

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on April 6, 2022 via Microsoft TEAMS.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, D.N.Sc. - (RN Member, Chair)
Cynthia L. Arpin, RN, MSN – (RN Member)
Joseph Bierbaum (Public Member)
Jason Blando - (Public 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)
Gina Reiners, PhD, APRN, PMHNP, PMHCNS - (RN Member)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE - (RN Member)
Rebecca Martinez, LPN – (LPN Member)

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
Craig Sullivan, Staff Attorney, DPH
Aden Baume, Staff Attorney, DPH

The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard gave an update on webinars attended which discussed violence issues in nursing and legislation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Cynthia Arpin made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

None reported

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Chair Bouffard deferred reporting at this time.

MINUTES

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to approve the minutes from November 17, 2021. Joseph Bierbaum and Lisa S. Freeman abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to approve the minutes from December 1, 2021. Cynthia L. Arpin and Joseph Bierbaum abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Cynthia Arpin, to approve the minutes from December 15, 2021. Joseph Bierbaum, Lisa S. Freeman, Jason Blando and Geraldine Marrocco abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding online versus in-person meetings

Since the COVID restrictions have been lifted, Board members discussed their preference for remote meetings versus in-person meetings.

- Positives noted for remote meetings: no need to travel; higher attendance noted via Teams due to convenience/more easily accessible, helpful timewise, more occasions where there is lack of quorum in-person; in-person can be regionally restrictive; seeing documents ahead of time is time efficient for Board members and respondents.
- Concerns with online were technical difficulties, body language not always evident; microphone dropouts; lack of “in-personness” and no orientation/discussion from students.
- Option: provide an introduction video for students if they wish to attend via teams.
- A hybrid option was discussed as well as planning for some meetings in person and some meetings on teams.
- Most prefer to stay with remote meetings, possible in-person at times, or hybrid if technologically possible.
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Discussion regarding number of monthly meetings

- Two a month on a regular basis is difficult
- Possibly cut/postpone other discussions and make hearings a priority
- Reorganize agenda to make hearings first/make better use of time
- Hearings need to take place within a reasonable time due to due process and per AG office (unable to unduly postpone)
- Especially if in person, make good use of time.
- Historically BOEN met twice a month, until Haven program
- Backlogged due to pandemic
- Schedule two through June and then re-evaluate

CONNECTICUT LEAGUE FOR NURSING – Monthly Update

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

SCHOOL ISSUES

- ReNurse Academy – Request for RN Refresher Program

Britney Fazon was present from ReNurse academy.

Questions

- limited license for clinical program purposes related to nurses who did not pass the NCLEX
- Locations at various locations around CT
- Clinical sites are provided by program (make clearer)
- What is outcome for student who does not do clinical
 - Theory only will still receive a document of completion
- Contracts allow for 40 hours a week
- Other related/comparable programs have not had robust enrollment recently
- Aim to refresh nurses who have been out of practice or enhance experience for new grads who due to covid want additional experiences.

Joseph Bierbaum made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to approve ReNurse Academy. The motion passed unanimously.

Cynthia L. Arpin made a motion, and seconded by Jen Long, that updates be provided to the Board and CT League for Nursing in April-2023, April 2024, and 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Stone Academy – West Haven Campus (Day Program)

Linda Dahlin, Lisa Palmer, Aaron Bayer and Gary Evans were present on behalf of Stone Academy. The Board reviewed information regarding the teach-out plan for the Practical Nursing Day Program at Stone Academy’s West Haven.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of 42 nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health in January 2022 and 37 in February 2022.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION

Angel Predzimirski, RN - Petition No. 2020-1221

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to affirm the Memorandum of Decision which imposes a 4 year probation.

The motion did not pass. A revision adding a controlled substance access/administration restriction needs to be made.

Sara Smith, RN - Petition No. 2021-181

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to affirm the Memorandum of Decision which imposes, of dismissal of petition 2021-181 but to continues probation for petition 2020-373. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

Amy Saunders, LPN - Petition No. 2021-518

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to affirm the Memorandum of Decision which imposes a revocation of respondent's license. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

Audrey Smarrelli, RN - Petition No. 2019-424

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to affirm the Memorandum of Decision which imposes a reprimand on license. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

Patricia Fryer, RN - Petition No. 2021-572

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to affirm the Memorandum of Decision which imposes probation for a period of four years. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Nicholas O'Brien, APRN, RN - Petition Nos. 2021-603; 2021-1174

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Nicholas O'Brien. Respondent was present and was represented by Nancy DeRose.

