

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on February 17, 2016 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
Jennifer Long, APRN
Geraldine Marrocco, RN
Gina M. Reiners, RN

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ellen M. Komar, RN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy M. Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, 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
Jeffrey A. Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

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

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from the University of Hartford, Lincoln Technical College and Central Connecticut University

OPEN FORUM

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Stone Academy – Approval of Program Manager

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens presented a request from Stone Academy for the approval of Peter Keast as Program Manager.

Mr. Keast and Gina Holdstat were present from Stone Academy.

Mary M. Brown made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long to approve Mr. Keast as Program Director at Stone Academy, West Haven Campus pending a final review of documentation the Department of Public Health. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard provided the following updates:

1. NCSBN Endorses Act which would Expand Telehealth Services through Medicare
NCSBN has endorsed the recently introduced Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act. The legislation would expand telehealth services through Medicare, improve care outcomes, make it easier for patients to connect with their health care providers and help cut costs for patients and providers. The proposed legislation is an approach to increase the use of telehealth and remote patient monitoring through Medicare.

Specifically, the legislation would:

- Create a program to help providers meet the goals of the Medicare Access and Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act and the Merit-based Incentive Payment System through the use of telehealth and remote patient monitoring;
 - Expand the use of remote patient monitoring for certain patients with chronic conditions;
 - Increase telehealth and remote patient monitoring services in community health centers and rural health clinics; and
 - Make telehealth and remote patient monitoring basic benefits in Medicare Advantage.
- The CONNECT for Health Act is supported by more than 50 organizations.

2. Amendments to Saskatchewan Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Regulatory Bylaws Approved
The Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses (SALPN) recently announced that the proposed SALPN Regulatory Bylaws have been approved by the Minister of Health. The proposed bylaws pertain to three specialized practice areas for LPNs: advanced orthopedics, hemodialysis and perioperative care. SALPN will release information pertaining to updated practice standards for the specialized practice areas and the processes for implementation in the near future. The approved bylaws have been published in the Saskatchewan Gazette and are effective immediately.
3. New York Pharmacies to Provide Over-the-Counter Naloxone
The New York State Department of Health (DOH) announced an agreement with CVS/pharmacy that authorizes 479 CVS/pharmacy locations across the state to provide naloxone to their customers without a prescription, effective Jan. 2, 2016. Naloxone is a medication that reverses opioid overdose when administered either through injection or by nasal spray. According to the DOH, pharmacists are currently receiving training and ordering the drug for their stores.

In addition to dispensing Naloxone, CVS pharmacists are now able to provide training to consumers on administering the medication. The DOH stresses that all individuals who are given Naloxone should go to the hospital for emergency medical care afterwards. Naloxone is effective in blocking the effects of an opioid for 30 to 90 minutes, but when the medication wears off, the patient may revert back into a life-threatening overdose.

4. Proposed Regulation Allowing Full Practice Authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) Submitted for Final Review
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently submitted draft regulation for final review that would allow APRNs full practice authority in Veterans Health Administration facilities. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is facilitating the final review and will publish the proposed rule in the Federal Register for public comment.
Reports note an excerpt from the OMB's regulatory agenda posting that states, "the VA is proposing to amend its medical regulations to permit the full practice authority of all VA APRNs when they are acting within the scope of their VA employment ... this rule would permit VA to use its health care resources more effectively and in a manner that is consistent with the non-VA health care sector, while maintaining the patient-centered, safe, high quality health care that veterans receive from VA."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2015

Lisa Freeman moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously.

DECEMBER 2015

Geraldine Marrocco moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed with all in favor except Jennifer Long who abstained.

JANUARY 2016

Mary Brown moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed with all in favor except Lisa Freeman who abstained.

Gina Reiners arrived at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – RACHEL BRAZEE, RN

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzino presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Rachel Brazee. Ms. Brazee was not present and was not represented by counsel. Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing is scheduled for March 23, 2016.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – MATTHEW HOPKINS, RN

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Matthew Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins was not present and was not represented by counsel. Mary Brown moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed with all in favor except Geraldine Marrocco who was opposed. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing is scheduled for March 23, 2016.

