gina Reiners moved that Ms. Hetrick-Shamasna's license be revoked. The concern is that Ms. Hetrick-Shamasna has been in and out of rehab and does not seem to be able to commit to her recovery. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously.

PREHEARING REVIEW – ASHLEY DIZNEY, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Prehearing review for Ashley Dizney. Ms. Dizney was present with counsel, Attorney Richard Brown. Board Member Lisa Freeman had recused herself from this discussion and left the room. After discussion and review of the documents presented, the Board stated that this does not warrant discipline by the Board. If this case came to a hearing the Board would more than likely recommend further education Ms. Dizney has already completed.

Break 11 – 11:15 AM

HEARING – FELICITA COLE, RN

Staff Attorney Ellen M. Shanley was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Cole was present pro se. Ms. Cole requested a continuance as she would like to retain counsel for her hearing. Attorney Shanley objected on behalf of the Department as she had three witnesses present ready to testify. Gina Reiners moved to grant Ms. Cole's request for a continuance to seek counsel. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco which passed unanimously.

Chair Bouffard and Attorney Richard Brown spoke with the students in the audience while awaiting Attorney Linda Fazzina's arrival for the next scheduled hearing.

HEARING – SHERI L. JULIAN, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Julian was present with counsel, Attorney Richard Brown. Testimony was provided by Ms. Julian. Geraldine Marrocco left for the day at noon at which time the Board lost its quorum. Gina Reiners made a motion to move into Executive Session to question Ms. Julian on her medical records. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. The Hearing Room was cleared of all visitors and the testimony continued. The Department stated that Ms. Julian cannot sustain a recovery program. At the conclusion of the testimony, Gina Reiners moved to exit Executive Session and to allow observers back into the room. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman which passed unanimously. Due to the fact that the Board had lost its quorum, Fact Finding would take place at the Board's July 15th meeting. Prior to that meeting all Board Members would receive the transcripts and the exhibits of today's hearing.

Lunch 1:45 PM – 2:20 PM

HEARING – TAMMARA MOREY, LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Ellen M. Shanley was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Morey was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. There was no testimony provided. Attorney Shanley made an Oral Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted failed as the Board did not have a quorum to vote. Exhibits were provided to the Board and the hearing closed. Due to the fact that the Board had lost its quorum, Fact Finding would take place at the Board's July 15th meeting. Prior to that meeting all Board Members would receive the transcripts and the exhibits of today's hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 2:40 PM.

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