

CALL TO ORDER 8:32AM

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

DATE: September 18, 2024

TIME: 8:30 AM

LOCATION: Via Microsoft TEAMS

MEETING MINUTES

Name	Member	Present (Y/N)		DPH STAFF	Present (Y/N)
Gina Reiners, PhD, APRN, PMHNP-BC, PMHCNS-BC, Chairperson	RN Member	Y		Liz Bannon, AAG	Y
Cynthia L. Arpin, EdD, MSN, RN	RN Member	N		Alina Bricklin-Goldstein, AAG	Y
Salvatore Diaz, DNP, MSN, RN	RN Member	Y		Ryan Burns, DPH	Y
Mary E. Dietmann, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE	RN Member	Y		Joelle Newton, DPH	Y
Lisa Freeman, BA	Public Member	N		Aden Baume, DPH	Y
Rebecca Martinez, LPN	LPN Member	Y		Anthony Nanni, DPH	Y
Camille Payne, APRN	APRN Member	Y		Brett Moody, DPH	Y
Cheryl-Ann Resha, EdD, MSN, RN, FNASN, FAAN	Public Member	Y		Inna Erlikh, DPH	Y
Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez, DNP, MSN, MPH, RN	Public Member	Y		Helen Smith, DPH	Y
				Susanne Cammarata, DPH	Y
				Meaghan Christinat, DPH	Y
				Brendan Hosey, DPH	Y
				Laura Morris, DPH	Y
				Alexandra Quental, DPH	Y
				Laurie Falaro, DPH	Y
				Dana Dalton, DPH	Y
				Charai Bellini, DPH	Y
				Sara Montauti, DPH	Y
				Lavita Sookram, DPH	Y
				Francesca Testa, DPH	Y
				Luis Maldonado, DPH	Y
				Patricia Calderone, DPH	Y
				Gillian VanderVliet, DPH	Y

Board Chair, Gina Reiners, announced the addition of a new Board Member and welcomed her to her first Board meeting. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez introduced herself as the Director of Health and Social Services for the City of Bridgeport and Registered Nurse.

SCHOOL BUSINESS

Quinnipiac University – Facility Visit

Susanne Cammarata gave an informational update related to the completion of the onsite visit. The facility met the nursing education program and licensure requirements general regulations for their approved Bachelor of Science Nursing program at the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI) location at Hartford HealthCare's Hartford Campus. Larry Slater, Dean for the School of Nursing, appeared on behalf of Quinnipiac University. No votes were taken.

The Board recessed from 8:49 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

Cheryl-Ann Resha moved to add to the agenda the Memorandum of Decision for Erin K. Fitzpatrick, RN Petition No. 2024-762 under agenda item #5 Memorandum of Decision. Mary Dietmann seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Rebecca Martinez moved to add to the agenda the Modification of Reinstatement Consent Order for Maria Cardozo, RN, Petition No. 2024-1193 and the Consent Order for Allison Hayes, APRN, Petition No. 2023-268 after agenda item #6. Mary Dietmann seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Salvatore Diaz moved to add to the agenda the Summary Suspension for Issac S. Folorunsho, RN Petition No. 2022-1102 and Kristen J. Phillips, LPN, Petition No. 2023-648 under Consent Orders. Camille Payne seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

The draft minutes of the September 4, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Mary Dietmann moved to approve the minutes. Salvatore Diaz seconded the motion. Rebecca Martinez and Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

CHAIR UPDATES

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) – Highlights

This topic was tabled and will be revisited at a future meeting.

SCHOOL BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Mitchell College – Feasibility Study

Jamie Sinutko, Program Administrator appeared on behalf of Mitchell College. During the August 21, 2024, meeting the Board requested additional information on the proposed ABSN program. Salvatore Diaz moved to approve the feasibility study. Mary Dietmann seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Porter and Chester Institute (PCI) – Corrective Action Plan (Enfield, Hamden & Bridgeport Campus, Evening Group)

Sherry Greifzu, Director of Practical Nursing, and Julie Trzaski, Assistant Director, appeared on behalf of PCI. Sherry Greifzu provided an informational summary based on information requested during the July 17, 2024, meeting. Salvatore Diaz moved to approve the corrective action plan, contingent upon the submission of the following information: At the start of each campus cohort, a list of faculty members must be provided to the Board, along with quarterly reports on student attrition and retention until the

first class sits for the NCLEX exam. Cheryl-Ann Resha seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Goodwin University – Waiver Request

