

BOARD OR COMMISSION: Nursing Board
DATE: May 17, 2023
TIME: 8:30 AM
LOCATION: Via Microsoft TEAMS

MEETING MINUTES

| Name | Member | Present (Y/N) | | DPH STAFF | Present (Y/N) |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, DNSc, Chairperson | RN Member | Y | | Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board | Y |
| Cynthia L. Arpin, EdD, MSN, RN | RN Member | Y | | Helen Smith, DPH | Y |
| Jason Blando | Public | Y | | Dana Dalton, DPH | Y |
| Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE | RN Member | Y | | | |
| Lisa S. Freeman, BA | Public | Y | | | |
| Jennifer C. Long, APRN, MSN, NNP-BC | APRN Member | Y | | | |
| Geraldine Marrocco, EdD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP | RN Member | Y | | | |
| Rebecca Martinez, LPN | LPN Member | Y | | | |
| Gina Reiners, PhD, APRN, PMHNP, PMHCNS | RN Member | N | | | |
| Brett M. Prestia, MD | Public Member | Y | | | |

Chair Updates : Board Chair asked if board members are interested in attending the annual meeting on August 16-18th.

Stats for the 1st quarter NCLEX are out. 1.5 years out of Covid and not much improvement.

Additional Agenda Items and Reordering of Agenda:

- Porter and Chester Institute – LPN prelicensure data update – moved to June meeting to be presented by CT Center for Nursing Workforce = Lisa Freeman moved to remove the presentation of LPN prelicensure data update, Dr. Brett Prestia seconded. Members unanimously approved to remove the presentation of LPN prelicensure data update from the agenda and add it to the June meeting.
- Motion to delete Withdraw Statement of Charges in Christine Trombino, LPN matter from the agenda.– Geraldine Marrocco moved to remove the Trombino matter from the agenda. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Members unanimously agreed to remove the Trombino matter from the agenda.

Lisa Freeman moved to add the Summary Suspension of Marcus Garcia, RN to the agenda, Mary Dietmann seconded. Members unanimously agreed to add the Summary Suspension of Marcus Garcia, RN to the agenda.

Mary Dietmann moved to add the summary suspension of Angel Predzimirski, RN to the agenda, Cynthia Arpin seconded. Members unanimously agreed to add the summary suspension of Angel Predzimirski, RN to the agenda.

Continuance was granted by Patricia Bouffard, Chair in the Slonski, LPN matter. Mary Dietmann moved to remove the Slonski, LPN matter from the agenda. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Members unanimously agreed to remove the Slonski, LPN matter from the agenda.

Mary Dietmann moved to approve the agenda as revised. Geraldine Marrocco seconded. Members unanimously approved the agenda as revised.

Open Forum: Helen Smith, DPH did a review of the textbooks at Capital Community College based on a student's concerns expressed in last meeting. The textbooks for students will be different next year.

National Council of State Boards of Nursing - Update : There are a lot of products now analyzing critical reasoning. Presentations by Mary Dietmann and Geraldine Marrocco.

May 15th education call re: Announcement from Nancy Spector regarding concern for cheating in nursing schools and how a Dean in one school is addressing it and the faculty's concerns. Questioned whether other schools are doing restorative practices in response.

50% of state boards do not regulate APRN education (including CT). APRNs are testing out of the Advanced Pathology, Pharmaceutical, and Physical Assessment.

The role of Nursing Boards has taken on a new direction. Many state boards of nursing members are now compensated.

NCSBN study on nursing and faculty shortages. 2020-2022 had a drop in experienced 200,000 RNs and 60000 LPN. The median age decreased by 6 years. 70% or more are BSN educated. Over 25% are planning to leave or retire in the next 5 years. 100,000 left practice due specifically due to COVID stress. 800,000 are reporting that they will leave if things do not change. 62% reported that they had a workload increase during the pandemic.

Ideas to address shortages: legislators want to decrease the requirements for faculty (boards of nursing are opposing due to potential increase in errors). Some states are increasing faculty salaries. Grants to support doctoral degrees if persons commit to working in education.

In Connecticut an Adjunct Professor Incentive Grant Program will be administered by the Higher Education.

MINUTES

- Review and approve minutes from the April 19, 2023 meeting. Rebecca Martinez moved to approve the April 19, 2023 minutes. Geraldine Marrocco seconded. Board members noted that the minutes need to add "Y" for Helen Smith and Dana Dalton, as they were in attendance. Jason Blando and Lisa Freeman abstained. All others members unanimously approved the April 19, 2023 minutes with Helen Smith and Dana Dalton marked as present.

THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR NURSING WORKFORCE, INC – Monthly Update – Linda Wagner presented. Trying to promote and recruit new students. Ways to utilize retiring nurses are being

discussed and telenursing. Considering hiring a consultant to review competencies with the new essentials. June 20th is the annual meeting for CCNW.

NEW BUSINESS:

SCHOOL ISSUES

- Stone Academy - Update from the Office of Higher Education : Sean Seepersad presented. June 15th audit completion date. Update from Lincoln Tech that 64 new Stone Academy students are in their program. Stone Academy students can start over, transfer (continue their education at another practical nursing school, or teach out.

Students that qualify for a teach out would have no more than 350 clinical hours to do and would have completed all of their didactic classwork. Will do a knowledge and skills assessment test, require clinical hours and NCLEX preparation. Office of Higher Education will fund students in the teach out. *This discussion was informational purposes only. No votes were taken.*

- National Council of State Boards of Nurses – Policy Statement: Dissemination of Non-Specific and Misleading COVID-19 Information by Nurses

Policy statement came out in 2021 – nurses have an ethical obligation not to provide misinformation. There may be discipline by your board for dissemination for misinformation, but the board has to have a complaint followed by a statement of charges to review. *This discussion was informational purposes only. No votes were taken.*

- Arizona College of Nursing – First Quarterly Report : Vincent Salyers, Dean Judy Mckenna, Director of Regulatory Affair, Steve Neptune, and Jason Dunne, Vice President of Operations present. DPH staff made no campus or clinical visits during this quarter. *This discussion was informational purposes only. No votes were taken.*

- Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers – Letter of Appointment Interim Director

Kayla Bennett, Director of Nursing Program, Amanda Bell, Dean of Program present. Letter of appointment presented for Michele Derbyshire as Interim Director. Cynthia Arpin moved to approve Ms. Derbyshire as Interim Director, Geraldine Marrocco seconded. The appointment will be for 4 months while Kayla Bennett is out on maternity leave. Members unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Derbyshire as Interim Director.

- Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers – Feasibility Study Addendum – outlines how they plan to help the Stone Academy students. The curriculum has not changed. Geraldine Marrocco moved to accept Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers’ Feasibility Study Addendum. Rebecca Martinez seconded. The site is being built in Naugatuck. DPH has not visited. Second site will help serve the Stone Academy transfer or teach out students. Plan to start students on June 12th. Helen Smith will make a site visit with the Office of Higher Education after plan for the second site is approved. Members unanimously approved Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers’ Feasibility Study Addendum.

- Porter and Chester Institute - Hamden and Enfield Campuses Site Visit: Sherry Griefzu, Director, Anne Sullivan, Program Coordinator present a report. Presented a response to the DPH concerns that were

violations of the regulations. Geraldine Marrocco moved to accept the report. Dr. Brett Prestia seconded. Mary Dietmann abstained. All other members unanimously accepted the report.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES

- Alina Semakovitch, RN, Petition No. 2020-310, Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina present for DPH (Jason Blando, Geraldine Marrocco not present) – a voluntary surrender was accepted by the Department. Dr. Brett Prestia moved to grant the motion. Jennifer Long seconded. Members unanimously granted the motion.

REQUEST FOR LICENSE REINSTATEMENT HEARING

- Katie Ann Martins, LPN : This was Ms. Martin's second request presented to the Board. Her request was presented at the April 2023 meeting at which Ms. Martin failed to attend and the board determined there was insufficient information in the file to grant a hearing. Ms. Martin failed to attend again and the same information from the April 2023 meeting was presented. Jennifer Long moved to deny the license reinstatement hearing. She did not show up, nor did she provide additional information. Mary Dietmann seconded. Members unanimously denied Ms. Martin a reinstatement hearing.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

