

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on October 7, 2009 at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1-A, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Amanda Campbell, RN
Heidi Darling, LPN
Jennifer Long, APRN
Katherine Pellerin, RN
Maria Pietrantuono, RN
Kathy K. Shea, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Veronica Kivela, Public Member
Donna Roberts, LPN
Ivelisse Varrone, Public Member

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, DPH
Kathleen Boulware, Public Health Services Manager, DPH
Pamela Pelletier, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Matthew Antonetti, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Stacy Owens, Staff Attorney, Public Health Hearing Office, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Jeffrey A. Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:39 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed two students from the University of Hartford.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard and Katherine Pellerin will be attending the Connecticut Nurses' Association Convention.

OPEN FORUM

There were no questions or concerns from the audience.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Meeting location during 2010 Legislature Session which starts February 3, 2010.

H.A.V.E.N. (Health Assistance interVention Education Network) PROGRAM UPDATE

Maureen Dinnan, Executive Director of the H.A.V.E.N. Program was present to provide a program update. The Web-site www.haven-ct.org is now up and running. Dr. George Kelly has joined their staff as the Program Director. Dr. Kelly is a psychiatrist from the Norwalk area. Currently in the program there are 59 MDs, 5 Dentists and no Dental Hygienists, 5 Veterinarians, 2 Podiatrists, 1 Chiropractor, 2 Physician Assistants, 2 Social Workers, 2 Respiratory Therapists, 55 RNs, 9 LPNs, and 5 APRNs. Approximately 90% of the nurses are joining the H.A.V.E.N. Program after Drug Control interventions. On-going communication has been going very well between H.A.V.E.N. and the Department of Public Health thanks to Kathleen Boulware, Public Health Services Manager. In 2009 there were a number of nurses referred back to DPH, 20 for non-compliance and/or the financial burden of participation in the program. The H.A.V.E.N. program monitors all professions for five years. H.A.V.E.N. will be having a seminar "Connecticut: Meeting the Challenges of Professional Health" which will be held on Friday, November 13, 2009, at Wesleyan University in Beckham Hall.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jennifer Filippone provided the Board with an update on Legislative issues.

Licensure fee increases for initial licensure have doubled for ALL professions including nursing. RNs will now pay \$180, APRNs are now \$200, and LPNs are now \$150. This will effect all initial licensure applications not completed prior to October 1st even if they were received in this office prior to October 1st.

On-Line licensure renewals seems to be working well. Jennifer Filippone will provide data at a later date.

Jennifer Filippone also provided an update on the Review and Investigations Committee which will have their recommendations in December.

CERTIFIED LICENSURE PACKET IN CASE FILES

Kathleen Boulware, DPH Public Health Services Manager, was present to discuss the need for licensure packets in case files. The Department provides a licensure affidavit in each packet from the OPLC Office within the Department of Public Health. Kathleen Boulware questioned whether the information the Board reviews could be added to the cover sheet rather than Xeroxing the actual entire initial application packet. She will provide the Board with a draft at the November 4, 2009 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE & STATISTICS ON INQUIRIES

Pamela Pelletier provided the Board with a synopsis of the most recent trend of calls received in the Board Office throughout the summer months.

H1N1 PROTOCOL RE: NURSING STUDENTS

What will nursing students do if the clinical sites are closed due to the H1N1 virus? RNs can use a SIM Lab but it clearly states in the regulations that LPNs cannot do their clinical in a SIM Lab. Students need to meet the required number of hours in order to graduate. The nursing programs need to be proactive and get ahead of the curve. Patricia Fennessy, DOE LPN CT Technical High School Consultant, has placed this on the agenda of their next Department Head Meeting for discussion. Patricia Fennessy will report back to the Board at their November 4, 2009 meeting regarding discussions which have taken place with the CT Technical High School LPN Department Heads.

