

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on August 19, 2020 via Microsoft TEAMS.

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH  
Christian Andresen, Section Chief, DPH  
Dana Dalton, RN, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison, DPH  
Agnieszka Salek, Hearings Liaison, DPH

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The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. All participants were present by video or telephone conference.

**CHAIR UPDATES**

Nothing to Report

**OPEN FORUM**

Jennifer Long asked about the Governor's Executive Order 7-O regarding licensure renewal during the COVID-19 pandemic. Christian Andresen, Section Chief, Department of Public Health. Practitioner Licensing and Investigations explained that the executive order authorizes the Commissioner of Public Health to waive licensing, renewal, and inspection. The renewal policy states that is active on or after March 30, 2020, will not expire during the COVID-19 civil preparedness emergency. Licensees will be able to renew their license at any time now and during a six-month period following the date of the resumption of the normal renewal requirements.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING**

Mary Dietmann and Gina Reiners provided an update of the annual meeting delegate assembly. Also discussed was a change of language regarding the APRN compact. Mary Dietmann commented that Oregon and Connecticut are the only States that have not initiated action to implement the Nurse Licensure Compact. Christian Andresen explained that a statutory change would be needed to implement this Compact.

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Chair Bouffard provided an update of NCLEX scores for 2020.

### 2020 - Number of Candidates Taking NCLEX Examination and Percent Passing, by Type of Candidate

RN	Jan-Mar 2020 <sup>3,6</sup>		Apr-Jun 2020 <sup>7</sup>		Year to Date Total	
Type of Candidate						
<b>First Time, US Educated</b>						
<i>Diploma</i>	476	87.40%	508	90.35%	984	88.92%
<i>Baccalaureate Degree</i>	22,361	92.83%	24,911	92.39%	47,272	92.60%
<i>Associate Degree</i>	22,846	86.53%	25,341	85.50%	48,187	85.99%
<i>Invalid or Special Program Codes</i>	9	44.44%	11	81.82%	20	65.00%
<b>Total First Time, US Educated</b>	45,692	89.61%	50,771	88.93%	96,463	89.25%
<b>Repeat, US Educated</b>	6,409	41.24%	11,182	39.72%	17,591	40.27%
<b>First Time, Internationally Educated</b>	4,168	48.30%	1,927	38.71%	6,095	45.27%
<b>Repeat, Internationally Educated</b>	3,738	30.39%	4,288	23.79%	8,026	26.86%
<b>All Candidates</b>	60,007	77.89%	68,168	75.34%	128,175	76.53%

PN	Jan-Mar 2020 <sup>4,6</sup>		Apr-Jun 2020 <sup>5,7</sup>		Year to Date Total	
Type of Candidate	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>First Time, US Educated</b>	10,055	86.01%	8,602	84.53%	18,657	85.32%
<b>Repeat, US Educated</b>	2,505	33.25%	3,422	36.97%	5,927	35.40%
<b>First Time, Internationally Educated</b>	136	52.21%	142	54.23%	278	53.24%
<b>Repeat, Internationally Educated</b>	120	19.17%	140	34.29%	260	27.31%
<b>All Candidates</b>	12,816	74.71%	12,306	70.38%	25,122	72.59%

<sup>1</sup> The # symbol denotes the number of candidates who took the exam.

<sup>2</sup> The % symbol denotes the percentage of candidates that passed the exam.

<sup>3</sup> The RN Passing Standard is 0.00

logits. <sup>4</sup> The PN Passing Standard is -

0.21 logits. <sup>5</sup> The PN Passing Standard

is -0.18 logits

<sup>6</sup> Due to COVID-19, the January quarterly data contain NCLEX examinations administered from Jan. 1 to March 24, 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Due to COVID-19, The April quarterly data contain NCLEX examinations administered from March 25 to June 30, 2020.

## MINUTES

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown to approve the minutes from July 15, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

*Geraldine Marrocco arrived at 9:30 a.m.*

## SCHOOL ISSUES

- Porter & Chester Institute

Nancy Brunette, Philip Krebs, Sherry Greifzu, Deborah Hessell, Jay Bologna; and Joan Feldman, Esq. were present on behalf of Porter & Chester.

