

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on July 21, 2021 via Microsoft TEAMS.

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, D.N.Sc. - (RN Member, Chair)  
Cynthia L. Arpin, RN, MSN – (RN Member)  
Jason Blando - (Public Member)  
Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE - (RN Member)  
Lisa S. Freeman, BA - (Public 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:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Alfreda Gaither, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH  
Dana Dalton, RN, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Linda Fazzina, 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 8:30 a.m. All participants were present by video or telephone conference.

#### **CHAIR UPDATES**

Nothing to report

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Nothing to report.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve the reordering of the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mary Dietmann provided a report of an Education Consultants Group teleconference held on July 7, 2021.

#### **MINUTES**

Rebecca Martinez made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve the minutes from May 19, 2021. The motion passed with all in favor except Geraldine Marrocco and Cynthia Arpin who abstained.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to approve the minutes from June 16, 2021. The motion passed with all in favor except Jennifer long who abstained.

#### **Public Act No. 21-152**

The Board reviewed Public Act 21-152 which was signed by the Governor on July 12, 2021. The act provides for the Commissioner of Public Health to convene working groups to determine whether Connecticut should join any interstate licensure compacts. Workgroups to explore licensure compacts for nursing, physicians, psychologists and physical therapists will be scheduled.

#### **SCHOOL ISSUES**

- Goodwin University

Bruce Hoffman was present from the University. The Board reviewed the university's notice of intent to offer an Associate Degree in Nursing Program at the campus of the University of Bridgeport. No Board action was necessary at this time.

- Sacred Heart University

Mary Dietmann and Jason Blando recused themselves in this matter.

Karen Daley, PhD, Dr. Susan L. Davis, RN & Richard J. Henley were present from Sacred Heart University College of Nursing.

- Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to approve Karen Daley as Dean of the College of Nursing. University of Connecticut

Angela Starkweather and Thomas Van Hoof were present from the University.

A) Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve a temporary six-month waiver for Kara Parker, BS, RN to co-teach a clinical practicum for Nursing 3234 Theory and Practice for Adults with Sub acute or Chronic Problems. The motion passed unanimously.

B) Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Cynthia Arpin, to approve a permanent waiver for Tomas Van Hoof MD, EdD, to teach Nursing 3225 Ethical Ways of Knowing. The motion passed unanimously.

C) Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to approve a permanent waiver for Tomas Long, PhD, to teach four nursing courses. The motion passed unanimously.

- Porter & Chester Institute

A) Approval Interim Nursing Director for the Practical Nursing Program

Nancy Brunet and Vicky Kane, Philip Krebes, Sherry Greifzu, Joan Feldman, Esq., James Beloga and Beatriz McMillian were present on behalf of Porter & Chester.

Deputy Associate Attorney General Daniel Shapiro was present for this discussion.

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long to approve Ms. Brunet as the Interim Nursing Director.

Following extensive discussion, the motion to approve Ms. Brunet as the Interim Nursing Director failed unanimously.

Gina Reiners withdrew the motion and made a new motion to table all Porter & Chester matters until the July 21, 2021 meeting. The motion to table was seconded by Rebecca Martinez and passed unanimously.

B) Plan of Correction

The Board reviewed the Porter & Chester plan of action that addresses a NCLEX pass rate of less than 80% at the following Porter & Chester locations: Enfield day program; Hamden day and evening programs; Rocky Hill evening program; Stratford day program, and the Waterbury day and evening programs.

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to accept the plan of action as presented.

During discussion, Deputy Associate Attorney General Daniel Shapiro provided the Board with the criteria for a Board to enter executive session.

Following extensive discussion, the Porter & Chester plan of action was approved unanimously.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to place the Enfield day program on conditional approval for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Cynthia Arpin, to place the Hamden day program on a second year of conditional approval. The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Dietmann who was opposed.

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to place the Hamden evening program on a second year of conditional approval. The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Dietmann who was opposed.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to place the Rocky Hill evening program on a second year of conditional approval. The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Dietmann who was opposed.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to place the Stratford day program on conditional approval for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to place the Waterbury day program on conditional approval for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to place the Waterbury evening program on conditional approval for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board heard comments from Porter & Chester students that were in attendance, and allowed responses from Porter & Chester staff. Student were informed that any issues/complaints should be directed to Helen Smith at the Department of Public Health.

C) Approval of Nursing Education Supervisor – Hamden Campus

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to approve Beatriz McMillian, RN, MSN as Nursing Education Supervisor at the Porter & Chester, Hamden Campus. The motion passed unanimously.

• Stone Academy

Linda Dahlin and Attorney Aaron Bayer were present on behalf of Stone Academy

A) Approval of Interim Practical Nurse Program Administrator

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to approve a temporary waiver for Lisa Palmer BS, BSN to be the Interim Practical Nurse Program Administrator pending her receiving her MSN degree.

