

**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
89 MAIN STREET, 3rd FLOOR, MONTPELIER, VT
BOARD OF NURSING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
March 9, 2020**

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Ellen Watson — Chair

Board members present: Ellen Watson, Krystal Bernier, Luana Tredwell, Douglas Sutton, Deborah Swartz, Daniel Coane, Wendy Thurston, Jennifer Laurent, Virginia Hudson, and Kelly Sinclair

Board members absent: William White

Staff members present: Phyllis Mitchell, Nursing Board Executive Officer; Gabriel Gilman, General Counsel; George Belcher, Hearing Officer; Kristin Donnelly, Licensing Administrator I; Beth Kneen, Docket Clerk; Ellen Leff, Case Manager; Carrie Phillips, Pharmacy Board Executive Officer.

Prosecuting Attorneys: Jennifer Colin, Traci Leibowitz, Benjamin Novogroski.

Guests: Allie Harris, Marcie Weaver, Lori Parsons, Lyndsey Gates, Jamie Maxham, Kevin Scott, Pat Moulton, Sarah Billings-Berg, Jeff Lourie, Lisa Stralz, Mary Anne Sheahan, Laura Pelosi, Devon Green, Angie Smith (via telephone), Paulette Rise, Jodie G., Cody Cross-Greenice, Laura Pickett, and Charity Cerminara (via telephone)

Changes and Additions to the Agenda:

A discussion of COVID-19 as it pertains to the Board was added to the agenda.	
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2. Approval of Minutes:

Virginia Hudson moved to accept the February 2020 minutes as presented. Jennifer Laurent seconded.	PASS
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3. Summary Suspensions/Disciplinary Hearings:

2020-20	Parsons, Lori was present. The Board went into deliberation at 10:05 and reconvened at 10:15. Douglas Sutton moved to SUMMARILY SUSPEND the license of RN Lori Parsons . Krystal Bernier seconded.	PASS
2020-19	Eddy, Brenda was not present. Douglas Sutton moved to SUMMARILY SUSPEND the license of LNA Brenda Eddy . Virginia Hudson seconded.	PASS
2015-14; M2016-6	Weaver, Marcie was present. The Board went into deliberation at 11:41 and reconvened at 11:50. Krystal Bernier moved to DENY the Petition to Modify Conditions on the license of RN Marcie Weaver . Virginia Hudson seconded.	PASS
2020-18	Sumner, Tina was not present. Deborah Swartz moved to SUMMARILY SUSPEND the license of RN Tina Sumner . Virginia Hudson seconded.	PASS
2020-1	Kirk, David was not present. Daniel Coane moved to dismiss this matter as the Respondent is no longer pursuing appeal. Deborah Swartz seconded.	PASS

5: Stipulations/Hearings/Default Orders:

2008-98	Hempstead, Meghan-Lyn was not present. Douglas Sutton moved to ACCEPT the ORDER TO REMOVE CONDITIONS on the license of LNA Meghan-Lyn Hempstead . Jennifer Laurent seconded.	PASS
2020-4	Ashline, Elizabeth was not present. Deborah Swartz moved to ACCEPT the proposed VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of the license of RN Elizabeth Ashline . Daniel Coane seconded.	PASS
2019-161 & 2019-162	Fortin, Noah was not present. Jennifer Laurent moved to ACCEPT the proposed DEFAULT ORDER to INDEFINITELY SUSPEND the license of LNA Noah Fortin . Douglas Sutton seconded.	PASS
2019-158	Parris, Britny was not present. Daniel Coane moved to ACCEPT the proposed DEFAULT ORDER to INDEFINITELY SUSPEND the license of LNA Britny Parris . Virginia Hudson seconded.	PASS

6. Executive Director’s Report:

Phyllis Mitchell reviewed the February 2020 Executive Director Report with Board members present.

7. Education:

Nursing Education Committee:

- Deborah Swartz shared an update from the Education Committee’s February meeting with Board members present.

8. Practice:

APRN Sub-Committee:

Jennifer Laurent shared an update from the APRN Sub-Committee’s February meeting with Board members present. The Sub-Committee heard a question from Jeff Lourie, FNP regarding ketamine and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) treatment for refractory depression and considered whether this was within the FNP scope of practice and if so, under what circumstances should it be administered. The Sub-Committee agreed to bring this issue before the Board for further discussion. OPR General Counsel suggested clearer guidelines for the 4 APRN specialties licensed in Vermont.

Mr. Lourie was present and answered questions from Board members about his current practice. He estimated treating 45 patients with ketamine through nasal spray or subcutaneous administration. Several of Mr. Lourie’s patients were also present and shared their personal experiences with the Board.

The Board agreed to take this matter under advisement for further discussion.

Practice Committee:

The Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

Alternative Program Committee:

The Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

9. Other Business:

- Obstacles to Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Nurse Educators

The Board heard from stakeholders including representatives of VT nursing education programs (Norwich University, Vermont Technical College, University of Vermont, and Castleton University) regarding OPR's legislative report and creating a waiver process for Administrative Rule 4.23(b). Those present voiced support for eliminating the provision in Rule 4.23(b) that requires BSN-prepared clinical educators to be enrolled in and complete a MSN program within 3 years. Kevin Scott of Norwich University shared his experience and research. He has found no significant difference in student outcomes with MSN-prepared clinical instructors vs. BSN-prepared clinical instructors. Representatives from all programs acknowledged that recruiting/retaining nurse educators is a multi-faceted issue however all felt that Rule 4.23(b) further limits their pool of potential clinical educators to draw from.

Douglas Sutton moved to **retain the current Administrative Rules and make a recommendation to the academic community that it convene a group to collaborate on issues regarding optimal use of clinical sites and educators.** Virginia Hudson seconded. Motion passed.

- Phyllis Mitchell shared an email notification from Sarah Billings-Berg of VTC advising that their clinical partner, Southern VT Medical Center, dismissed all student experiences for the week of 3/10 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Should this become indefinite, the school is concerned about their ability to meet Administrative Rule requirements for clinical and simulation lab education. Gabriel Gilman, OPR General Counsel, reminded Board members of provisions in Open Meeting law that allow for Special and Emergency meetings to address emergent issues if necessary.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Motion: Douglas Sutton

Second: Virginia Hudson