

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 November 16, 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)
Jason Blando - (Public Member)
Geraldine Marrocco, Ed.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP - (RN Member)
Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE - (RN Member)
Rebecca Martinez, LPN – (LPN Member)
Cynthia L. Arpin, RN, MSN – (RN Member)
Lisa S. Freeman, BA - (Public Member) (10:36 a.m.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer C. Long, APRN, MSN, NNP-BC - (APRN Member)
Joseph Bierbaum (Public 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
Dianne Bertucio, Board Liaison, DPH

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

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard reported that she presented at student day sponsored by the CT Center for Nursing Workforce, Inc.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

Gina Reiners made a motion to add the consent order for Kimberly Anglin to the agenda, seconded by Cynthia Aprin. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion to add the summary suspension for Margaret Dunnan to the agenda, seconded by Cynthia Aprin. The motion passed unanimously.

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

OPEN FORUM

Nothing to report.

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Chair Bouffard reported that there was a National Council Education Committee meeting on November 14, 2022 regarding ACEN standards. Chair Bouffard will send out a copy of the slide deck from the meeting. Mary Dietmann advised that the public is relying on the state website for test passing rates and it should be updated on a regular basis.

THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR NURSING WORKFORCE, INC. – Monthly Update

Linda Wagner provided an update for the Deans and Directors Council. A workshop is being planned for December 20, 2022. The Board discussed issues with nursing shortages.

Marcia Proto provided an update for the CT Center for Nursing Workforce.

MINUTES

Jennifer Long made a motion to approve the minutes for June 1, 2022, seconded by Gina Reiners. The motion unanimously passed, with the exception of Mary Dietmann and Cynthia Aprin who both abstained.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Nothing to report.

SCHOOL ISSUES

Porter and Chester Institute – Rocky Hill Campus Closure

Holly Breault appeared on behalf of Porter & Chester Institute.

Helen Smith reported that the Porter & Chester Institute Rocky Hill campus will be closing.

Western Connecticut State University – Letter of Intent

Jeannette Lupinacci appeared on behalf of Western Connecticut State University.

Western Connecticut State University intends to establish an accelerated Bachelor of Science and Nursing Program in the summer of 2024. Chair Bouffard thanked Jeannette Lupinacci.

Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers, Practical Nursing Program – Department Site Visit

Kayla Bennett and Amanda Sleeper(sp?) appeared on behalf of Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers.

Helen Smith reported on the DPH on-site tour of the Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers' campus and a subsequent virtual tour for the practical nurse program.

Mary Dietmann made a motion to deny the appropriateness of the space at Griffin Hospital, seconded by Jason Blando. The motion failed.

Chair Bouffard requested Griffin Hospital School to provide an addendum identifying where the faculty offices and parking will be on campus in advance of the December, 2022 meeting.

Stone Academy – Revised Corrective Action Plans – East Hartford and West Haven Evening Programs

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

Jennifer Long made a motion to accept the Stone Academy East Hartford Campus Evening Division corrective action plan, seconded by Gina Reiners. The motion passed unanimously with the exception of Rebecca Martinez and Jason Blound, who opposed.

Gina Reiners made a motion to accept the Stone Academy West Haven Campus Evening Division corrective action plan, seconded by Cynthia Aprin. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Sheryl Lacoursiere, APRN, RN Petition Nos. 2021-1072;2021-1199 Staff Attorney Joelle Newton

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for to Withdraw Statement of Charges for Stacey Thompson. Attorney Ellen Costello appeared on behalf of the Respondent. Respondent was not present. Gina Reiners recused herself from this matter.

Mary Dietmann made a motion to withdraw the statement of charges for petitions numbered 2021-1072 and 2021-1199 against Sheryl LaCoursiere. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Gina L. Candelori-Bertola, RN Petition No. 2021-1210 Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan

Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Gina L. Candelori-Bertola. 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.

The hearing will be scheduled for December 21, 2022.

Margaret Dunnan, RN Petition No. 2021-1098 Staff Attorney Aden Baume

Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Margaret Dunnan. Respondent was not present and was 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 Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

The hearing will be scheduled for December 21, 2022.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Stone Academy West Haven Campus Day Program – Revised Fact Finding

Dr. Brian Pervis, Gary Evans, Attorney Aaron Bayer, and Erin Walton appeared on behalf of Stone Academy.

Attorney Schulman reviewed the history of this matter. The Board has received a Memorandum of Decision to vote on, but has been informed that the Stone Academy West Haven Day Program is be closing making the Memorandum of Decision moot. The record needs to be opened to determine if the Board’s findings remain.

Attorney Schulman entered the October 19, 2022 letter from Stone Academy signed by Erin Walton into the record.

Jennifer Long made a motion to modify the current order since West Haven Day Program is closed there is no further action to be taken by the Board, seconded by Mary Dietmann. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ORDERS

Kimberly Anglin, RN Petition No. 2022-12 Staff Attorney Joelle Newton
Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented a Consent Order in this matter. Respondent and her attorney were not present.