SCHOOL ISSUES – CENTRAL CT STATE UNIVERSITY – PROGRESS REPORT ON BSN PROGRAM

Dr. Linda Wagner, Chair of the Nursing Department, was present to provide the Board with a progress report on the BSN Program at CCSU. Dr. Wagner stated that since the Board's approval, the program continues to do well and they have ordered additional supplies and are attempting to hire additional faculty to meet the needs of the program.

SCHOOL ISSUES – STONE ACADEMY LPN PROGRAM

At the September 2, 2009 meeting the Board reviewed the inspection report of August 18, 2009 of the Stone Academy East Hartford facility located at 745 Burnside Avenue. East Hartford's Zoning Enforcement Official has stated that Stone Academy is in compliance with all zoning regulations. Their letter stated in part that the property received a "Special Permit Use" for a classroom building and that this permit is still in effect. This site has served as an approved location for a registered nurse program for the last six years.

The building was constructed as a classroom and lab facility and has been accepted as ADA-compliant; since all courses and services are available on the first (wheelchair accessible) floor. The scheduling of classes on the first floor is considered for the ADA to be a reasonable accommodation under the criteria of a modification of a school policy or procedure. For example, the student lounge services are available in a designated section of our new library should they be needed for a motor disabled student. The Board accepted the letter as written.

SCHOOL ISSUES – J. M. WRIGHT/BULLARD HAVENS LPN PROGRAM MERGER

Patricia Fennessy, DOE LPN Consultant for CT Technical High Schools, was present for this discussion. She apprised the Board that J. M. Wright Technical High School in Stamford has suspended operations for two years in order to study options for restructuring. In December 2008 the State Board of Education recommended that if budgetary considerations required a significant cut to the budget of the CT Technical High School System, the least harmful way of effecting those cuts would be to suspend operations at J. M. Wright. The J. M. Wright LPN Program has merged with the Bullard-Havens Technical High School in Bridgeport. The facilities at Bullard-Havens are spacious and include state of the art classrooms, clinical labs, technologies, and faculty offices will support both programs. This merger gives J. M. Wright students the opportunity to complete the LPN Program by January 2010.

W. F. Kaynor and A. I. Prince LPN Programs have completed extensive school renovations and have moved into their new facilities. Both programs have large areas for classrooms, clinical lab, and faculty offices as well as updated technologies.

All three sites are able to provide educationally sound environments conducive to increasing student success. Pam Pelletier will be doing an on-site inspection of all three sites this month and will be reporting back to the Board with the findings.

SCHOOL ISSUES – CT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL CONCERNS

The Board has the following concerns regarding the CT Technical High Schools LPN Programs:

- 25-hour per week clerical staff member assigned to the LPN Program is being used to assist other school departments as needed and at times is not on-site. Any changes in the approved number of clerical hours must be reviewed by the Board to ensure that clerical availability continues to meet the LPN Programs needs. School Regulations 20-90-48(a)(3)
- Non-nursing faculty are reviewing the appropriateness of clinical assignments and observing clinical skills while students are providing direct care and services to patients.
- Students are required to spend more time in the program than is outlined in the curriculum for remediation, even if they are passing and completed the required number of hours.
- Counting NCLEX review as clinical experience and the possible elimination of educational/clinical hours in excess of the 1500 required by state statute.

- Substantive changes to the curriculum must be approved by the Board.
- The Board should be notified regarding decisions to close a nursing education program and a plan must be submitted along with a timetable for termination as outlined in Section 20-90-47(2)(b) of the School Regulations.
- The Board is to be notified when there is a change in LPN Program Department Heads. Notice of the appointment of a new Department Head should be submitted with a summary of the qualifications of the appointee which is to be reviewed by the Board that the appointee meets the required qualifications.

A letter with the Board's concerns will be drafted for Chair Bouffard's signature and will be forwarded to Dr. Ceferino Lugo, Assistant Superintendent of the CT Technical High School System.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Chair Bouffard had nothing new to report at this time.

MINUTES

AUGUST 19, 2009

Maria Pietrantuono moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded that the minutes be approved as edited. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Kathy Shea.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded that the minutes be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

Maria Pietrantuono moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded that the minutes be approved as edited. The motion passed unanimously.

