

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on January 15, 2020 at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut in room 2A.

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, Chair  
Jason Blando, Public Member  
Mary M. Brown, RN  
Elizaida Delgado, LPN  
Mary Dietmann, RN  
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member  
Geraldine Marrocco, RN  
Gina M. Reiners, RN

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jennifer Long, APRN

**ALSO PRESENT:** Alfreda Gaither, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH  
Dana Dalton, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Jeffrey A. Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist, DPH  
Agnieszka Salek, Hearings Liaison, DPH  
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

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Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

#### **STUDENTS**

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from the Tunxis Community College Medical Assistant Program.

#### **CHAIR UPDATES**

Nothing to Report

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Nothing to Report

#### **NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING**

Attendance at the mid- year meeting was discussed. Interested Board members were asked to contact Dana Dalton, Nurse Consultant, DPH

#### **MINUTES**

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to approve the minutes from November 20, 2019. The motion passed with all in favor except Geraldine Marrocco who abstained.

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to approve the minutes from December 18, 2019 meeting. The motion passed with all in favor except Elizaida Delgado who abstained.

**SCHOOL ISSUES**

- A. Central Connecticut State University – Approval of Interim Director of Nursing  
Catherine Thomas was present on behalf of Central Connecticut State University.  
Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to approve Catherine Thomas as the Interim Director of Nursing. The motion passed unanimously

*Mary Brown arrived at 9:00 a.m.*

- B. Porter & Chester Institute – Plan of Correction  
Debra Hessell, Nancy Brunet and Elizabeth Rodriguez were present from Porter & Chester Institute. Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH, provided a synopsis of the Porter & Chester's plan of correction monthly update.  
Ms. Hessell, Ms. Brunet and Ms. Rodriguez answered questions from the Board.  
The Board identified areas of concern and requested additional information at the monthly updates.
- C. Sacred Heart University
- Temporary Waiver Request  
Mary Alice Donius and Elizabeth Denney were present from Sacred Heart University.  
Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant a temporary waiver request for Brianna Lutz, RN, BSN.  
The motion passed with all in favor.  
Mary Dietmann and Jason Blando recused themselves from the discussion and vote.
  
  - Proposal for a Second Degree Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program  
Mary Alice Donius, Dean, Sacred Heart University, Dr. Susan L. Davis, RN, & Richard J. Henley College of Nursing were present for Sacred Heart University.  
Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided an overview Sacred Heart University's feasibility study. Ms. Donius answered questions from the Board.  
Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to accept the feasibility study.  
The motion passed with all in favor.  
Mary Dietmann and Jason Blando recused themselves from the discussion and vote.
- D. Norwalk Community College – Reappointment of Interim Director of Nursing and Allied Health  
Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH explained the request for reappointment.  
Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve the reappointment of Carol Yoder as the Interim Director of Nursing and Allied Health. The motion passed unanimously.

**SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health during December, 2019.  
38 calls were received in October.

**LICENSE REINSTATEMENT REQUESTS**

Joshua Klies, LPN

Dana Dalton, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH presented a license reinstatement request regarding Joshua Klies, LPN.  
Following review, the Board concurred with the DPH recommendation that recommended reinstatement to probation for four years with drug alcohol screening, employer and therapist reporting, no solo practice, and support group attendance.

**MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Daisy Acosta, LPN - Petition No: 2019-1379

Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Daisy Acosta. Ms. Acosta was not present and was not represented.

Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety and welfare. The motion was seconded by Mary Dietmann and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing will be scheduled for February 19, 2020.

Amanda Hart, RN - Petition No: 2019-1360

Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension and an Amended Statement of Charges for Amanda Hart. Ms. Hart was present but was not represented by counsel.

Mary Dietmann moved, and Mary Brown seconded to grant the DPH motion to amend the Statement of Charges.

Mary Dietmann moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety and welfare. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing will be scheduled for February 19, 2020. A copy of the Summary Suspension Order, which included the hearing date, was provided to Ms. Hart.