Goodwin University submitted a request for a 6-month waiver for Sandy Nguyen, BSN, RN, to enable her to serve as full-time clinical faculty for the NURS100: Nursing Skill Development course as part of the ADN program. Salvatore Diaz moved to approve the 6-month waiver request. Mary Dietmann seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

University of Bridgeport – Feasibility Study

Linda Wagner, Executive Director, Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo, Melissa Quinlan, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, and Manyul Im, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, appeared on behalf of the University of Bridgeport. Linda Wagner provided an informational summary based on information requested during the August 21, 2024, meeting. Salvatore Diaz recused himself from the matter. Mary Dietmann moved to approve the feasibility study. Camille Payne seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Marie-Rose Simbizi, RN, Petition No. 2023-1389. The Respondent was in attendance. Rebecca Martinez moved to approve the Memorandum of Decision. Salvatore Diaz seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Erin K. Fitzpatrick, RN, Petition No. 2024-762. The Respondent was not present. Rebecca Martinez moved to approve the Memorandum of Decision. Mary Dietmann seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

REVIEW OF PRIOR MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Heidi A. Smith, RN, Petition No. 2023-1426, 2023-954. The Respondent was not present. Assistant Attorney General, Elizabeth Bannon, explained to the Board that there was an amendment made to reflect the Board's decision that had been made at the time of the hearing. Cheryl-Ann Resha moved to approve the amended Memorandum of Decision. Salvatore Diaz seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

MODIFICATION OF REINSTATEMENT CONSENT ORDER

Maria Cordozo, RN, Petition No. 2024-1193. Staff Attorney Anthony Nanni represented the Department. The Respondent was not present. Mary Dietmann moved to approve the Modification of Reinstatement Consent Order. Salvatore Diaz seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

CONSENT ORDER

Allison Hayes, APRN, Petition No. 2023-268. Staff Attorney Joelle Newton represented the Department. The Respondent was not present. Mary Dietmann moved to approve the Consent Order. Rebecca Martinez seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Issac S. Folorunsho, RN Petition No. 2022-1102. Staff Attorney Anthony Nanni represented the Department. Both Respondent and Counsel, Attorneys Melinda Monson and Ashley Blair, were in attendance. Attorney Nanni provided a synopsis of the matter. Opposing counsel submitted a written

objection to the Motion for Summary Suspension, to which the Department gave an oral response. Attorney Monson and Attorney Blair were then given the opportunity to present their objection before the Board.

Mary Dietmann moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension as the Respondent represents a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety if allowed to continue the practice of nursing. Salvatore Diaz seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Kristen J. Phillips, LPN, Petition No. 2023-648. Staff Attorney Joelle Newton represented the Department. The Respondent was in attendance. Mary Dietmann moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension as the Respondent represents a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety if allowed to continue the practice of nursing. Cheryl-Ann Resha seconded the motion. Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez abstained. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

SCHOOL HEARINGS

Porter and Chester Institute (PCI) – Bridgeport Campus, Day Group

Sherry Greifzu, Director of Practical Nursing, Julie Trzaski, Assistant Director, and Attorney Eric Del Pozo appeared on behalf of Porter and Chester Institute. Attorney Del Pozo discussed a letter submitted on September 5, 2024, in which PCI formally requested the recusal of board member, Salvatore Diaz, from the hearing. Assistant Attorney General, Alina Bricklin-Goldstein addressed the request by explaining that when this is direct, personal, substantial, pecuniary interest in the outcome, that a board member should recuse themselves based on an actual bias or financial gain. Attorney Bricklin-Goldstein advised the Board in respect to PCI's letter, under the facts that were presented, that she did not find anything suggesting that Mr. Diaz was incapable of separating his interest as a nurse, educator or as an employee of an institution in proximity to one of PCI's programs.

Board Chair, Gina Reiners, overruled PCI's request for the recusal of Salvatore Diaz.

Rebecca Martinez recused herself from the matter.

At 12:50 the Board lost its quorum.

Both the Board (1-12) and PCI's (A-N) exhibits were entered as full exhibits for the record. The hearing will be continued at a future date.

ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl-Ann Resha made a motion to adjourn. Rebecca Martinez seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.