

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on February 6, 2013 at the Department of Public Health Complex, Room 470-A/B, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Tarah Cherry, Public Member
Ellen M. Komar, RN
Jennifer Long, APRN
Maria Pietrantuono, RN
Gina M. Reiners, RN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Joanne V. Yandow, Counsel to the Board, DPH
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, DPH
Stephen Carragher, Health Program Supervisor, DPH
Diane Cybulski, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Pamela Pelletier-Stevens, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Matthew Antonetti, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD AND WELCOME TO THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Bouffard introduced and welcomed to the Board, Ellen Komar and Gina Reiners, who were appointed as RN Members by Governor Malloy on January 25, 2013.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from Western CT State University and also welcomed three new DPH RN Nurse Consultants.

Chair Bouffard provided an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs.

CHAIR UPDATES

Public Act 12-62
NCSBN Mid-Year Meeting in March in San Jose, CA
Jennifer Long will report in March re: the NCSBN Regulatory Excellence Meeting she attended

OPEN FORUM

There were no comments from the audience.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

Revised agendas were provided for the Board and visitors this morning.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – 2013 SESSION BEGAN JANUARY 9, 2013

Jennifer Filippone provided the Board with an update on the 2013 Legislative Session. DPH has reviewed over 50 bills related to DPH licensure. Jennifer Filippone has only seen the shell bills and she will get the spread sheet of the bills for the Board. She also outlined the process to the Board.

DPH REINSTATEMENT REQUEST – ELLEN L. SOLLAZZO

Ms. Sollazzo was present for this discussion. Present from the Department were Stephen Carragher and Jennifer Filippone. The Board reviewed the documentation provided. Ms. Sollazzo updated the Board regarding her time since her RN license lapsed. Marie Pietrantuono arrived during Ms. Sollazzo's update. Mary Brown moved, seconded by Jennifer Long, to approve Ms. Sollazzo's reinstatement request without completing a refresher and the NCLEX-RN. The motion failed as all were opposed with the exception of Marie Pietrantuono who abstained. A new motion was raised by Mary Brown, seconded by Jennifer Long, to grant licensure reinstatement to Ms. Sollazzo after the successful completion of the NCLEX-RN. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES – NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE – NEW ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Presti was present from the program. At the Board's September 15, 2012 meeting, the Board had approved Coral Presti, RN, PhD, as Interim Director of the nursing program as Dr. Schuler had retired in July. Prior to Dr. Presti's appointment as Interim Director, she has been with the program for over seven years as a faculty member. Dr. Presti was recently given the Directorship at NCC effective December 4, 2012. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Tarah Cherry, to accept Dr. Presti's credentials for the New Academic Director at NCC as she meets the requirements of the CT School Regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES – GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE – NEW NURSING CHAIRPERSON

The Board Office received correspondence from Sheila Solernou that her job title was changing from Academic Division Director of Nursing to Academic Division of Allied Health and Nursing effective January 3, 2013. The college has made the decision to merge the Nursing Division with the Allied Health Departments consisting of Radiography, Radiation Therapy, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Nuclear Medicine, Nutrition and Exercise Science and Wellness. Ms. Solernou will remain the Nurse Administrator of the program although she will have a Nursing Chairperson to assist with the administrative areas within the nursing program. Faculty selected Suzanne Conlon for a two-year term. Ms. Conlon has worked at Gateway Community College since 2006. Both Ms. Solernou and Ms. Conlon were present for this discussion.

SCHOOL ISSUES – GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE – PERMANENT WAIVER

Sheila Solernou presented the Board with requests for two permanent waivers.

Mary Brown moved and Ellen Komar seconded that the permanent waiver for Lynne Falcigno be granted contingent upon additional information be provided to the Board regarding her Master's Degree in Public Health. The motion passed with all in favor with the exception of Tarah Cherry and Carrie Simon who were opposed and Maria Pietrantuono and Jennifer Long who were opposed.

