

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on January 20, 2021 via Microsoft TEAMS.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, D.N.Sc. (RN Member, Chair)
Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE - (RN Member)
Jennifer C. Long, APRN, MSN, NNP-BC - (APRN Member)
Geraldine Marrocco, Ed.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP -(RN Member)
Rebecca Martinez, LPN – (LPN Member)
Gina Reiners, PhD, APRN, PMHNP, PMHCNS - (RN Member)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Blando - (Public Member)
Lisa S. Freeman, BA - (Public Member)

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

The meeting commenced at 8:33 a.m. All participants were present by video or telephone conference.

CHAIR UPDATES

Nothing to report.

OPEN FORUM

Nothing to report

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Martinez, to approve the agenda as revised. The motion passed unanimously.

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Mary Dietmann and Chair Bouffard provided a report from an Education Consultants Group on January 6, 2021.

Chair Bouffard reported that the NCLEX exam toolkit is now available and that this year's NCSBN mid-year meeting will be held virtually.

MINUTES

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann to approve the minutes from November 18, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann to approve the minutes from December 16, 2020. The motion passed with all in favor except Jennifer Long who abstained.

SCHOOL ISSUES

- **Fairfield University – Temporary Waiver Request**

Audrey Beauvais was present on behalf of Fairfield University.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to grant a temporary six-month waiver for Kaitlyn Deforest, BSN, RN to teach pediatric clinical nursing during the Spring 2021 semester. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Southern Connecticut State University – Approval of Nursing Department Chairperson**

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to approve Antoinette Towle as chairperson of the Department of Nursing. The motion passed unanimously.

- Board Order re: Stone Academy suspension of virtual clinical experiences
Board Counsel Stacy Schulman explained that subsequent to review by legal staff the December 16, 2020 Board Order that Stone Academy suspend its offering of virtual clinical experiences needs to be vacated until standards for clinical simulation are established for all nursing programs
Following extensive discussion Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to vacate the December 16, 2020 Order that Stone Academy immediately suspend its offering of virtual clinical experiences. The motion passed with all in favor except Geraldine Marrocco who was opposed and Mary Dietmann who abstained.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Martinez, that any LPN programs that are on conditional approval and do not maintain an 80% NCLEX pass rate shall not be allowed to utilize virtual clinical simulation. The motion passed with all in favor except Gina Reiners who abstained.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Martinez, that the Board create a subcommittee to define criteria for virtual clinical simulation. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard, Geraldine Marrocco, Rebecca Martinez and Gina Reiners will participate on the subcommittee.

CONNECTICUT LEAGUR FOR NURSING – Monthly Update

Marcia Proto and Audrey Beauvais provided an update from the Connecticut League for Nursing.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of 32 nursing scope of practice inquires received by the Department of Public Health during December, 2020.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION

Jasmine Quinones, LPN Petition No. 2018-1406

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to reaffirm the Board's decision imposing a license suspension until January 31, 2021 followed by probation for a period of four years. The motion passed unanimously.

Sara Smith, RN Petition No. 2020-373

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to reaffirm the Board's decision imposing probation for a period of four years. The motion passed unanimously.

Cynthia Riley, L.P.N. Petition No. 2019-1131

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to reaffirm the Board's decision that Ms. Riley's license shall remain on probation under the terms and conditions of a Consent Order in Petition Number 2017-820. The motion passed unanimously.

FACT-FINDING

Jennifer Martin, LPN - Petition No: 2018-142

The Board reopened the record and unanimously voted to grant a Department of Public Health motion to deem allegations admitted.

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, that respondent be found on all charges. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, that respondent's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Dawn Jaros, LPN - Petition No: 2020-459

Staff Attorney, Brittany Petano, Department of Public Health presented a Motion to Withdraw the Statement of Charges in the matter of Dawn Jaros based on Ms. Jaros' surrender of her license. Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to grant the Department's motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ORDERS

Brenda Berg, RN - Petition No. 2020-816

Staff Attorney, Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Brenda Berg, RN. Ms. Berg was not present and was not represented.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a probation for a period of four years following completion of license reinstatement requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

Patricia James, RN - Petition No: 2020-157

Staff Attorney, Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Patricia James, RN. Ms. James 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.

Brian Kozaczka, RN - Petition No: 2019-1272

Staff Attorney, David Tilles, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Brian Kozaczka, RN. Mr. Kozaczka 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.

Paulette Simon, RN - Petition No: 2019-801

Staff Attorney, David Tilles, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of, Paulette Simon, RN. Ms. Simon was not present and was not represented.

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

HEARINGS

Lourdes Mercado, LPN -Petition Nos. 2019-1074; 2020-1131

Staff Attorney Brittany Petano was present for the Department of Public Health. Ms. Mercado was present but not represented. Ms. Mercado orally answered the Statement of Charges.

Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Rebecca Martinez seconded, to enter executive session to take testimony regarding confidential medical records. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board entered executive session from 12:49 p.m. until 1:38 p.m. No motions were made, and no votes were taken during executive session.

Following executive session Attorney Petano withdrew paragraph 4 from the Statement of Charges and removed reference to Petition No. 2019-1024 in the heading.

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

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, that Ms. Mercado be found on paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the charges. The motion failed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, that Ms. Mercado be found on paragraphs 1, 2 and 3a, 3d and 3e of the charges, and not found on paragraphs 3b and 3c. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved, and Jennifer Long seconded, that Ms. Mercado's license be reprimanded and placed on probation for two years with a requirement of course work in professional ethics, medication administration and management. In addition respondent shall complete an eight- hour supervised medication pass. The course work and medication pass are to be completed within the first six months of probation. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved, and Jennifer Long seconded that the Summary Suspension of Ms. Mercado's license ordered on December 16, 2020 be vacated. The motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Primini LPN – License Reinstatement Request

Staff Attorney Diane Wilan was present for the Department of Public Health. Ms. Primini was present but was not represented. During the hearing it was determined that documentation from Ms. Primini had not been received by the Board or Department of Public Health

The Board continued this hearing to March 17, 2021 to allow Ms. Primini time to submit updated and current documentation for the Board's review.

Dana Gibson, RN – License Reinstatement Request

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

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

Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that Ms. Gibson's registered nurse be reinstated. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved, and Gina Reiners seconded that Ms. Gibson's license be placed on probation for a period of one year. During the period of probation Ms. Gibson shall complete course working in professional ethics/conduct and boundary violations. In addition Ms. Gibson shall cause monthly employer reports to be submitted to the Department. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 3:45 p.m.

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