

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, D.N.Sc. (RN Member, Chair)
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: Stacy Schulman, 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
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison, DPH
Agnieszka Salek, Hearings Liaison, DPH

The meeting commenced at 8:36 a.m. All participants were present by video or telephone conference.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard requested that the Department of Public Health research and provide an update regarding the nursing education regulations revisions that the Board worked many years ago [2014].

OPEN FORUM

Nothing to report.

Jennifer C. Long arrived at 8:45 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Martinez, to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Chair Bouffard and Dana Dalton, RN, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a synopsis of the mid-year meeting which was held on March 8-11, 2021.

The annual meeting will be held virtually August 18-19, 2021.

Mary Dietmann provided a report of an Education Consultants Group teleconference on April 15, 2021. The main topic of discussion was the annual report project.

MINUTES

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to approve the minutes from March 17, 2021. The motion passed. Rebecca Martinez abstained.

SCHOOL ISSUES

- University of Bridgeport – Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Pre-Licensure Program
Linda Wagner was present on behalf of the University of Bridgeport.
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a report of a March 22, 2021 site visit to review the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Pre-Licensure Program.
Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann to approve the site visit report. The motion passed unanimously.

- University of Bridgeport – Pending Purchase by Goodwin University
The Board reviewed a letter providing an update of the sale of assets to Goodwin University effective July 1, 2021. The Institution will continue to be referred as the University of Bridgeport and there will not be any changes to the nursing program. Linda Wagner answered questions from the Board.
- Annual pre-licensure LPN and RN education programs survey
Audrey Beauvais and Marcia Proto from the Connecticut League for Nursing provided an update of the annual pre-licensure LPN and RN education programs survey for the 2020 calendar year.
- NCLEX test results – Porter & Chester Institute
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided updated NCLEX results for the Porter & Chester programs in Rocky Hill and Stratford.
Based on the results Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to remove the Porter & Chester Rocky Hill Day Program from conditional status that was ordered on June 17, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of 44 nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health during March 2021.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION

Kimberly Lemire, RN - Petition No. 2019-1237

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to reaffirm the Board's decision imposing probation for a period of one year with the addition of monthly employer reports. The motion passed with all in favor except Rebecca Martinez who abstained.

Kristen Jodoin, RN - Petition No. 2020-715

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

Nicholas Lewonczyk, LPN - Petition No. 2017-50

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

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Sara Smith, RN - Petition No. 2021-181

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Sara Smith. Ms. Smith was present with Attorney Cody Guarnieri.

Jennifer Long moved to deny the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed with all in favor except Mary Dietmann who recused herself from voting and Jason Blando who abstained. A hearing will be scheduled for July 21, 2021.

Stacey Kinsley, RN - Petition No. 2020-972

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Stacey Kinsley. Attorney Eric Chester was present on behalf of respondent.

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 Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for May 19, 2021.

Pamela Franklin, RN - Petition No. 2020-1211

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Pamela Franklin. 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 Jennifer Long and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for May 19, 2021.

Amanda Claffey, RN - Petition No. 2021-284

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Amanda Claffey. 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 Gina Reiners and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for May 19, 2021.

David Martin, RN - Petition No. 2021-242

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for David Martin. 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 Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for May 19, 2021.

CONSENT ORDERS

Amy Saunders, LPN - Petition No. 2019-619

Staff Attorney, Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Amy Saunders, RN. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

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

Christopher Banker, RN - Petition No. 2020-582

Staff Attorney, Linda Fazzina, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Christopher Banker, RN. Attorney Beth Willard 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.

Stephanie Kennedy, RN - Petition No. 2020-606

Staff Attorney, Linda Fazzina, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Christopher Banker, RN. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

Jennifer Long moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded, to adopt the Consent Order. Following discussion the motion to approve the Consent Order was rejected with all in favor except Jason Blando who abstained. The Board requested additional information for review.

HEARINGS

Erin Fitzpatrick, LPN - Petition No. 2020-330; 2020-1015

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present with Attorney Cody Guarnieri

Following the close of the record the Board conducted fact-finding. Jennifer Long moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, that Ms. Fitzpatrick be found as charged for Petition No. 2020-1015. The motion passed unanimously. Jennifer Long moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that Ms. Fitzpatrick be found as charged for Petition No. 2020-330. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that for Petition No. 2020-1015 Ms. Fitzpatrick's license be reprimanded and that for Petition No. 2020-330 Ms. Fitzpatrick's be placed on probation for

four years with conditions that include random urine screening weekly during the first and last years of probation, twice a month for years two and three; employer and therapists reports monthly during the first and last years of probation, quarterly for years two and three; no home care/independent practice for the entire probation; and access to the administration of controlled substance is restricted for the first year of probation. The motion passed unanimously.

The Summary Suspension of Ms. Fitzpatrick's license will remain in effect until the Memorandum of Decision is issued.

Mercedes Miranda, LPN - Petition No. 2020-706

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

Gina Reiners 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.

Gina Reiners made a motion seconded by Rebecca Martinez, that Ms. Miranda be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Alexia Young LPN - Petition No. 2020-331

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

Mary Dietmann left for the day at 1:15 a.m.

Following the close of the record the Board conducted fact-finding. Jennifer Long moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that respondent be found on all charges. However, in paragraph 3c that the finding be for the alteration of controlled substance records but not for falsification of controlled substance records. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, that Ms. Young's license be placed on probation for a period of three months with the requirement for completion a medication administration documentation course. Following discussion Jennifer Long and Jason Blando voted in favor of the motion. Chair Bouffard, Geraldine Marrocco, Lisa Freeman and Rebecca Martinez were opposed. Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Martinez that although the charges were proven, the conduct does not rise to the level to warrant disciplinary action. The motion passed with all in favor except Jennifer Long who was opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Lisa Freeman, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, it was the unanimous decision to adjourn this meeting at 2:24 p.m.

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