REINSTATEMENT HEARING REQUEST – JENNIFER TELAGE-VENTURINI, LPN

Ms. Telage-Venturini was present to request a reinstatement hearing due to licensure revocation effective April 1, 2009. Mary Brown moved and Amanda Campbell seconded to deny Ms. Telage-Venturini's request at this time as the Memorandum of Decision was just signed on April 1, 2009. In the reinstatement hearing request letter that was forwarded to Ms. Telage-Venturini it clearly states that in applying for a hearing the nurse must be able to demonstrate to the Board a lengthy period of a drug/alcohol free status. The motion passed with all in favor with the exception of Katherine Pellerin who recused herself from this discussion.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION

All Board Members received the Memoranda of Decision via e-mail.

NANCY WALKER, LPN

Katherine Pellerin moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Walker's license. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Decision.

JENNIFER MIEREZ, LPN

Mary Brown moved and Amanda Campbell seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to dismiss the charges in this case. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention: Jennifer Long. Chair Bouffard signed the Decision.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – PATRICIA HARRISON, RN

Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Patricia Harrison. Ms. Harrison was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Katherine Pellerin moved and Heidi Darling seconded to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing will be scheduled for October 21, 2009. Chair Bouffard signed the Notice of Hearing and the Summary Suspension Order.

INTERIM CONSENT ORDER – CHERYL DUBOVIK, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with an Interim Consent Order for Cheryl Dubovik. Ms. Dubovik was not present and was not represented by counsel at this meeting. Mary Brown moved and Amanda Campbell seconded to grant the Interim Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Interim Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER – SARAH BARNEY, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Consent Order for Sarah Barney. Ms. Barney was not present nor was she represented by counsel at this meeting. Katherine Pellerin moved and Jennifer Long seconded to accept this Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER – WENNIE GONZALES, RN

Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Consent Order for Wennie Gonzales. Ms. Gonzales was not present and was not represented by counsel at this meeting. Amanda Campbell moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to accept this Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER – JAMIE GRENIER, RN

Legal Office Attorney Matthew Antonetti presented the Board with a Consent Order for Jamie Grenier. Ms. Grenier was present without representation at this meeting. Katherine Pellerin moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to accept this Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER – DONATA BANKS, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for Donata Banks. Ms. Banks was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Katherine Pellerin moved and Heidi Darling seconded to accept this Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

CEASE & DESIST CONSENT ORDER – ANNE ALDINGER, UNLICENSED

Legal Office Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Cease & Desist Consent Order for Anne Aldinger. Ms. Aldinger was not present and was not represented at this meeting. Amanda Campbell moved and Heidi Darling seconded to grant the Cease & Desist Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER – KATY DUCLOS, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for Katy Duclos. Ms. Duclos was present with counsel, Attorney Marilyn Clark Pellett. Maria Pietrantuono moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded to accept the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER – SARA KAISER, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with a Consent Order for Sara Kaiser. Ms. Kaiser was present with counsel, Attorney Martha Murray. Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded to accept the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER – JACQUELINE S. HOWARD, RN

Legal Office Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with a Consent Order for Jacqueline S. Howard. Ms. Howard was present without representation at this meeting. Katherine Pellerin moved and Mary Brown seconded to accept this Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER – STEVEN BUCKLEY, LPN

Legal Office Attorney David Tilles presented the Board with a Consent Order for Steven Buckley. Mr. Buckley was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Mary Brown moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded to accept this Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING – PAMELA PECKRUL, RN

Legal Office Attorney David Tilles was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Peckrul was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. There was no testimony provided.

Amanda Campbell moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded to find Ms. Peckrul on all charges. The motion passed unanimously.