- Keave Davis, RN, Petition No. 2022-1096, Staff Attorney Aden Baume present for DPH; Attorney Ellen Costello appeared for Mr. Davis. Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the motion for summary suspension. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Attorney Costello was granted the opportunity provide an oral objection. Attorney Baume responded. Members unanimously granted the motion. Attorney Costello will get back to the Department for availability for hearing.
- Kerilee Francis, RN, Petition No. 2022-1087, 2022-1169, Staff Attorney Aden Baume present for DPH; Attorney Dan Schopick for Respondent. Mary Dietmann moved to grant the motion for summary suspension. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Attorney Schopick was granted an opportunity to make a statement. Members unanimously granted the motion. Hearing will be scheduled for June 21st.
- Marcus A. Garcia, RN: Petition No.: 2023-407, Staff Attorney Aden Baume present for DPH. Respondent did not appear. Jennifer Long moved to grant the motion for summary suspension. Mary Dietmann seconded. Members unanimously granted the motion.
- Angel Predzimirski, RN: Petition No.: 2023-569, Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina present for DPH. Cynthia Arpin moved to grant the summary suspension. Lisa Freeman seconded. (date of the cover sheet and statement of charges should be 2022). Members unanimously granted the motion. Hearing will be scheduled for June 21st.
- Michelle Rosa-Harris, LPN, Petition No. 2023-483, Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan present for DPH; Respondent present. Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the motion for summary suspension. Dr. Brett Prestia seconded. Jennifer Long requested Respondent to speak because she previously was given a short probation because she seemed to be on the right road. Respondent stated that she cannot explain why she tested positive. Patricia Bouffard did not feel the amount in the urine test was sufficient -it could have been an alcohol-containing compound. Dr. Brett Prestia abstained. All other members unanimously opposed the motion for summary suspension.,

CONSENT ORDERS

- Erin Fitzpatrick, RN Petition No. 2023-518, Staff Attorney Joelle Newton appeared on behalf of DPH - (Modified Pre-Licensure Consent Order); Respondent did not appear. Geraldine Marrocco moved to approve the consent order. Mary Dietmann seconded. Patricia Bouffard expressed that she believes it is adequate. Lisa Freeman expressed concern that the modification is not enough to address Respondent's issues. Lisa Freeman abstained. All other members unanimously approved the consent order.
- Theresa M. Gish, RN, Petition No. 2022-104, Staff Attorney Joelle Newton appeared on behalf of DPH and Respondent was present. Jennifer Long moved to approve the consent order. Geraldine Marrocco seconded. Jason Blando abstained. All other members unanimously approved.

PREHEARING REVIEW

- Jennifer Barr, RN, Petition No. 2022-734, Staff Attorney Joelle Newton; Attorney Gretchen Randall appeared on behalf of Respondent. This is a reciprocal discipline matter in which Respondent's Massachusetts license was suspended for diversion until certain requirements were met. Respondent failed to notify DPH of the disciplinary action. Members of the board expressed concern regarding the facts. They believe she may not be safe to practice and DPH should consider the case for a summary suspension and hearing.

HEARINGS

(Dr. Brett Prestia left from 1:30 – 2:30 pm)

- Melissa Marti, LPN Petition No. 2022-853 Staff Attorney Joelle Newton; Attorney Jake Donovan appeared on behalf of Respondent. Hearing commenced.

At 3:23 pm: (Dr. Brett Prestia present) Attorney Donovan made an oral motion for continuance. Mary Dietmann moved to grant the motion. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Members unanimously granted the motion for continuance.

- Herbert Terry, LPN, Petition No. 2023-453, Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina; Respondent present.

Respondent answered on the record:

1 – admit, 2a – admit, 2b – admit, 2c – admit, 2d – admit (he thought it was their responsibility), 3a – deny, 3b – admit, 3c – admit, 3d – admit.

Executive session 3:53 pm: Lisa Freeman moved to go into executive session to discuss treatment and medical records. Rebecca Martinez seconded. Members unanimously agreed to go into executive session.

Back out of executive session 4:10 pm: Cynthia Arpin moved to go out of executive session. Rebecca Martinez seconded. Members unanimously agreed to go out of executive session.

Mary Dietmann moved to find on all charges. Rebecca Martinez seconded. Members unanimously found on all Charges.

Remedy: Mary Dietmann moved to maintain the current terms of Respondent's reinstatement consent order. (Probation started December 8, 2021). Dr. Brett Prestia seconded. Jason Blando abstained. All other members unanimously agreed to maintain the current terms of Respondent's reinstatement consent order.

Mary Dietmann moved to lift the summary suspension. Cynthia Arpin seconded. Jason Blando abstained. All other members unanimously agreed to lift the summary suspension.

Mary moved to adjourn. Rebecca seconded. Unanimously agreed. 4:25 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn made by: Mary Dietmann

Seconded by: Rebecca Martinez

VOTE: Unanimous

Adjourned at: 4:25 pm

Patricia C Bouffard, RN, DNSc
Chairperson