CONSENT ORDER – WILLIAM BORNMAN, RN

Staff Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for William Bornman. Mr. Bornman was not present and was not represented by counsel. Gina Reiners moved to approve the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco. The motion failed as all Board members voted in opposition to the motion. Mary Brown moved to deny the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously.

CONSENT ORDER – FELICITA COLE, RN

Staff Attorney Ellen Shanley presented the Board with a Consent Order for Felicita Cole. Attorney Eric Opin was present for Ms. Cole. Gina Reiners moved to approve the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

CONSENT ORDER – TRACY MALUK, RN

Staff Attorney Ellen Shanley presented the Board with a Consent Order for Tracy Maluk. Ms. Maluk was not present and was not represented by counsel. Jennifer Long moved to approve the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Mat Brown and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION - ARELNE DUMAIS, APRN, RN

Jennifer Long moved to affirm the Board's prior decision imposing a \$1000.00 Civil Penalty and placing Ms. Dumais' license on probation for one year. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION – LISA GILSON, RN

Gina Reiners moved to affirm the Board's prior decision imposing a six month suspension of Ms. Gilson's license with concurrent probation for one year. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION – DEBRA SCHULER-BLANCHETTE, LPN

Geraldine Marrocco moved to affirm the Board's prior decision revoking Ms. Schuler – Blanchette's license. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION – MICHAEL TELLA, RN

Mary Brown moved to affirm the Board's prior decision revoking Mr. Tella's license. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long. The motion passed with all in favor except Lisa Freeman who abstained. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION – ALYCIA WITZMAN, RN

Lisa Freeman moved to affirm the Board's prior decision revoking Ms. Witzman's license. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

HEARING – MARY FIELD, RN – PETITION NO. 2015-1387

Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Field was present but was not represented by counsel. Testimony was provided by respondent.

Geraldine Marrocco moved and Lisa Freeman seconded that Ms. Field be found as charged. The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Brown and Gina Reiners who abstained. Geraldine Marrocco moved and Lisa Freeman seconded that Ms. Field's license be placed on probation for four years effective upon the signing of the Memorandum of Decision. Following discussion, all Board members voted in opposition to the motion the motion Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to continue Ms. Field's current probation but to change the frequency of urine screening to weekly during the second year of probation. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING – JENNIFER REINHARDT, RN – PETITION NO. 2015-1394

Staff Attorney Ellen Shanley was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Reinhardt was not present and was not represented by counsel.

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

Geraldine Marrocco moved and Lisa Freeman seconded to issue an Order revoking Ms. Reinhardt's license. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING – SHAWNA HARTLE, RN – PETITION NO. 2015-1028

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Hartle was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Gina Reiners moved and Geraldine Marrocco to keep the record open and to send a Notice of Hearing Notice of Hearing to other possible addresses for Ms. Hartle. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing will be rescheduled to April 20, 2016.

HEARING – JUDY RUGGIERO, RN

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Ruggiero was present with counsel, Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt. This hearing was opened on November 18, 2015 and today is the second day of the hearing. Testimony was provided by respondent. During the hearing the Board entered executive session to hear testimony regarding confidential treatment records. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

Following the close of the hearing Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman that respondent be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to place respondent's license on probation for four years with requirements for random urine screening, therapy and employer reports. Following discussion the motion failed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to Order the revocation of respondent's license. The motion passed unanimously.

LUNCH 1:45p.m. – 2:25p.m.

HEARING – MELODY L. WILLIAMS-DESTRA, RN

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Williams-Destra was present but was not represented by counsel. Testimony was provided by respondent.

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, that respondent be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, that respondent's license be placed on probation for a period of one year with employer reports and that during the first six months of probation respondent complete course work in ethics, scope of practice and boundary issues. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 2:34 p.m.

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