

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting by telephone conference on May 20, 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
Elizaida Delgado, LPN
Mary Dietmann, RN
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member
Jennifer Long, APRN
Gina M. Reiners, RN

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Geraldine Marrocco, RN

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, 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 8:30 a.m.

CHAIR UPDATES

Nothing to Report

OPEN FORUM

A student from Porter & Chester addressed the Board in support of Porter & Chester's plan for virtual clinical experiences.

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Chair Bouffard and Mary Dietmann reported on modifications by [NCSBN](#) to NCLEX testing.

MINUTES

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to approve the minutes from April 15, 2020. 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 April, 2020. 27 calls were received in April.

SCHOOL ISSUES

- Excelsior College

Helen Smith reported that the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) denied continuing accreditation to the Associate Degree Nursing program at Excelsior College on 03/18-19/2020. The College has appealed the decision and in accordance with ACEN policy this Associate Degree Nursing program will remain accredited pending the appeal process.

Attorney Mike Bucciano addressed the Board on behalf of Excelsior College regarding this issue.

- South Dakota State University

Helen Smith reported that as of 05/04/2020 South Dakota State University (SDSU) will provide an option for participants in the RN & LPN Refresher program to complete online simulation for the required clinical experience. This option is temporary, and the participants cannot have any current disciplinary action(s) with their Board of Nursing including orders, stipulation agreements or probationary terms.

- NCLEX Test Results

Helen Smith gave a report of the NCLEX results from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020. The programs that fell below the 80 percent pass rate will be notified to submit a plan of correction to the Board.

- Lincoln Technical Institute – Request to use virtual clinical experiences

- 1) Virtual Clinical Experiences

Patricia DeLucia and Deborah Little were present for Lincoln Technical Institute. The Board reviewed additional information pertaining to the request for virtual clinical experiences for the May and July graduates which was initially presented at the April meeting. Stacy Schulman commented that the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health has not yet issued an Order in this matter based on the Board's April recommendation.

- 2) Program Administrator Report

The Board reviewed a report submitted by Patricia DeLucia concerning the performance of Deborah Little as well as an updated organizational chart.

- 3) Director of Nursing – New Britain Campus

Salvatore Diaz was present for this discussion.

Lisa Freeman made a motion seconded by Mary Dietmann to approve Mr. Diaz as the Director of Nursing for the Lincoln Technical Institute, New Britain Campus. The motion passed unanimously.

- Porter & Chester Institute

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

- 1) Plan of Correction – Monthly update

Porter & Chester provided additional information to supplement that which was presented at the April 15, 2020 meeting.

- 2) Request for Virtual Clinical Simulation

The Board reviewed information pertaining to a request for virtual simulation to accommodate approximately 65-70 students who were unable to graduate in April 2020, due to the inability to complete their required clinical hours brought about by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Mary Dietmann left the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Elizaida Delgado, 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 to allow the request for virtual simulation for students, who have completed the regulatory requirements of 750 hours, to complete Porter & Chester's requirements for 798 hours of clinical experience for graduation. Following extensive discussion Gina Reiners voted in favor of the motion. Elizaida Delgado, Mary Brown, Jason Blando, Lisa Freeman, Jennifer Long and Chair Bouffard were opposed.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Rene Cottrill, RN - Petition No. 2019-896

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to affirm the Board's decision revoking the registered nurse license of Rene Cottrill. The motion passed unanimously.

Melissa Eccles, LPN - Petition No. 2018-123

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to adopt the Memorandum of Decision which imposes a probation of Ms. Eccles's Licensed practical nurse license. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Eccles was present and addressed the Board regarding the decision.

Dana Kendrick, RN – Reinstatement Request

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to adopt the Memorandum of Decision which reinstates Ms. Kendrick's registered nurse license without conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

Tammy Piccirillo, LPN - Petition No. 2019-839

Gina Reiner made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to affirm the Board's decision revoking the registered nurse license of Tammy Piccirillo. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Kimberly Lemire, RN - Petition No: 2019-1237

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

Jennifer Long 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 Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for June 17, 2020.

Kimberly Smith, RN - Petition No: 2019-592

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Kimberley Smith. Ms. Smith 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 Jennifer Long and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for June 17, 2020.

Sara Smith, RN - Petition No: 2019-592

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Sara Smith. Attorney Cody Guarnieri was present on behalf of Ms. Smith and presented an objection to the Motion for Summary Suspension.

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 Lisa Freeman and passed with all in favor except Mary Brown and Lisa Freeman who were opposed. A hearing will be scheduled for June 17, 2020.

PREHEARING REVIEW

Stephen Keller, RN - Petition No. 2017-1112

Staff Attorney Diane Wilan presented a pre-hearing review packet in this matter.

Mr. Keller was present with Attorney Timothy Grady.

Following review, the Board recommended a reprimand, and coursework pertaining to mental health issues including autism spectrum disorder.

Elizaida Delgado left the meeting at 12:00 noon

CONSENT ORDERS

Sashni Popp, RN - Petition No. 2018-530

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Sashni Popp, RN.

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

Jennifer Long moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand and probation for a period of one year. The motion passed unanimously.

Sara Scobie, RN - Petition No: 2018-1365

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Sara Scobie, RN. Attorney Tamara Nyce was present on behalf of Ms. Scobie.

Mary Brown moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, to approve the Consent Order. Mary Brown voted in favor of the motion to approve, Jason Blando, Lisa Freeman, Jennifer Long and Chair Bouffard were opposed. The Board recommended the proposed Consent Order be edited to include a period of probation and a civil penalty.

HEARINGS

Collen Gallagher, LPN - Petition No: 2020-76

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present but was not represented. Respondent orally requested a continuance.

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to continue the hearing until August 19, 2020. The motion passed unanimously

Karina Francis, RN - Petition No: 2020-157

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

The hearing concluded but the record will remain open until September for the submission of additional documentation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 1:45 p.m.

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