

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting by telephone conference on April 15, 2020 originating from the Department of Public Health 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut in the third floor hearing room.

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH – via telephone  
Dana Dalton, RN, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH – via telephone  
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH – via telephone  
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, DPH – via telephone  
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH – via telephone  
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison, DPH – via telephone  
Agnieszka Salek, Hearings Liaison, DPH – via telephone

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The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m.

#### **CHAIR UPDATES**

Nothing to Report

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Attorney Joan Feldman, Shipman and Goodwin inquired as to whether the March 18, 2020 board meeting was recorded pursuant to Executive Order 7B.

Board Liaison Jeffrey Kardys reported that a recording was not made.

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

Chair Bouffard and Dana Dalton reported on the mid-year meeting they attended in Boston from March 3-5, 2020.

#### **MINUTES**

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve the minutes from March 18, 2020. The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Brown who abstained.

#### **SCHOOL ISSUES**

##### **COVID-19**

- **Connecticut League for Nursing – Expansion of Alternate Clinical Placement**

The Board had discussion with representatives from the Connecticut League for Nursing and Council of Deans & Directors members regarding issues resulting from restrictions related to COVID-19 and the impact on clinical training for nursing students in registered nurse programs, and the impact on NCLEX testing.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, that the Board support registered nurse educational programs in good standing efforts to exercise maximum flexibility using creative clinical educational methods (not to exceed more than 50% in total overall clinical hours) to meet the program outcomes of students enrolled in nursing programs until the restrictions are lifted for clinical settings due to COVID -19. The motion passed unanimously.

- NCLEX Testing

There was discussion regarding the closure of testing facilities in Connecticut due the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board strongly suggested that DPH investigate this situation and communicate to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the Governor's Office that these centers are essential and need to be opened to accommodate the 2020 pool of nursing graduates.

- Nurses Education Statistics

Marsha Proto, Connecticut League for Nursing presented statistics for the pre-licensure registered nurse and practical nurse programs in Connecticut.

- Lincoln Technical Institute – Request to use virtual clinical experiences

Patricia DeLucia was present on behalf of Lincoln Technical Institute.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to recommend to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, the waiver of the requirements of section 20-90-55 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and approve the contingency plan put forth by Lincoln Tech. to complete the clinical requirement for those students graduating in May and July 2020. (The plan replaces a portion of the required 750 hours of direct patient care with virtual clinical experiences). The motion passed unanimously.

Porter & Chester Institute – Plan of Correction – Monthly update

Debra Hessel, Philip Krebes, Nancy Brunette, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Jay Bologna, Sherry Greifzu; and Joan Feldman, Esq. were present by telephone on behalf of Porter & Chester.

Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH reported on information submitted by Porter & Chester since the March 18, 2020 meeting.

Ms. Hessel and Ms. Greifzu addressed the issues that have been a concern at Porter & Chester.

A student from Porter & Chester also addressed the Board.

The Board requested that comments by Ms. Hessel and Ms. Greifzu be reduced to writing and sent to the Board.

## **MEMORANDUM OF DECISION**

Brian Gross, RN - Petition No. 2019-536

Gina Reiner made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to affirm the Board's decision revoking the registered nurse license of Brian Gross. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Kisatsky, RN - Petition No. 2018-1416

Gina Reiner made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to adopt the Memorandum of Decision, as edited, which extends the period of probation of Ms. Kisatsky's registered nurse license. The motion passed unanimously.

Danielle Miranda, RN - Petition No. 2019-87

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to adopt the Memorandum of Decision which imposes probation of Ms. Miranda's registered nurse license for a period of four years. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion concerning the ability of nurses who are on probation, during the COVID-19 pandemic, being able to comply with probationary terms that require attendance at meetings and/or submitting to random observed screening. Attorney Schulman and Dana Dalton indicated that the Department of Public Health is looking into these issues.

Charlene Zikaras, RN - Petition No. 2019-522

Gina Reiner made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to adopt the Memorandum of Decision, as edited, which imposes a three month suspension, probation for a period of four years and a \$200.00 civil penalty. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Heather Spaulding, RN - Petition No. 2019-1224

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Heather Spaulding. Ms. Spaulding was not present and was not represented.

Mary Brown 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 Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for May 20, 2020.

**CONSENT ORDERS**

Carissa Kelly, RN, APRN - Petition No: 2019-1025

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Carissa Kelly, RN.

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

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand. The motion passed unanimously.

Milagros Narido, RN - Petition No: 2019-1055

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Milagros Narido, RN.

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

Mary Brown moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand and probation for a period of one year.

**PREHEARING REVIEW**

Kimberly Smith, RN - Petition No: 2019-592

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a prehearing review packet in the matter of Kimberly Smith, RN.

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

Due to insufficient information to make a decision, the Board recommended that the Department consider filing a motion for Summary Suspension and that this matter be scheduled for a hearing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 12:35 p.m.

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