

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting by video conference on June 17, 2020 originating from the Department of Public Health 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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: Elizaida Delgado, LPN

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

The meeting commenced at 8:20 a.m.

CHAIR UPDATES

Nothing to Report

OPEN FORUM

Nothing to Report

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Chair Bouffard provided an update of various NCSBN projects and activities.

This year's annual meeting will be held virtually on August 12, 2020. Mary Dietmann and Gina Reiners indicated they would be willing to be delegates for Connecticut.

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 April, 2020. 27 calls were received in April.

SCHOOL ISSUES

- Central Connecticut State University – Approval of Nursing Department Chairperson
Catherine Thomas was present for this discussion.
Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to approve Dr. Thomas as the Nursing Department Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.
- Norwalk Community College
Dr. Ezechiele Dominique was present for this discussion.
Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to approve Dr. Dominique as the Director of Nursing and Allied Health. The motion passed unanimously.

- University of Connecticut – Stamford Campus
Dr. Deborah A Chyun was present for this discussion of a plan of correction to address a NCLEX pass rate of less than 80%.
Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to approve the plan of correction for the University of Connecticut, Stamford Campus. The motion passed unanimously.
Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to place University of Connecticut, Stamford Campus on conditional approval until NCLEX score pass rates are reported in June 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- Stone Academy – West Haven, East Hartford
Linda Dahlin was present for this discussion of a plan of correction to address a NCLEX pass rate of less than 80% at the West Haven and East Hartford campuses. Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to approve Stone Academy's plan of correction. The motion passed unanimously.
Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to place the day programs at Stone Academy's West Haven and East Hartford campuses on conditional approval until NCLEX score pass rates are reported in June 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- Stone Academy – Request for Alternative Experiences
Linda Dahlin and Terry Kinsley presented a request for a waiver of Sec. 20-90-55 (c) that requires contact hours shall be in supervised direct client care experiences to allow for 25% of the hours for select clinical rotations to be completed using a virtual clinical alternative at select campuses.
Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to approve Stone Academy's plan for virtual clinical experiences. The motion passed unanimously.
- Porter & Chester Institute – Plan of Correction – Monthly update
Nancy Brunette, Philip Krebs, Sherry Greifzu; and Joan Feldman, Esq. were present on behalf of Porter & Chester.
 - 1) Plan of Correction – Monthly update
Porter & Chester provided a plan of correction regarding NCLEX pass rate of less than 80% at the Hamden, Stratford, and Rocky Hill campuses.
Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to approve the plan of correction. The motion passed unanimously.
During the discussion for this motion, the issue of conditional approval based on a school's location, with more than one nursing programs, when one of the programs falls below the required 80% pass rate was raised. No action was taken regarding this issue at this time. A subsequent regulatory review may be necessary.
 - 2) Request for Virtual Clinical Simulation
The Board reviewed a request by Porter & Chester for virtual clinical simulation for 44 students who were not able to graduate in Aril 2020 due to the inability to complete the required clinical hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant the request for virtual simulation as outlined.
During discussion Board members expressed concerns about granting this request when the school is on conditional approval due to clinical issues.
The motion to grant the request for virtual simulation failed unanimously.
 - 3) Proposal for a revised practical nursing program
The Board reviewed a proposal for a revised Practical Nursing program, which separates the lab component from the corresponding didactic course.
This matter will be added to the July agenda for the presentation of additional information as required by regulation.

- Accreditation Update
Helen Smith reported that Capital Community College and St. Vincent's College have received ongoing accreditation by the Accreditation Commission of Education in Nursing (ACEN), and Sacred Heart University received ongoing accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Amy Slepica, RN – Petition No. 2018-1418

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

Joseph Iannicelli, LPN - Petition No. 2019-701

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to affirm the Board's decision which imposes probation of Mr. Iannicelli's licensed practical nurse license. The motion passed unanimously.

LICENSE REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

Arline B. Annunziato, RN

Dana Dalton, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH, presented a license reinstatement request for Arline Annunziato, RN.

Following review, the Board concurred with the DPH recommendation that Ms. Weiss' license be reinstated to probation for a period of four years with conditions including drug/alcohol screening, therapy and employer evaluations, and attendance at AA/NA meetings and completion of a refresher.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

William Meister, RN Petition No: 2020-542

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for William Meister. Mr. Meister 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 Mary Dietmann and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for July 15, 2020.

Laura Kisatsky, RN Petition No: 2020-541

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

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. A hearing will be scheduled for July 15, 2020.

HEARINGS

Kimberly Lemire, RN - Petition No. 2019-1237

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

Jennifer Long left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Following the close of the record the Board conducted fact-finding. Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded that Ms. Lemire be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously. Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded that Ms. Lemire's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine Marrocco left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Sara Smith, RN - Petition No. 2020-373

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present with Attorney Cody Guarnieri.

Following the close of the record the Board conducted fact-finding. Mary Brown moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that Ms. Smith be found as charged. The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Dietmann who abstained.

Mary Brown moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that Ms. Smith's license be placed on probation for four years with conditions. The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Dietmann who abstained.

Kimberly Smith, RN - Petition No. 2019-1237

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

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant the Department's oral request to amend the Statement of Charges. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to grant the Department's motion to deem the allegations admitted due to an answer not being filed. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the close of the record the Board conducted fact-finding. Mary Brown moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded that Ms. Smith be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Nicole Holiday, RN, APRN - Petition No. 2019-445

Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present but was not represented.

Following the close of the record the Board conducted fact-finding. Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded that Ms. Holiday be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Brown seconded that Ms. Holiday's licenses be placed on probation for four years with usual conditions and the addition of practice monitoring when respondent's Controlled Substance Registration and DEA registration are reinstated. This motion failed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, that in addition to the four-year probation, there be a two-year probationary period after respondent's Controlled Substance Registration and DEA registration are reinstated during which there will also be monitoring of respondents' prescriptions and a review of patient charts. This additional two years may be concurrent with the four-year probation. This motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 3:40 p.m.

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