

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on February 3, 2010 at 61 Woodland Street, Room B-39, Hartford, Connecticut

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair  
Mary M. Brown, RN  
Veronica Kivela, Public Member  
Jennifer Long, APRN  
Maria Pietrantuono, RN  
Donna Roberts, LPN  
Mertie Terry, Public Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Amanda Campbell, RN  
Heidi Darling, LPN  
Katherine Pellerin, RN  
Kathy K. Shea, Public Member

**ALSO PRESENT:** Olinda Morales, Counsel to the Board, DPH  
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, DPH  
Diane Cybulski, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Pamela Pelletier, Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH  
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH  
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

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Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

#### STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from Fairfield University, the University of Connecticut, and Porter and Chester Institute.

Chair Bouffard and Maria Pietrantuono will provide the students with an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs at the end of the meeting.

#### CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard sent a letter to Governor Rell regarding the Board's concerns in reference to the closing of the CT Technical High School LPN Programs. A meeting with the Governor's staff has been scheduled for February 16, 2010. Chair Bouffard and Maria Pietrantuono will attend on behalf of the Board.

#### OPEN FORUM

No issues were brought up for discussion from the audience.

#### ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Removal of the reinstatement request, will be rescheduled on the next agenda.

## NCSBN – NUR RAJWANY – NURSIS DISCUSSION

Nur Rajwany, IT Director from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing in Chicago, was present at this meeting to discuss bringing CT on-line with the NURSIS Data Base now that we have on-line renewals. Jennifer Filippone updated the Board Members on the licensure process. Mr. Rajwany met with DPH staff on Tuesday. The NURSIS tool has been in place with NCSBN for ten years. By participating in NURSIS, CT would be able to obtain a variety of statistical reports with just a few clicks on the keyboard. We would interface with the NCSBN which would allow us to share information with the NCSBN daily or several times per day. Our verification site would still be available but this would be an additional tool.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Today is the first day of the 2010 Legislative Session. Jennifer Filippone updated the Board on legislative issues including students who were enrolled in the RN process and who have opted out to sit for the LPN exam. DPH is also working on the endorsement process to make it a little easier for nurses out-of-state. Also the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be seeking revision of the CGS, Section 20-101, to allow the tube feedings to be given by specially trained unlicensed staff in a DDS licensed group home setting.

Chair Bouffard welcomed new Public Board Member, Mertie Terry, followed by the introduction of Board Members and the Department of Public Health.

## SCHOOL ISSUES

### NCLEX SCORES – FOURTH QUARTER

Pam Pelletier reviewed the NCLEX Scores with the Board.

### NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE – WAIVER REQUEST

Dr. Mary Schuler was present from the program to request a permanent waiver for Irene Oshrin. Mary Brown moved, seconded by Jennifer Long, to grant Ms. Oshrin a permanent waiver at Norwalk Community College. The motion passed unanimously.

### NORTHWESTERN CT COMMUNITY COLLEGE – LETTER OF INTENT ADN PROGRAM

The Board reviewed the NCCC Letter of Intent to seek approval of an Associate Degree Registered Nurse program starting in the Spring of 2011. At this meeting, the Board received the Feasibility Study, which is currently under review. The Feasibility Study will be placed on the March 3, 2010 Board Agenda. Chair Bouffard recused herself from all discussion regarding the NCCC Program.

### LINCOLN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - LETTER OF INTENT CURRICULUM CHANGE TO 12 MONTHS

The Board reviewed a Letter of Intent from Lincoln Technical Institute in which they are seeking approval of a twelve-month LPN Program starting in late Spring of 2010. There was no one from the program present at this meeting. The Board awaits the submission of their curriculum redesign for review in the near future.

## NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR NURSING – LETTER OF INTENT FOR LPN PROGRAMS

John Smilanich and Bill Kline were present from the National Academy for Nursing to present to the Board their Letter of Intent to augment the existing state run LPN school structure with a private school. The closing of the ten state technical schools has created a void that must be filled in order to accommodate student demand. The Feasibility Study needs to be presented and reviewed by the Board. The Board also advised that the National Academy for Nursing needs to be an approved school and should contact the Department of Higher Education.

## BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING – QUESTION RE: FACULTY ROLE IN SUPERVISION AND MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Pam Pelletier reviewed documentation received in the Board Office on December 31, 2009 in which Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing (BHSON) requests clarification on what the hospital should require regarding "supervision" provided by faculty/program instructional staff to nursing students when they are administering care and services to their patients. In addition, BHSON requested clarification on whether a co-signature was required for nursing students who administer medications within their hospital and by whom.

Section 20-90-45 provides a definition of supervision regarding nursing programs. "Supervision" means the acceptance by a registered nurse educator of the responsibility and accountability for the health care delivered to clients under his and/or her onsite direction. The definition of "Preceptor" and "Precepted Clinical Experience," may help in making a decision regarding who is responsible for the nursing students if faculty is not readily available. Section 20-90-51(f) provides the requirements for preceptorship.

Co-signatures regarding medication administration by nursing students is not addressed in the regulations. It is policy driven by the hospital and/or nursing school. This information may be outlined in the contractual agreement between the nursing school and the hospital.