Respondent objected to the DPH Motion for Summary Suspension.

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 Cynthia Arpin and passed with all in favor except Gina Reiners who recused herself in this matter.

A hearing will be scheduled for May 11, 2022.

Stephanie Ryan, R.N - Petition No.: 2022-195

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Stephanie Ryan. Respondent was present but 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 Cynthia Arpin and passed with all in favor except Patricia Bouffard who was opposed and Joseph Bierbaum who abstained. A hearing will be scheduled for May 11, 2022.

Kimberly Anglin RN - Petition No. 2022-12

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Kimberly Anglin. Respondent 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 with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained. A hearing will be scheduled for May 11, 2022.

Nicole M. Holiday a/k/a Nicole Desrosiers, R.N., A.P.R.N. Petition No. 2022-175

Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Nicole M. Holiday a/k/a Nicole Desrosiers. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

Jen 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 Geraldine Marrocco and passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained. A hearing will be scheduled for May 11, 2022.

CONSENT ORDERS

Sabrina J. Ernst, RN - Petition No. 2019-62

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

Jennifer Long moved, and Geraldine Marrocco seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes probation for a period of four years. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

Angela Waskiewicz, RN - Petition No. 2021-497

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Angela Waskiewicz, RN. Respondent was present but was not represented.

Gina Reiners moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes probation for 3 months. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

Jennifer Schad, RN - Petition No. 2019-924

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Jennifer Schad, RN. Respondent was present but was not represented.

Jennifer Long moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a six month suspension followed by probation for a period of four years. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

Donna Monticone, RN - Petition No. 2020-1112

Staff Attorney, Joelle Newton, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Donna Monticone, RN. Respondent and her counsel were present.

Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Jennifer Long seconded, to approve the Consent Order. Following discussion the motion to approved failed.

FACT-FINDING

Corey Richmond, RN - Petition No. 2021-48

The Board conducted fact-finding in the matter of Corey Richmond, RN. A Hearing in this matter was held on March 2, 2022. Respondent was present with Attorney Ellen Costello.

Attorney Costello asked to present additional documentation. The request was denied in that the record was closed; however, the record has been closed.

Jennifer Long moved, and Cynthia Arpin seconded, to find on all charges. The motion passed with all in favor except Geraldine Marrocco and Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

Jennifer Long moved, and Cynthia Arpin seconded that respondent be placed on probation for a period of three years with 1st and 3rd year weekly urine screens, 2nd year twice monthly urine screens; employer and therapist reports monthly in first and third years and quarterly in year two; and NA/AA support group meeting. A controlled substance access/administration restriction is not necessary. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

HEARINGS

Cindy Jean Featherston, RN Petition No. 2020-391

This was the continuation of a hearing which began on February 16, 2022.

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present with Attorney Heidi Cilano.

The Board entered executive session on a motion by Geraldine Marrocco, seconded by Gina Reiners, for the purpose of receiving testimony regarding privileged medical records. No motions were made and no votes were taken in executive session.

Geraldine Marrocco left during executive session

Following executive session respondent made an oral Motion to dismiss statement of charges. The motion to dismiss was denied on a motion by Gina Reiners, seconded by Lisa Freeman. Joseph Bierbaum abstained from this vote.

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

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Cynthia Arpin, that Ms. Featherston be found for paragraphs 1, 2, 3 of the Statement of Charges but not paragraphs 4 and 5. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to order a reprimand of Ms. Featherston's license. The motion passed with all in favor except Joseph Bierbaum who abstained.

Joseph Bierbaum left the meeting

Amanda L. Espinosa, LPN Petition No. 2021-1222

This was the continuation of a hearing which began on February 16, 2022.

Staff Attorney Aden Baume was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present but was not represented.

The Board entered executive session on a motion by Gina Reiners, seconded by Lisa Freeman, for the purpose of receiving testimony regarding privileged medical records. No motions were made and no votes were taken in executive session.

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

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, that Ms. Espinosa be found on all charges.

Lisa Freeman made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, that Ms. Espinosa be suspended for 6 months followed by probation for a period of four years. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Cynthia Arpin, seconded by Lisa Freeman. It was the unanimous decision to adjourn this meeting at 5:08-p.m.

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