Amanda Campbell moved and Heidi Darling seconded that Ms. Peckrul's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

CONTINUANCE REQUEST – RUTH DUSHAY, RN

The Board reviewed a continuance request received in the Board Office on Tuesday afternoon which was granted by the Board for today's hearing.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – RUTH DUSHAY, RN

Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Revised Motion for Summary Suspension for Ruth Dushay. Ms. Dushay was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Katherine Pellerin moved and Mary Brown seconded to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing will be scheduled for October 21, 2009. Chair Bouffard signed the Notice of Hearing and the Summary Suspension Order.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present that this meeting be adjourned at 11:50 AM.

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on October 21, 2009 at the Legislative Office Building, Room 2-D, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Amanda Campbell, RN
Heidi Darling, LPN
Jennifer Long, APRN
Maria Pietrantuono, RN
Kathy K. Shea, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Veronica Kivela, Public Member
Katherine Pellerin, RN
Donna Roberts, LPN
Ivelisse Varrone, Public Member

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, DPH
Kathleen Boulware, Public Health Services Manager, DPH
Diane Cybulski, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Pamela Pelletier, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Joanne V. Yandow, Staff Attorney, Public Health Hearing Office, DPH
Jeffrey A. Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Tynan E. Cooney, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from the University of Hartford, Bullard Havens LPN Program, Kaynor Tech LPN Program, and Eli Whitney LPN Program.

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION – PATRICIA INTEGLIA, LPN

Jeffrey A. Kardys presented the Board with a Memorandum of Decision for Patricia Integlia. Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Integlia's license. The motion passed with all in favor with the exception of Kathy Shea who abstained. Chair Bouffard signed the Decision.

CONSENT ORDER – LORI KOCH, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Leslie Scoville and DPH Law Intern Kristi Fanelli were present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Koch was present with counsel, Attorney Hope C. Seeley. It was the unanimous decision of the Board to deny this Consent Order as the case does not rise to the level of Board action.

CONSENT ORDER – AMBER ALBERT, LPN

Legal Office Attorney David Tilles presented the Board with a Consent Order for Amber Albert. Ms. Albert was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Amanda Campbell moved and Heidi Darling seconded to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Kathy Shea. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER – KATE MEZZI, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Consent Order for Kate Mezzi. Ms. Mezzi was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Maria Pietrantuono moved and Jennifer Long seconded to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Kathy Shea. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES – ROBERT HALL, LPN

Legal Office Attorney David Tilles presented the Board with a Motion to Withdraw the Statement of Charges as Mr. Hall has signed a Voluntary Surrender Affidavit. Jennifer Long moved and Mary Brown seconded to grant the Motion to Withdraw the Statement of Charges. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Motion to Withdraw the Statement of Charges.

INTERIM CONSENT ORDER – REGINA M. MAHLER, RN

Legal Office Attorney Leslie Scoville and DPH Law Intern Kristi Fanelli presented the Board with an Interim Consent Order for Regina M. Mahler. Ms. Mahler was present with counsel, Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt. Amanda Campbell moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to grant the Interim Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Interim Consent Order.

HEARING – STACEY JANKOWSKI, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Leslie Scoville was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Jankowski was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. There was no testimony provided. The hearing closed at 9:40 AM.

Jennifer Long moved and Amanda Campbell seconded to find Ms. Jankowski on all charges. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Long moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded that Ms. Jankowski's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the close of the record Ms. Jankowski arrived. Heidi Darling moved and Amanda Campbell seconded to keep the record closed and to not reopen the hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ORDER – KATHRYN ARMITAGE, RN

Legal Office Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with a Consent Order for Kathryn Armitage. Ms. Armitage was present without representation at this meeting. Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

HEARING – GEOFFREY PERKINS, RN

Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzino was present representing the Department of Public Health. Mr. Perkins was present with counsel, Attorney Melissa Testa. Testimony was provided by the Respondent, Geoffrey Perkins; Kenneth Forte, RN, Bridgeport Hospital; Stephanie Andrade, RN, Bridgeport Hospital; and, Kristine S. Borgognone, RN, Bridgeport Hospital.

The Board recessed for lunch at 1:00 PM and the hearing continued at 1:45 PM. Testimony continued. The hearing concluded at 2:00 PM. The hearing was continued to December 2, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 2:05 PM.