

**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
NATIONAL LIFE BUILDING, MONTPELIER, VT  
BOARD OF NURSING  
APPROVED MINUTES  
February 11, 2013**

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM by Jeanine Carr - Chair; Board Members present: John Todd, Alan Weiss, Luana Tredwell, Ellen Watson, Sheila Davis, Deborah Swartz, Stephen Morse, William White, Douglas Sutton, Virginia Hudson; Staff members present: Linda Davidson – Executive Director, Nancy Morin - Administrative Assistant, Elizabeth Hansen - Nursing Program Manager, Ellen Leff - Nursing Case Manager, Larry Novins - Board Attorney, Gabriel Gilman and Lauren Hibbert - Prosecuting Attorneys; Others present: UVM Students, Charles Martin, Esq., Meredith Roberts

**2. Changes and Additions to the Agenda:**

- J. Carr welcomed the UVM Students.
- L. Novins gave an overview for the students on the disciplinary process for contested hearings and stipulations.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

A. Weiss moved to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2013 meeting with corrections as noted. **Pass**

**4. Disciplinary Proceedings:**

M2009-163/NU01-0701 Margaret Terrien was present. The Board will issue a written decision.

2011-287 Amy Belisle was not present but was represented by Charles Martin, Esq., The Board requested deliberative session at 10:07 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:24 a.m. The Board again requested deliberative session at 10:42 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:55 a.m. L. Novins announced that the Board while in deliberative session voted to find Amy Belisle in **DEFAULT** and to **INDEFINITELY SUSPEND** the license of Registered Nurse **Amy Belisle**. The Board will issue a written decision. Alan Weiss recused.

2012-533 Jay Hutchins was not present. D. Sutton moved to find Jay Hutchins in **DEFAULT**. J. Todd moved to **INDEFINITELY SUSPEND** the license of Licensed Practical Nurse **Jay Hutchins**. **Pass**

2012-245 Jennifer Kopenga was not present. J. Todd moved to find Jennifer Kopenga in **DEFAULT**. D. Swartz moved to **DENY THE LICENSE** of Licensed Nursing Assistant **Jennifer Kopenga**. **Pass**

2011-660 Melissa Estivill was not present. J. Todd moved **DISMISS THE CHARGES WITHOUT PREJUDICE**. **Pass**

2011-776 Sharon O'Malley was not present. J. Carr moved to approve the Stipulation and Consent Order and **CONDITION** the license of Licensed Practical Nurse **Sharon**

O'Malley.

Pass

### CLOSING REPORTS:

A. Weiss moved to recommend that the following complaints be concluded without charges:

- 2012-225 – D. Swartz recused
- 2012-77 – D. Swartz recused
- 2012-512 – D. Swartz recused
- 2012-559 – E. Watson recused
- 2012-509 – D. Sutton recused
- 2011-637 – D. Sutton and J. Todd recused
- 2012-144 – J. Todd recused
- 2011-644 – J. Todd recused

Pass

### OTHER DISCIPLINARY ITEMS:

#### A. REINSTATEMENTS:

M2012-92/2011-757 Leona Murphy was not present. V. Hudson moved to **REINSTATE WITHOUT CONDITIONS** the license of Licensed Nursing Assistant **Leona Murphy**.  
Pass

M2010-65/2008-74 Sarah Linton was not present. S. Davis moved to **REINSTATE WITHOUT CONDITIONS** the license of Registered Nurse **Sarah Linton**.  
Pass

**B. Current Discipline Cases – January 21, 2013** – The Board received and reviewed the current discipline cases with E. Leff. E. Leff explained that the backlog of cases is starting to free up and move through the process. The number of open cases has also gone down.

**C. Employer Reports: Expectations from the Board Regarding Reinstatements** – G. Gilman, L. Hibbert and E. Leff discussed the current employer report that was being used for nurses that are on conditions and require employer reports. D. Swartz moved to request that OPR formulate a process for all Boards to utilize when a licensee is requesting reinstatement of a license.  
Pass

**D. Nursing Board Pending Case Age Report December 2010-December 2012** – The Board received the case age report and E. Leff explained the different charts and any changes that have developed regarding cases.