Also, the Board requested that the Department look into adding the definition of "faculty" to the definition of terms for Nursing Educational Programs and Licensure Requirements per Section 20-90-45 of the Public Health Code.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – CT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Present for this discussion were Linda Perfetto, Mary Schuler, Sheila Solernou, Cynthia Adams, Ellen Freeman, and Joanne Ottman. The Board reviewed and accepted the January 5, 2010 Executive Summary. The Community College programs will be on conditional approval until the first class graduates in May of 2010. The self-evaluation of the programs will be due in the Fall of 2010. Also, each individual school program can only be assigned one program code for the NCLEX examination. NCSBN cannot assign more than one code per nursing program. The contact person at DPH for program code information is Debra Brown who can be reached by calling 860-509-7590.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND STATISTICS ON INQUIRIES

Diane Cybulski updated the Board on inquiries received during the month of December.

## CHAIR UPDATES

- NCSBN Mid Year Meeting – Chair Bouffard will attend and possibly Jennifer Long
- Chair Bouffard participated in an Educational Policy Call regarding the Carnegie Report on Nursing Education
- Chair Bouffard participated in a policy call regarding Best Summary of Health Care Information

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### OCTOBER 7, 2009

Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed with all in favor with two abstentions, Donna Roberts and Mertie Terry.

### OCTOBER 21, 2009

Jennifer Long moved and Mary Brown seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed with all in favor with two abstentions, Donna Roberts and Mertie Terry.

### NOVEMBER 4, 2009

Donna Roberts moved and Mary Brown seconded to approve the minutes as edited. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry.

### NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Jennifer Long moved and Donna Roberts seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry.

### DECEMBER 2, 2009

Jennifer Long moved and Mary Brown seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry.

### DECEMBER 16, 2009

Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded to approve the minutes as edited. The motion passed with all in favor with two abstentions, Donna Roberts and Mertie Terry.

## MEMORANDA OF DECISION

### BILLIE PRITCHETT, RN

Mary Brown moved and Donna Roberts seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Pritchett's registered nurse license. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. Chair Bouffard signed the Decision.

#### L. BONNIE EASLER, LPN

Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Maria Pietrantuono, to affirm the Board's prior decision to reprimand Ms. Easler's practical nurse license and also place her license on probation for six months during which time she is to successfully complete courses in nursing ethics, patient rights, and combative patients, and pay a civil penalty of \$500.00. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. Chair Bouffard signed the Decision.

The Board took a ten-minute break during which time Veronica Kivela arrived.

#### FACT FINDING – CAROL SCHAEFFER, RN

Legal Office Attorney David Tilles was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Schaeffer was present with counsel, Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt. Attorney Leonhardt brought to the Board's attention that at the closing of the last hearing, refer to transcript page 167, line 19, she had made an oral motion to dismiss the charges as the Department has failed to meet its burden of proof. Attorney Tilles objected to Attorney Moore Leonhardt's motion. Jennifer Long moved to accept Attorney Moore Leonhardt's motion for dismissal of the charges. Maria Pietrantuono seconded the motion which passed with all in favor with the exception of Mertie Terry who abstained. This case was dismissed on the record. A section of the transcript of the hearing and fact finding which discussed the Motion to Dismiss will be placed in the permanent decision book located in the DPH Public Health Hearing Office.

#### CONSENT ORDER – FRANKLIN JONES, RN

Legal Office Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with a Consent Order for Franklin Jones. Mr. Jones was present with counsel, Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt. Mary Brown moved, seconded by Maria Pietrantuono, that the Consent Order be accepted as presented. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry.

#### CONSENT ORDER – CHRISTINE WEST, RN

Legal Office Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for Christine West. Ms. West was present with counsel, Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Donna Roberts, to accept the Consent Order as presented. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry.

#### CONSENT ORDER – LINDA KASOWITZ, RN

Legal Office Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for Linda Kasowitz. Ms. Kasowitz was present with counsel, Attorney Martha Murray. Mary Brown moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to accept the Consent Order as presented. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry.

#### HEARING – JENNIFER GRECO, LPN

Attorney Olinda Morales apprised the Board that Ms. Greco contacted the Public Health Hearing Office this morning requesting a continuance due to inclement weather. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant the continuance to March 3, 2010 at 10:00 AM. The motion passed unanimously.

#### INTERIM CONSENT ORDER – LYNN GUION, RN

Legal Office Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with an Interim Consent Order for Lynn Guion. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Jennifer Long, to accept the Order as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

#### HEARING – ETHLYN CHERRINGTON, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Ellen M. Shanley was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Cherrington was present with counsel, Attorney Daniel Schopick. Testimony was provided by Ms. Cherrington.

Donna Roberts moved and Veronica Kivela seconded to find Ms. Cherrington on all charges. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry.

Donna Roberts moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to place Ms. Cherrington's license on probation for six months with bimonthly employer reports, a civil penalty of \$500.00, no agency/pool nursing, and she is to successfully complete coursework in medication administration and an ethics course in resident's rights. Veronica Kivela made a friendly amendment to change the employer reports to monthly, which was accepted by Donna Roberts and Maria Pietrantuono. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry.

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present that this meeting be adjourned at 11:27 AM.