

The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on August 3, 2022 via Microsoft TEAMS.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, D.N.Sc. - (RN Member, Chair)
Gina Reiners, PhD, APRN, PMHNP, PMHCNS - (RN Member)
Cynthia L. Arpin, RN, MSN – (RN Member)
Jason Blando - (Public Member)
Jennifer C. Long, APRN, MSN, NNP-BC - (APRN Member) (8:44 a.m.)
Geraldine Marrocco, Ed.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP - (RN Member)
Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE - (RN Member)
Lisa S. Freeman, BA - (Public Member)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Bierbaum (Public Member)
Rebecca Martinez, LPN – (LPN Member)

ALSO PRESENT: Dana Dalton, RN, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Stacy Schulman, Staff Attorney, Board Counsel
Aden Baume, Staff Attorney, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH
Jeff Kardys, Board Liaison, DPH

The meeting commenced at 8:34 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard reported that the regulations have been sent to the Board members for review and revisions.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

Jeff Kardys advised that there were no changes to the revised agenda. The CT League of Nursing will not be reporting today. Geraldine Marrocco made a motion to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Cynthia Arpin. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Karen Depcrymski sought feedback from the Board on proposed House Bill 5485 and how it relates to registered nurses practicing NADA independently. Geraldine Marrocco suggested that this be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Chair Bouffard reported that the next Educational Committee meeting is August 9th. Chair Bouffard has started the process of getting Mary Dietmann designated as the Educational Consultant. Chair Bouffard, Dana Dalton and Cynthia April will be attending the NCSBN Annual Conference the week of August 16, 2022. Mary Dietmann will be attending the annual conference virtually.

Chair Bouffard is going to forward a survey from NCSBN regarding how APRNs should be regulated to Geraldine Marrocco.

Mary Dietmann is working on getting a SIM study started with the grant money received. She is working with Jason Blando and Marcia Proto on this project.

CONNECTICUT LEAGUE FOR NURSING – Monthly Update

No report.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

April, May, June 2022

Helen Smith reported on the number of calls received during the months of April, May and June regarding scope of practice questions.

Lisa Freeman left the meeting at 9 a.m.

SCHOOL ISSUES

Arizona College of Nursing – Site Inspection Report

Dianne Smith-Levine, Dr. Amber Kool, Amie Patel, Jason Dunn, Barbara Hall and Erica Bothello appeared on behalf of Arizona College of Nursing.

Helen Smith reported on her site visit to the campus.

Mary Dietmann reported that three members of the Board have received new information regarding the Arizona College Tempe campus. The Board members have learned that the Tempe campus is on probation pursuant to a consent order. The consent order addresses complaints from nursing students, firing of faculty staff, violations of academic policies and other issues. There is concern that the school did not disclose this information to the Board during the application process even though the consent order was signed before the application was submitted.

Geraldine Marocco made a motion to table the discussion on Arizona College until the Board members have reviewed the new information, seconded by Jason Blando. The motion passed unanimously.

The site visit report and the application will be addressed at a future meeting.

Dianne Smith-Levine stated that did not misrepresent the application and was unaware of the Tempe campus issues.

University of Hartford - Site Inspection Report

Joyce Thielen appeared on behalf of the University of Hartford.

Helen Smith reported on her site visit to the campus.

Cynthia Aprin made a motion to accept the site visit report, seconded by Mary Dietmann. The motion passed unanimously.

Lincoln Technical Institute – Appointment of Director of Nursing – Shelton Campus

Patricia DeLucia, Sara Johnson, Deborah Little, Dr. Susan Naples, and Ruth-Sarah Mazzaferro appeared on behalf of Lincoln Technical Institute.

Helen Smith reported that Lincoln Technical Institute is requesting approval of Ruth-Sarah Mazzaferro, MSN, RN, as the Director of Nursing for the Lincoln Institute Shelton Campus and reviewed her credentials.

Geraldine Marocco made a motion to approve Ruth-Sarah Mazzaferro to the position of director of nursing, seconded by Cynthia April. The motion passed unanimously.

ReNurse Academy, LPN Refresher Program update

Brittany Faison appeared for ReNurse Academy

Helen Smith reported that ReNurse Academy provided an annual report and is requesting approval for in-person and virtual clinical experiences.

Gina Reiners made a motion to approve the addition of virtual clinical experiences to the ReNurse Academy LPN program, seconded by Jennifer Long. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bouffard requested that ReNurse Academy provide an update in six months on the virtual program. In addition, she requested that the report include feedback from employers if there is available data at that point. ReNurse Academy will be put on the agenda in six months.

Porter & Chester Institute – Corrective Action Plans

Holly Breault, Vicki Kane and Joan Feldman, Esq. appeared on behalf of Porter & Chester Institute.

- *Bridgeport Campus Day Program*

Jennifer Long made a motion to accept the Porter & Chester Institute corrective action plan for the Bridgeport Campus Day program, seconded by Gina Reiners. The motion passed 4-3 with approval from Gina Reiners, Cymthia Aprin, Jennifer Long and Patricia Bouffard; Mary Dietmann, Jason Blando and Geraldine Marocco opposed.