Jennifer Long moved and Mary Brown seconded that the permanent waiver for Paul Fontanez be granted. The motion failed as all were opposed. Jennifer Long then moved, seconded again by Mary Brown to deny this waiver request based upon the school's failure to demonstrate how his Master's Degree in Business Administration is applicable to medical/surgical nursing of the adult and child. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHOOL ISSUES – BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING – TRANSITION TO BSN

A letter of intent was received in the Board Office on January 11, 2013 notifying the Board of BHSO's transition from an RN Diploma Program to a BSN Program. The timeline for this transition is designed for admission of BSN students in August of 2014. Once the program and curriculum are redesigned, it will be presented to the Board for approval.

SCHOOL ISSUES – PORTER AND CHESTER – STRATFORD CAMPUS SITE VISIT

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens completed the site visit at the Stratford Campus on January 14, 2013. Initial visit took place on April 29, 2011 and was approved by the Board on June 1, 2011. Due to unknown circumstances, the campus did not open as planned. The campus did not enter its first class of students until January 21, 2013. Jennifer Long moved to approve the Porter and Chester Institute Stratford Campus site as appropriate for nursing education. The motion was seconded by Maria Pietrantuono and passed unanimously. The program's next review will be upon graduation of their first class in January of 2014.

SCHOOL ISSUES – NCLEX-RN, NCLEX-PN – FOURTH QUARTER REVIEW & CALENDAR YEAR RESULTS

The RN Fourth Quarter Pass Rate for CT is 87% which is down from 93% during the third quarter. Three RN programs in the fourth quarter failed to meet the 80%; Goodwin College with a 72.09% pass rate, Southern CT State College with a 75%, and Gateway Community college with a 79.3%. The calendar year first time pass rate for RN programs is 92% which remains unchanged from 2011. Two CT RN programs were below the 80% for the 2012 calendar year; St. Vincent's College evening program with a 73.3% and Goodwin College with a 79.8%.

Most of the LPN Programs are in trouble. Jennifer Filippone will speak with the Attorney General's Office regarding the process.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE CALLS – NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2012

Pam Pelletier-Stevens and Diane Cybulski discussed the scope of practice calls received in the Board Office during November and December 2012.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING UPDATE

Jenifer Filippone provided the Board with an update on NURSIS and the DPH Database with NCSBN. Hopefully they will be up and running within six months.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AUGUST 15, 2012

The Board reviewed the above minutes. Maria Pietrantuono moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Tarah Cherry and passed with the following abstentions: Mary Brown, Jennifer Long, Carrie Simon, Ellen Komar, and Gina Reiner.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

The Board reviewed the above minutes. Mary Brown moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed with the following abstentions: Ellen Komar and Gina Reiner.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

The Board reviewed the above minutes and tabled pending further clarification.

OCTOBER 3, 2012

The Board reviewed the above minutes. Mary Brown moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed with the following abstentions: Tarah Cherry, Ellen Komar, Gina Reiner, and Carrie Simon.

OCTOBER 17, 2012

The Board reviewed the above minutes. Mary Brown moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed with the following abstentions: Ellen Komar and Gina Reiner.

NOVEMBER 7, 2012

The Board reviewed the above minutes. It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members to table this for additional discussion.

NOVEMBER 21, 2012

The Board had cancelled this meeting as this was the day before Thanksgiving and there were no hearings scheduled.

DECEMBER 5, 2012

The Board reviewed the above minutes. Mary Brown moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed with all in favor with the following abstentions: Marie Pietrantuono, Ellen Komar, and Gina Reiners.

DECEMBER 19, 2012

The Board reviewed the above minutes. Jennifer Long moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed with all in favor with the following abstentions: Ellen Komar and Gina Reiners.

JANUARY 16, 2013

Chair Bouffard cancelled this meeting due to lack of a quorum.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – SAMANTHA COLBERT, LPN

Department of Public Health Attorney Linda Fazzino presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Samantha Colbert. Ms. Colbert was present pro se.