#### 5. Administration, Education, Practice, Licensure

**Executive Director's Report:** The Board received the written Executive Director's Report and related documents provided in the Board meeting packet. The report included:

- **Nursing Board Retreat:** L. Davidson thanked all of the Board Members for attending the Nursing Board retreat that was held on Monday, February 4, 2013 at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier. The agenda included Recommendations to the Governor from The Blue Ribbon Commission on Nursing, Criminal Background Checks, The Alternative Program – update and future plans, Lessons to Learn from Nursing Cases and Results of the 2012 OPR Board Survey.

- **OPR Board Training:** An OPR Board member training was held on January 25, 2013 at the OPR office. This training was for new Board members. There were 14 new Board members present including Luana Tredwell and Stephen Morse, our newest Nursing Board members.
- **Rules Revisions:** L. Novins and L. Davidson are continuing work on Rules Revisions. Elizabeth Hansen is working on the Education and LNA areas of the Rules. We are removing redundancies, clarifying sentence structure and flagging those areas which appear outdated. Once this process is done, specific parts of the Rules will be presented to the appropriate committees for recommendations and then forwarded to the full Board. This is a time intensive project.
- **NCSBN Executive Officer Call:** L. Davidson participated in the NCSBN Executive Officer conference call on January 28, 2013. The topics included the status of Criminal Background Checks for nursing applicants nationwide. The NCSBN will be launching a website with information on criminal background checks and the status of these background checks across the nation. There was a discussion about the status of nursing schools in the Philippines. There has been evidence that some of the schools do not meet their country's requirements. A list of those schools will be shared with the Boards of Nursing.
- **RN/APRN Renewal:** The Board office sent RN/APRN renewal notices out for APRNs on January 31, 2013. RN renewal notices will be mailed on February 5, 2013. There are 19,287 RNs and 593 APRNs who could potentially renew.
- **Discipline:** As of January 31, 2013 there are 173 open cases, 57 follow-up cases and 8 Alternative Program participants.

- A. **H. 25 Health Care Transparency Bill** – The Board received a copy of the Bill and discussed the bill.
- B. **NCSBN RN and PN Quarterly NCLEX Reports** - The Board received a copy of the RN and PN Quarterly NCLEX Reports.
- C. **Public Comments** – There were no public comments.
- D. **Education Committee Report:** D. Swartz reported that the Committee has not met since the January Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2013.
  - Recommendations from Committee for Rules Changes – D. Swartz reviewed the Rules changes that the Education Committee was recommending. V. Hudson moved to accept the Rules revisions recommendations from the Education Committee. **Pass**
  - 2012-2012 Annual Report Summary Vermont Nursing Programs - E. Hansen reviewed the Annual Report Summary on Vermont Nursing Programs with the Board.
  - Step I Proposal for Provisional Approval of a Generic BSN Program at Southern Vermont College. E. Hansen reported that the Education Committee recommended approval. S. Morse moved to approve Step I for Provisional Approval of a Generic BSN Program at Southern Vermont College. **Pass**
  - Step II Proposal for Provisional Approval of the Online RN to BSN Program at Vermont Technical College. E. Hansen reported that the Education Committee recommended approval. E. Watson moved to approve Step II Proposal for Provisional Approval of the Online RN to BSN Program at Vermont Technical College. D. Swartz recused. **Pass**
  - Norwich University Update on the Status of the Search for the New MSN Program Director - The Board received the letter.

- E. **Practice Committee:** D. Sutton reported that the Committee met on February 6, 2013 and worked on the following:
- Clarified The Committee Charter
  - Annual Goals
  - Started discussing the position statements “Role of Nurse in Administration of Homeopathic Remedies and Food Additives” and “The Role of the Nurse in Holistic Health”.
- F. **APRN Advisory Committee Report:** L. Davidson reported that the APRN Committee would be meeting on February 27, 2013 and would be working on the draft rules.

**6. Other Business:**

- There was no old business.

**7. Adjournment:** V. Hudson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2: 20 p.m.

**Pass**

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Morin, Administrative Assistant  
Draft minutes reviewed by: Linda Davidson, Executive Director  
Date minutes approved by Vermont Board of Nursing: March 4, 2013