

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on May 18, 2016 at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut in the Room 1-D.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member
Jennifer Long, APRN
Geraldine Marrocco, RN
Gina M. Reiners, RN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy M. Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH
Kathleen Boulware, RN, Public Health Services Manager, DPH
Pamela Pelletier-Stevens, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Helen Centeno, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, DPH
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Jeffrey A. Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from the A. I. Prince Vocational Technical School; and Lincoln Technical School New Britain and Shelton Campuses.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard provided the following updates from an April 18, 2016 networking conference call of the National Council of State Board of Nursing (NCSBN).

- The strategic plan will go to the Board of Directors in May and then to the delegate assembly in August.
- A Nurse Compact Licensure (NCL) meeting was held in Washington on April 8, 2016 during which there were updates on NCL legislation in various States.
- An overview on the APRN Roundtable
- Recent research projects by the NCSBN that include:
 1. National Nursing Workforce Study
 2. Gender Differences in Nursing
 3. Review of Criminal Convictions in Nursing for 2012-2013
 4. Effectiveness of Remediation Across States
 5. Alternative to Discipline for Nurses with Substance Abuse

OPEN FORUM

Nothing reported

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kathleen Boulware, RN, Public Health Services Manager, DPH reported that Senate Bill 67 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES – that allows advanced practice registered nurses to certify, sign, or otherwise document medical information in several situations that currently require a physician's signature, certification, or documentation has passed and has been referred to the Governor for signature.

SCHOOL ISSUES

Pamela Pelletier-Stevens, Nurse Consultant, DPH, Helen Centeno, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided an update regarding the conditional status of Fairfield University and Stone Academy. Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to remove Fairfield University from conditional status. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to remove Stone Academy from conditional status. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pelletier reported that Central Connecticut State University; Gateway Community College and the University of St. Joseph ASD Program fell below the 80% first time pass rate for NCLEX examination scores from April 30, 2015 to May 1, 2016.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to place Central Connecticut State University conditional status. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to place Gateway Community College on conditional status. The motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Carrie Simon, to place the University of St. Joseph ASD program on conditional status. The motion passed unanimously.

St. Vincent's College

Karen Barnett and Margo McCarthy were present on behalf of St. Vincent's College to discuss the 2015 graduate and employer survey results which the Board had requested at the January 2106 meeting.

Vinal Technical School

Ms. Pelletier reported on the school's tentative plan for closure.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Helen Centeno, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health in April 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule additional meeting dates

The Board discussed scheduling additional meeting dates for 2016. The following dates were scheduled:

- Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Holly Cocchiola, LPN

Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Holly Cocchiola. Ms. Cocchiola was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Gina Reiners moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously.

Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing is scheduled for June 15, 2016.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton presented a Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges in the matter of Debra Leonard, RN. Ms. Leonard was not present nor represented by counsel.

Ms. Leonard voluntarily surrendered her license on April 6, 2016. Jennifer Long moved to grant the Department's Motion to Withdraw the Statement of Charges, which was seconded by Mary Brown, and passed unanimously.

HEARING

Todd Stockheimer, RN – Reinstatement Request

Mr. Stockheimer was present with Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt. Staff Attorney David Tilles was present representing the Department of Public Health.

Testimony was provided by Mr. Stockheimer.

Mary Brown moved and Lisa Freeman seconded to enter executive session for testimony regarding confidential medical/treatment records. The motion passed unanimously and the Board entered executive session beginning from 9:50 a.m. until 10:10 a.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Gina Reiners moved and Lisa Freeman seconded that Mr. Stockheimer's license be reinstated. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved and Jennifer Long seconded that as condition of reinstatement Mr. Stockheimer's must complete a registered nurse refresher program and must pass the NCLEX examination after which his license will be on probation for a period of four years with drug screens, therapy and employer reports and a key restriction. In addition, Mr. Stockheimer must attend a 12 step program at least eight times a month and must engage in group or individual therapy at least once a month. The motion passed unanimously.

Break 10:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

HEARING

Rachel Brazee, RN – Petition No. 2015-1333

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Brazee was not present and was not represented by counsel.

The Board deemed the allegations admitted on a motion by Mary Brown, seconded by Gina Reiners.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Mary Brown moved and Gina Reiners seconded that Ms. Brazee be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded to issue an Order revoking Ms. Brazee's registered nurse license. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING

Brenda Berg, RN – Petition No. 2015-1333

Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville was present representing the Department of Public Health. Attorney Scoville requested a continuance so that a Motion to Withdraw the Statement of Charges based on respondent's surrender of license can be prepared and presented to the Board.

Jennifer Long moved and Carrie Simon seconded to grant the continuance request. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING

Shawna Hartle, RN – Petition No. 2015-1028

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Hartle was not present and was not represented by counsel.

The Board deemed the allegations admitted on a motion by Gina Reiners, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Gina Reiners moved and Jennifer long seconded that Ms. Hartle be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved and Lisa Freeman seconded to issue an Order revoking Ms. Hartle's registered nurse license. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING

Erin Arndt, RN – Petition No. 2015-484

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Arndt was not present and was not represented by counsel.

The Board deemed the allegations admitted on a motion by Jennifer Long, seconded by Mary Brown.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Jennifer Long moved and Lisa Freeman seconded that Ms. Arndt be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded to issue an Order revoking Ms. Arndt's registered nurse license. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING

Paul Pitney, RN – Petition No. 2014-822

Staff Attorney Diane Wilan was present representing the Department of Public Health. Mr. Pitney was present without representation.

Testimony was provided by Mr. Pitney and Elaine Matulis, RN, Department of Public Health.

Lisa Freeman moved and Gina Reiners seconded to enter executive session to obtain testimony from Mr. Pitney regarding confidential medical/treatment records. The motion passed unanimously and the Board entered executive session from 1:05 p.m. until 1:09 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded that paragraphs 1, 2, 3b, 3c, of the Statement of Charges are proven and that paragraphs 3a and 3d are not proven. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded to issue an Order placing Mr. Pitney's license on probation for a period of one year with employer reports monthly, that he complete course work relating to medication administration documentation and that he complete eight hours of supervised medication administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Lunch 1:20 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.
Gina Reiners left the meeting during the lunch break.

HEARING

Katherine Mezzi, LPN – Petition No. 2014-1195

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Mezzi was not present and was not represented by counsel.

The Board deemed the allegations admitted on a motion by Mary Brown, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Mary Brown moved and Lisa Freeman seconded that Ms. Mezzi be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded to issue an Order revoking Ms. Mezzi's licensed practical nurse license. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING

Matthew Hopkins, RN – Petition No. 2016-26

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Mr. Hopkins was not present and was not represented by counsel. This was a continuation of a hearing that began on March 23, 2016.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Jennifer Long moved and Lisa Freeman seconded that Mr. Hopkins be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded to issue an Order revoking Mr. Hopkins' registered nurse license. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 2:17 p.m.

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