Mary Brown moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion passed unanimously. Documents were signed by Chair Bouffard and were then served in hand to Ms. Colbert by Janice E. Wojick.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION - ERIKA WETTEMANN, RN

Department of Public Health Attorney Erika Wettemann presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Erika Wettemann. Ms. Wettemann was present pro se.

Maria Pietrantuono moved and Ellen Komar seconded to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion passed unanimously. Documents were signed by Chair Bouffard and were then served in hand to Ms. Wettemann by Janice E. Wojick.

CONSENT ORDER – DANIELLE McKEOWN, RN

Department of Public Health Attorney Matthew Antonetti presented the Board with a Prehearing Review/Consent Order for Danielle McKeown. Ms. McKeown was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Maria Pietrantuono moved and Mary Brown seconded to deny the Consent Order as presented. The motion passed unanimously. It was the recommendation of the Board that there be a reprimand and a Civil Penalty of \$1,000.00.

CONSENT ORDER – CHARLES MONCK, RN

Department of Public Health Attorney David Tilles presented the Board with a Prehearing Review/Consent Order for Charles Monck. Mr. Monck was present with counsel, Attorney John O'Brien. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Maria Pietrantuono, to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

CONSENT ORDER – GREGORY KLIMAYTIS, RN

Department of Public Health Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Prehearing Review/ Consent Order for Gregory Klimaytis. Mr. Klimaytis was present pro se. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Carrie Simon, to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

CONSENT ORDER – CAROL D. GEE, LPN

Department of Public Health Attorney Matthew Antonetti presented the Board with a Prehearing Review/Consent Order for Kristine R. Alexander. Ms. Alexander was present pro se. Mary Brown moved, seconded by Tarah Cherry, to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed with one abstention, Tarah Cherry. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

CONSENT ORDER – ELIZABETH M. LYNCH, RN

Department of Public Health Attorney Matthew Antonetti presented the Board with a Prehearing Review/Consent Order for Elizabeth M. Lynch. Ms. Lynch was present pro se. Carrie Simon moved and Tarah Cherry seconded to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

CONSENT ORDER – KRISTINE R. ALEXANDER, RN

Department of Public Health Attorney Matt Antonetti presented the Board with a Prehearing Review/Consent Order for Kristine R. Alexander. Ms. Alexander was present pro se. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

REINSTATEMENT CONSENT ORDER – LISA LEISTER, LPN

Department of Public Health Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with a Reinstatement Consent Order for Lisa Leister. Ms. Leister was present pro se. Mary Brown moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to accept the Reinstatement Consent Order as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

HEARING – MARLENE S. SILVA, RN

Attorney Leslie Scoville was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Silva was present pro se. This hearing was originally scheduled for and went forward on December 19, 2012. Ms. Silva was not present for the hearing. She had called the Board Office the morning of December 19th to say that she would be late and the message was not received by the Board. Ms. Silva arrived at the Legislative Office Building around 10:00 AM. The Board Meeting had adjourned and the court reporter had left for the day.

Chair Bouffard spoke with Ms. Silva and advised her to forward Janice E. Wojick a request to reopen the hearing. An e-mail was received later that day requesting that the hearing be reopened. Chair Bouffard granted the request. The hearing was rescheduled for January 16, 2013. Testimony was provided by Ms. Silva. Mary Brown motioned to rescind the December 19, 2012 Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. The motion passed with all in favor with two abstentions: Ellen Komar and Gina Reiners. Jennifer Long moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to rescind the December 19, 2012 Order for Revocation. The motion passed unanimously. Mary Brown moved to continue this hearing to May 15, 2013. The motion was seconded by Ellen Komar and passed with all in favor with the exception of Jennifer Long who was opposed. The Board ordered, on the Record, that Ms. Silva provide the HAVEN Reports and the Drug Screen Reports at the May 15th hearing which should be a sufficient amount of time to acquire these records.