**PRE HEARING REVIEW**

Jill Cavanaugh, RN - Petition No: 2018-443

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented a pre-hearing review packet in this matter.

Ms. Cavanaugh was present with Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt.

Following review the Board recommended a reprimand, probation for a period of one year with quarterly employer reports, quarterly reports from respondent's pulmonologist, and no solo practice.

**CONSENT ORDERS**

Tabitha Banker, LPN - Petition No: 2018-557

Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Tabitha Banker, LPN.

Ms. Banker was present with Attorney Cody Gaumieri.

Geraldine Marrocco moved and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order for discussion.

Following discussion the Board unanimously voted to reject the Consent Order as written.

The Board suggested that employer reports every two months be added to the proposed terms of probation.

Elaine Simms-Walton, RN - Petition No: 2019-834

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Elaine Simms-Walton, RN.

Ms. Simms-Walton was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand and a six month probation.

Luz Asto, LPN - Petition No: 2018-133

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Luz Asto, LPN.

Ms. Asto was present and was represented by counsel.

Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand.

Rosemary Franco, RN - Petition No: 2018-134

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Rosemary Franco, RN.

Ms. Franco was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand.

Ashley Lambert, LPN - Petition No: 2018-537

Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Ashley Lambert, LPN.

Ms. Lambert was present but was not represented by counsel.

Mary Brown moved, and Geraldine Marrocco seconded, to approve the Consent Order as edited.

The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes probation for a period of four years.

Susan Romatzick, RN - Petition No: 2019-628

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Susan Romatzick, RN.

Ms. Romatzick was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Mary Brown moved, and Geraldine Marrocco seconded, to approve the Consent Order for discussion.

Following discussion the Board unanimously voted to reject the Consent Order as written.

The Board suggested that completion of course work pertaining to pediatric assessment and trauma be added.

**MOTION TO SUPPLEMENT THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

Melissa Eccles, LPN - Petition No. 2018-123

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present but was not represented by counsel.

Mary Brown moved and Mary Dietmann seconded, to grant the Department of Public Health's motion to supplement the administrative record. The motion passed unanimously.

**FACT FINDING**

Melissa Eccles, LPN - Petition No. 2018-123

Mary Brown moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded, to add fact-finding in this matter to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to find respondent on all charges. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded, that respondent's license remain suspended until the receipt of a negative chain of custody urine screen for alcohol and drugs; that respondent's license be reprimanded, and placed on probation for a period of six months during which respondent must successfully complete a course pertaining to medication administration.

The motion passed unanimously.

**HEARINGS**

Kaitlyn Sutton, RN - Petition No. 2018-1301

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, that the Board grant the Department of Public Health's oral motion to deem the allegations admitted based on an Answer to the Statement of Charges not being filed. The motion passed unanimously.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Mary Brown moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded that Ms. Sutton be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded that Ms. Sutton's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

*Geraldine Marrocco left for the day at 12:00 noon.*

Christopher Kay, RN - Petition No. 2019-97

Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present with Attorney Richard Brown.

*Gina Reiners arrived at 1:05 p.m.*

Mary Dietmann moved, and Mary Brown seconded to enter executive session to obtain testimony regarding confidential treatment records from respondent. The motion passed unanimously. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session. Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Mary Brown moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded that Mr. Kay be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved, and Gina Reiners seconded that Mr. Kay's license be placed on probation with conditions for a period of four years. The motion passed unanimously.

The record will remain open for the receipt of a report from Mr. Kay's therapist.

Concetta Mancini, RN - Petition No. 2019-701

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present with Attorney John D'Ambrosio

Testimony was provided by Lavita Sookram, RN, Department of Public Health and by respondent.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded that paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Statement of Charges were proven, but paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 were not proven. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded that this matter be dismissed. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, that the Summary Suspension of respondent's registered nurse license, ordered on October 16, 2019, be vacated immediately and that respondents' license be reinstated to probation pursuant to a September 20, 2017 Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 4:08 p.m.

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