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

Lisa M. Alexander, RN Petition No. 2020-697 Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina
Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented a Consent Order in this matter. Respondent was not present and not represented.

Gina Reiners made a motion to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand and a six-month probation period with conditions, seconded by Mary Dietmann. The motion passed unanimously.

Marcus Anthony Garcia, RN Petition No. 2019-1240 Staff Attorney Joelle Newton
Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented a Consent Order in this matter. Respondent was present.

Jennifer Long made a motion to approve the Consent Order which imposes a three-month suspension followed by a four-year probation period, seconded by Lisa Freeman. The motion passed unanimously.

Dawn Hobill, LPN Petition No. 2022-272 Staff Attorney Joelle Newton
Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented a Consent Order in this matter. Respondent was not present and not represented.

Gina Reiners made a motion to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand on the license and a six-month probation with conditions, seconded by Mary Dietmann. The motion passed unanimously.

John D. Mosher, RN Petition No. 2022-888 Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented a Consent Order in this matter. Respondent was not present and not represented.

Jennifer Long made a motion to approve the Consent Order in which the license is surrendered, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco. The motion passed unanimously.

PREHEARING REVIEW

Jemma Wettish, Unlicensed RN Petition No. 2022-863 Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a pre-hearing review packet in this matter. Respondent was present, but not represented by counsel.

The Board recommended 3 years of probation for reinstatement and a refresher course.

HEARINGS

Kristin Brice, LPN Petition No. 2022-913 Staff Attorney Craig Sullivan
Staff Attorney Aden Baume was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present, but not represented by counsel.

The Statement of Charges were read into the record and Respondent admitted or denied each

charge.

Mary Dietmann made a motion to go into executive session, which was seconded by Lisa Freeman to hear closing argument that discussed protected information. The motion passed

Mary Dietmann made a motion to come out of executive session, which was seconded by Gina Reiners. 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 to extend probation from March 2023 for another year with conditions and a key restriction, seconded by Lisa Freeman. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion to vacate the suspension for Respondent effective November 16, 2022, seconded by Lisa Freeman. The motion passed unanimously.

Tabitha Moche, APRN, RN Petition Nos. 2022-995; 2022:996 Staff Attorney Joelle Newton
Staff Attorney Aden Baume was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present and was not represented by counsel.

Mary Dietmann made a motion to continue the hearing after determining that Respondent needs to be re-noticed, seconded by Jennifer Long. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long made a motion to accept the Amended Statement of Charges dated October 28, 2022, seconded by Mary Dietmann.

The hearing will remain open.

Stone Academy East Hartford Campus Day Program

Dr. Brian Pervis, Gary Evans, Attorney Aaron Bayer, Ann Cooper, Dr. Sharon Matkowski and Erin Walton appeared on behalf of Stone Academy. Dr. Pervis, Gary Evans, Ann Cooper, Dr. Sharon Matkowski and Erin Walton were sworn-in.

Helen Smith was sworn-in for DPH.

Chair Bouffard explained that the hearing is to determine whether the Board will close the Stone Academy East Hartford Campus day program or extend conditional approval.

Attorney Schulman read the exhibits into the record. Attorney Bayer did not object to any of the exhibits.

Gary Evans adopted his prefiled testimony as his own.

Helen Smith testified that she works in the licensing and investigation section of the Department of Public Health. Ms. Smith performs investigations based on complaints or referrals to DPH.

Attorney Bayer presented his opening statement on behalf of Stone Academy. Witnesses for Stone Academy testified as to changes made with the program and their respective experience. Stone Academy has a new leadership team in place. Gary Evans testified as to the changes implemented to address the low pass rates.

The Board questioned the witnesses regarding the program. The Board was concerned with the low passage rates and attrition rates of students.

Gina Reiners stated that the regulations provide for the suspension of enrollment of students if the Board removes the program from the list of approved programs.

Mary Dietmann made a motion for the Department of Public Health's Commissioner to remove Stone Academy's East Hartford Campus day program from the list of approved programs in the State of Connecticut, seconded by Rebecca Martinez. The motion passed unanimously with the exception of Chair Bouffard and Gina Reiners, who opposed.

A memorandum of decision will be sent to the DPH Commissioner for final approval.

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 Ellen Costello.

Chair Bouffard explained this is a continuation of the hearing for Jacquelyn O'Connor.

Attorney Schulman entered the Notice of Continuance dated October 20, 2022 into the record.

Cynthia Aprin made a to go into executive session, seconded by Lisa Freeman. The motion passed unanimously.

The hearing was closed, but the record was left open. It will be continued to either December or January. Chair Bouffard will send out proposed dates to the Board.

Liza Paulsen, RN. Petition No. 2019-1389 Staff Attorney Aden Baume

Staff Attorney Aden Baume was present for the Department of Public Health. Attorney Gene Zingaro appeared for the Respondent.

Gina Reiners made a motion to continue the hearing of Liza Paulsen, seconded by Rebecca Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Zingaro will put the motion for continuance in writing. The hearing will remain open.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at 5 p.m. on a motion by Cynthia Aprin, seconded by Rebecca Martinez.

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