HEARING – EDELINE LESPERANCE, RN

Attorney Ellen M. Shanley was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Lesperance was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. Attorney Shanley made an oral Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Jennifer Long, to grant the Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. The motion passed unanimously, there was no testimony provided, and the hearing closed. Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to find Ms. Lesperance on all charges. The motion passed unanimously. During the Fact Finding it was stated that this is a very serious offense as Ms. Lesperance is not an APRN and should not be using the APRN credentials. Maria Pietrantuono moved to place Ms. Lesperance's license on probation for six months with the following restrictions: must successfully complete an Ethics Course, her license is hereby reprimanded, and a civil penalty of \$10,000.00. After discussion, Maria Pietrantuono amended her motion to change the civil penalty to \$2,500.00. Probation will conclude upon the successful completion of the Ethics Course and the full payment of the Civil Penalty which could either shorten or lengthen the six month probationary period. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously.

HEARING – NICOLE R. ZUKOWSKI, RN

Attorney Matthew Antonetti was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Zukowski was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. There was no testimony provided. Attorney Antonetti made an oral Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted which Mary Brown moved to grant, Ellen Komar seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The hearing closed. Mary Brown moved to find Ms. Zukowski on all charges. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously. Mary Brown then moved for revocation of Ms. Zukowski's license. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 12:40 PM.

Patricia C. Bouffard, Chair
Board of Examiners for Nursing

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on February 20, 2013 at the Department of Public Health Complex, Room 470-A/B, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Tarah Cherry, Public Member
Ellen M. Komar, RN
Maria Pietrantuono, RN
Gina M. Reiners, RN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Long, APRN

ALSO PRESENT: Joanne V. Yandow, Counsel to the Board, DPH
Alfreda G. Gaither, Counsel to the Board, DPH
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, DPH
Diane Cybulski, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Licensure Regulation and Compliance, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

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

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from Western CT State University, University of Hartford, and Stone Academy.

Chair Bouffard provided the students with an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES – RICHARD HOULE, RN

DPH Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges for Richard Houle. Mr. Houle was not present and did not have representation at this meeting.

Maria Pietrantuono moved and Mary Brown seconded to accept the Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Motion.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES – ERIKA WETTEMANN, RN

DPH Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges for Erika Wettemann. Ms. Wettemann was not present and did not have representation at this meeting.

Mary Brown moved and Carrie Simon seconded to accept the Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Motion.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – JENNIFER M. GAUDINO, LPN

DPH Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Jennifer Gaudino.

Ms. Gaudino was not in attendance at this meeting nor was she represented by counsel. Maria Pietrantuono moved and Ellen Komar seconded to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Notice documents and the hearing was scheduled for March 6, 2013 at 9:30 AM.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – BRITNEY MARCANTONIO, RN

DPH Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Britney Marcantonio.

Ms. Marcantonio was not in attendance at this meeting nor was she represented by counsel. Mary Brown moved and Gina Reiners seconded to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Notice documents and the hearing was scheduled for March 6, 2013 at 9:30 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Janice E. Wojick presented the Board with the following minutes which were tabled at the February 6, 2013 meeting. The Board Members were e-mailed the transcriptions regarding the two cases questioned.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

Mary Brown moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to accept the minutes as edited. The motion passed with all in favor with two abstentions: Ellen Komar and Gina Roberts.

NOVEMBER 7, 2012

Mary Brown moved and Carrie Simon seconded to accept the minutes as edited. The motion passed with all in favor with two abstentions: Ellen Komar and Gina Roberts.

HEARING – JILL WITHEY, LPN

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Withey was not present and she did not have representation at this hearing. There was no testimony provided. Attorney Fazzina made a verbal Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. Maria Pietrantuono moved to grant the Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. Tarah Cherry seconded the Motion which passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved and Carrie Simon seconded that Ms. Withey be found on all charges. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved and Carrie Simon seconded that Ms. Withey's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 9:10 AM.

Patricia C. Bouffard, Chair
Board of Examiners for Nursing