

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on September 16, 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  
Gina M. Reiners, RN

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Geraldine Marrocco, RN

**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  
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison, DPH  
Agnieszka Salek, Hearings Liaison, DPH

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The meeting commenced at 8:32 a.m. All participants were present by video or telephone conference.

#### **CHAIR UPDATES**

Nothing to report.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Marcia Proto, Connecticut league for Nursing thanked the Board and the Department of Public Health for supporting Nursing education throughout the changes needed during the Covid pandemic.

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

Mary Dietmann provided an overview of an education call on which she participated.

#### **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.

Dana Dalton, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH reported that surveys of locations are being planned.

The Board accepted a monthly update from Sherry Greifzu and Deborah Hessell on behalf of Porter & Chester.

- St. Vincent's College – Site Visit Report

Rosemarie Baker was present on behalf of St. Vincent's' College.

Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided an overview of the Department of Public Health's site visit to St. Vincent's offices, nursing skills laboratory and simulation laboratory located at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to accept the department's report.

The motion passed with all in favor, except Mary Dietmann and Jason Blando who abstained.

- University of Hartford – Site Visit Report

Joyce Thielen, Valerie Whynall, and Cesarina Thompson were present on behalf of the University of Hartford.

- 1) Site Visit Report

Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided an overview of the Department of Public Health's site visit to the temporary nursing skills laboratory.

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to accept the department's report.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Request for curriculum changes

Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH reported on the curriculum changes request by the University.

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to approve the revised curriculum for the University of Hartford.

### **SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of 34 nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health during August, 2020.

### **NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT**

Kimberley Sandor, Executive Director of the Nurses Association was present to discuss the National Council State Board for Nursing Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). Under the NLC a nurse can practice in other NLC States without having to obtain a license in those compact states. Licensure is granted in the 'home state'. Ms. Sandor discussed the history of the NLC, the pros and cons, and the current efforts for a legislative change that would allow Connecticut to become a NLC State.

### **LICENSE REINSTATEMENT REQUEST**

- Brenda Berg, RN

Dana Dalton, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH, presented a license reinstatement request for Brenda Berg, RN.

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

- John D. Mosher, RN, APRN

Dana Dalton, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH, presented a license reinstatement request for John Mosher, RN, APRN.

Following review, the Board concurred with the DPH recommendation that Mr. Mosher's registered nurse license be reinstated to probation for a period of four years with conditions which include drug/alcohol screening, therapy and employer evaluations, attendance at AA/NA meetings and completion of refresher training.

A recommendation regarding reinstatement of Mr. Mosher's advanced practice registered nurse will be deferred until after his registered nurse license is reinstated.

**MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Judith Cullen, RN - Petition No: 2020-763

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Judith Cullen. Ms. Cullen 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 Brown and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for October 21, 2020.

Erin Fitzpatrick, LPN - Petition No: 2020-330

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Erin Fitzpatrick. Attorney Cody Guarnieri was present on behalf of Ms. Fitzgerald.

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 Gina Reiners and passed unanimously. At the request of respondent, without objection from the Department, the hearing will be scheduled for January 20, 2021.

Kristen Jodoin, RN - Petition No: 2020-715

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Kristen Jodoin. Ms. Jodoin 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 October 21, 2020.

Gustavo Mastarreno, RN - Petition No: 2020-783

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Erin Fitzpatrick. Attorney Daniel Csuka was present on behalf of Mr. Mastarreno.

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. At the request of respondent, without objection from the Department, the hearing will be scheduled for January 20, 2021.

Danielle Miranda, RN - Petition No: 2020-605

Staff Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Danielle Miranda. Ms. Miranda 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 Mary Brown and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for October 21, 2020.

Luisa Young, RN - Petition No: 2020-730

Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Luisa Young. Ms. Young 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 Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for October 21, 2020.

**CONSENT ORDERS**

Paul Pstrag, RN - Petition No. 2018-1305

Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Paul Pstrag, RN. Mr. Pstrag was not present and was not represented.

Jennifer Long moved, and Gina reiners seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand. The motion passed unanimously.

**HEARINGS**

Amanda Hart, RN - Petition No. 2020-552

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

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

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

Mary Brown moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded that until the signing of a Memorandum of Decision, respondent shall comply with the terms of a July 17, 2019 Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously

Mary Brown moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded, that a Memorandum of Decision be issued placing respondent's license on probation with conditions for a period of four years with weekly random drug alcohol screening during years 1,2 and 4 of probation, and twice a monthly during year 3 of probation. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to vacate the summary suspension of respondent's license and that respondent comply with the terms of a July 17, 2019 Consent Order pending the issuance of a Memorandum of Decision. The motion passed unanimously.

Sandra J. Blanchette, R.N. Petition No: 2020-431

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

This hearing will be continued to October 21, 2020 to allow time for additional information to be obtained.

Nicholas Lewonsczyk, LPN - Petition No. 2017-50

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

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to enter executive session to obtain evidence relating to confidential treatment records. The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered executive session from 1:32 p.m. until 2:09 p.m. No motions were made, and no votes were taken during executive session.

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

Lisa Freeman moved, and Brown seconded, that Mr. Lewonsczyk be found as charged in paragraphs 1 and. For paragraph 3, that Mr. Lewonsczyk' s conduct may affect his ability to practice nursing. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Freeman moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that Mr. Mr. Lewonsczyk' s license be placed on probation four years with conditions including drug/alcohol screening, therapy and employer evaluations, attendance at AA/NA meetings, no home care, narcotic key restriction for six months and completion of a practical Nurse refresher program. The motion passed unanimously.

*Mary Dietmann left for the day at this time.*

Heather Spaulding, RN - Petition No. 2019-1224

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

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

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

Gina Reiners moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded, that Ms. Spaulding s license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 2:22 p.m.

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