- *Waterbury Campus Evening Program*

Gina Reiners made a motion to accept the Porter & Chester Institute corrective action plan for the Waterbury Campus evening program, seconded by Cynthia April. The motion passed 4-3 with approval from Gina Reiners, Cynthia Aprin, Jennifer Long and Patricia Bouffard; Mary Dietmann, Jason Blando and Geraldine Marocco opposed.

Stone Academy – Corrective Action Plans

Gary Evans, Dr. Brian Pervis, and Ann Cooper appeared on behalf of Stone Academy.

- *East Hartford Campus Evening Program*

Geraldine Marocco made a motion to accept the corrective action plan for the Stone Academy East Hartford Campus evening program, seconded by Jennifer Long. The motion failed.

Lisa Freeman returned to the meeting at 11 a.m.

- *Waterbury Campus Day Program*

Geraldine Marocco made a motion to **not** approve the corrective action plan for the Stone Academy Waterbury Campus program, seconded by Mary Dietmann. The motion failed and the corrective action plan is approved.

- *Waterbury Campus Evening Program*

Geraladine made a motion to **not** approve the corrective action plan for the Stone Academy Waterbury Campus evening program, seconded by Mary Dietmann. The motion failed and the corrective action plan is approved.

- *West Haven Campus Evening Program*

Geraldine Marocco made a motion to **not** approve the correction action plan for the Stone Academy West Haven Campus evening program, seconded by Mary Deitmann. The motion passed unanimously and the corrective action plan is not approved.

Stone Academy – Response to former instructor’s letter

The Board reviewed Stone Academy’s response to former instructor’s concerns.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Sara Scobie, L.P.N. Petition No. 2020-1086

Respondent was not present.

Gina Reiners made a motion to affirm the memorandum of decision for Sara Scobie, LPN, seconded by Cynthia Aprin, which imposes revocation of license. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Gregory Orfitelli, R.N. Petition No. 2022-714 Staff Attorney Aden Baume

Staff Attorney Aden Baume presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Gregory Orfitelli. Respondent was present.

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 Cynthia Aprin. The motion passed unanimously, with the exception of Patricia Bouffard and Jennifer Long who both opposed.

A hearing will be scheduled for September 21, 2022.

Arlene E. Clarke, LPN Petition No. 2022-580 Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Arlene Clarke. Respondent was not present and not represented.

Cynthia Aprin 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. The motion passed unanimously.

A hearing will be scheduled for September 21, 2022.

CONSENT ORDERS

Rafael Diaz, R.N.

Petition No. 2020-985

Staff Attorney Aden Baume

Staff Attorney Aden Baume presented a Consent Order in this matter. Respondent was present and represented by Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Cynthia Aprin, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a four-year probation with conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARINGS

*Kimberly Lemire, RN**

Petition No. 2022-561

Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan

Staff Attorney Aden Baume was present for the Department of Public Health as Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan was not available. Respondent was not present and not represented.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman to grant the Department of Public Health's oral request to deem allegations against Kimberly Lemire, RN admitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the close of the hearing, the Board conducted fact-finding. Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners that Respondent be found on all charges. The motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman that Respondent's license be revoked in Connecticut. The motion passed unanimously.

Tammy L. Piccirillo, LPN

Reinstatement Hearing (2022-498)

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present.

Jennifer Long made a motion to grant reinstatement of Tammy Piccirillo's LPN license, seconded by Gina Reiners. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Freeman made a motion for the terms of the Respondent's reinstatement to include 2 years of probate with conditions and key restriction for the first 6 months, seconded by Gina Reiners. The motion passed unanimously.

*Sabrina J. Ernst, RN**

Petition No. 2022-611

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton

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

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann to grant the Department of Public Health's oral request to deem allegations against Sabrina J. Ernest, RN admitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the close of the hearing, the Board conducted fact-finding. Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann that Respondent be found on all charges. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann that Respondent's license be revoked in

Connecticut. The motion passed unanimously.

Danielle D. Works, LPN Petition No. 2021-519 Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina

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

Rachel Pisani, APRN, RN* Petition Nos. 2021-1209; 2021-1223 Staff Attorney Joelle Newton

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

Jennifer Long made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners to grant the Department of Public Health's oral request to deem allegations against Rachel Pisani, APRN, RN admitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the close of the hearing, the Board conducted fact-finding. Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann that Respondent be found on all charges. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann that Respondent's APRN and RN licenses be revoked in Connecticut. The motion passed unanimously.

Jacquelyn O'Connor, LPN Petition No. 2020-845 Staff Attorney Aden Baume

Staff Attorney Aden Baume was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present and represented by Attorney Ellen Costello.

Chair Bouffard sustained the Department's objection that the documents came after the deadline. Chair Bouffard overruled the Department's objection that the Respondent's documents are irrelevant, immaterial and/or repetitive. Respondent has until September 9, 2022 to submit corrected documentation. Any documents received after that date, will not be accepted.

The hearing will be re-scheduled for October 19, 2022.

PRE-HEARING REVIEW

Stephanie A. Esposito, R.N. *Petition Nos. 2021-4; 2021-294* *Staff Attorney Joelle Newton*

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was not present, but Attorney Stanley Peck appeared on Respondent's behalf.

The Board recommended a reprimand and a civil penalty of \$5,000.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m. on a motion by Gina Reiners, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco.

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