B) Plan of Correction

Stone Academy submitted a plan of correction to address a NCLEX pass rate of less than 80% at the West Haven day and evening programs and East Hartford day and evening programs.

Attorney Bayer addressed the Board regarding the West Haven day program.

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to approve Stone Academy's plan of correction. The motion passed unanimously.

Rebecca Martinez made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to place East Hartford day program on a second year of conditional approval. The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Dietmann who was opposed.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners to place East Hartford evening program on conditional approval for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners to place the West Haven day program on a third year of conditional approval. Following discussion this motion was withdrawn without a vote.

Attorney Bayer addressed-the Board regarding the West Haven day program.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Martinez to recommended that the West Haven day program be removed from the list of nursing programs for training licensed practical nurses approved by the Board with the consent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health. The motion passed unanimously. A hearing regarding this matter will be scheduled.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to place the West Haven evening program on conditional approval for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONNECTICUT LEAGUR FOR NURSING – Monthly Update**

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

### **SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of 45 nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health during June 2021.

### **MEMORANDA OF DECISION**

Amanda Hart, RN - Petition No. 2020-552

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to reaffirm the Board's decision imposing probation for a period of four years. The motion passed with all in favor except Cynthia Arpin who abstained.

Nicholas Lewonczyk, LPN - Petition No. 2017-50

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Martinez, to table this matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Elaine Reynolds, RN - Petition No. 2018-1301

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Martinez, to reaffirm the Board's decision dismissing the charges in this matter. The motion passed unanimously. [

### **MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Meghan Frederick, LPN - Petition No. 2021-206

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Meghan Frederick. Respondent 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 Dietmann and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for August 11, 2021.

Patricia Fryer, RN - Petition No. 2021-572

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Patricia Fryer. Respondent 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 August 11, 2021.

Nichelle Robinson, RN - Petition No. 2021-516

Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Nichelle Robinson. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

Geraldine Marrocco 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 August 11, 2021.

### **CONSENT ORDERS**

Karen Crosby, RN - Petition No. 2020-684

Staff Attorney, Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Karen Crosby, LPN. Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt was present on behalf of respondent. Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes probation for a period of four years. The motion passed unanimously.

Laurie Pierson, R.N. Petition No. 2019-859

Staff Attorney, Leslie Scoville, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Laurie Pierson, RN. Respondent was present but was not represented.

Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Rebecca Martinez seconded, to approve the Consent Order. Cynthia Arpin was in favor of the motion. Jennifer Long, Jason Blando, Mary Dietmann, Lisa Freeman, Geraldine Marrocco, Rebecca Martinez, and Gina Reiners were opposed. The motion failed.

Following further discussion Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand, a \$1000.00 civil penalty and probation for a period of one year. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine Wilkinson, L.P.N. Petition No. 2020-212

Staff Attorney, Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Christine Wilkinson, LPN. Respondent was present but was not represented.

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

Lynne Reynolds, RN, Petition No. 2020-385

Staff Attorney, Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Lynne Reynolds, RN. Respondent was present with Attorney Richard Brown.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve the Consent Order which imposes probation for a period of four years. The motion passed unanimously.

Adrienne DeLucia, RN, Petition No. 2021-317

Staff Attorney, Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Adrienne DeLucia, RN. Respondent was present with Attorney Richard Brown.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand and changes the probationary period specified in a December 2018 Consent Order from four years to five years. The motion passed unanimously.

**PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Linda Lee, R.N. Petition No. 2019-362

Attorney Richard Brown was present with respondent. Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present for the Department of Public Health.

The Board reviewed a petition for reconsideration of a June 16, 2021 Memorandum of Decision issued by the Board. Attorney Newton spoke in opposition to respondent's petition.

Chair Bouffard sustained the Department of Public Health's objection to respondent's petition for reconsideration.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to rescind the revocation set forth in the June 16, 2021 Memorandum of Decision and to place respondent's license on suspension pending a final resolution subsequent to a hearing. The motion passed with all in favor except Jennifer Long who abstained.

**HEARINGS**

Angel Predzimirski, R.N - Petition No. 2020-1221

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

During the hearing respondent requested a continuance so she can seek legal counsel.

Linda Freeman moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, to grant the continuance motion. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing will be rescheduled to October 20, 2021.

Christopher Morahan, RN - Petition No. 2020-1009

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

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to grant the Department's oral motion to deem allegations admitted. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Lisa Freeman made a motion seconded by Gina Reiners, that Mr. Morahan be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that Mr. Morahan's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Gina Reiners, seconded by Rebecca Martinez, it was the unanimous decision to adjourn this meeting at 2:25 p.m.

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