- A. Consultant Site Visit Evaluation

Sherry Greifzu received a report on a site visit to Windsor Health & Rehabilitation for observation of two students and on instructor.

The Board had questions concerning other clinical sites used by Porter & Chester.

- B. Request for follow-up survey

The Board requested that Helen Smith complete follow-up surveys at Porter & Chester campuses.

Joan Feldman requested that Deborah Hessell report on changes that Porter & Chester has undertaken to correct deficiencies.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, that any further discussion regarding Porter & Chester be tabled until after the completion of the surveys by Helen Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

- Sacred Heart University – Temporary Waiver Request

Elizabeth Denne was present for Sacred heart University.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to grant a temporary twelve -month waiver for Ariana Rick, RN. The motion passed with all in favor except Jason Blando and Mary Dietmann who abstained.

- Western Connecticut State University Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies  
Temporary Waiver Request

Jeanette Lupinacci was present for Western Connecticut State University.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to grant a temporary one-year waiver for Magdalena Szczerbacki, RN. The motion passed unanimously.

- University of Bridgeport – Proposal for an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program

Dawn Nair was present for the University of Bridgeport.

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to accept the feasibility study for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. The motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to approve the self-study for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. The motion passed unanimously.

## SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of 38 nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health during July, 2020.

## **MEMORANDUM OF DECISION**

Kaitlyn Sutton, LPN – Petition No. 2019-769

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann to reopen the record to introduce exhibits clarifying service of the Notice of Hearing to responded in this matter. The motion passed unanimously. Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to reaffirm the Board's decision to revoke the licensed practical nurse license of Kaitlyn Sutton. The motion passed unanimously.

## **MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Amanda Hart, RN - Petition No: 2020-552

Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Amanda Hart. Ms. Hart was not present and was not represented.

Gina Reiners 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. A hearing will be scheduled for September 16, 2020.

## **MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

William Meister, RN - Petition No. 2020-542

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented a Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges in this matter based on Mr. Meister's surrender of his license.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to grant the motion to withdraw the Statement of Charges. The motion passed unanimously

Heather Orsi, LPN - Petition No: 2020-314

Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented a Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges in this matter based on Ms. Orsi's surrender of her license.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to grant the motion to withdraw the Statement of Charges. The motion passed unanimously

## **PRE-HEARING REVIEW**

Michelle Fiala, RN - Petition No. 2020-542

Brittany Allen presented a pre-hearing review packet in this matter. Attorney Patrick Moynihan was present on behalf of respondent.

The Board suggested a period of probation with course work in cultural diversity, ethics, scope of practice and assessment related to high-risk pregnancies, and documentation; a reprimand and a civil penalty.

## **CONSENT ORDERS**

Nuzhat Jabeen, LPN - Petition No. 2019-1440

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Nuzhat Jabeen, LPN. Attorney Jacqueline Maulucci was present on behalf of Ms. Jabeen.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion failed following discussion.

The Board recommended the addition of course work related to fall risk and prevention; no solo practice, and six months of employer reports be added to the terms of probation.

Lisa Freeman was recused in this matter.

Heather Lucas, LPN - Petition No. 2020-44

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Heather Lucas, LPN. Attorney Cody Guarnieri was present on behalf of respondent.

Jennifer Long moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion failed unanimously following discussion.

The Board recommended employer reports be added to the terms of probation.

**HEARINGS**

Colleen Gallagher, LPN - Petition No: 2020-76

This hearing is continued to October 21, 2020.

Kandance Edmondson, RN - Petition No. 2019-725

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

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant a Department of Public Health oral motion to deem allegations admitted because an answer to the Statement of Charges was not filed. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, that Ms. Edmondson be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, that Ms. Edmondson's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura McCauley, RN - Petition No. 2019-313

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

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant a Department of Public Health oral motion to deem allegations admitted because an answer to the Statement of Charges was not filed. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Mary Brown moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that Ms. McCauley's license be reprimanded and placed on probation for a period of one year; with course work, no home care and monthly employer reports. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 12:45 p.m.

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