

**BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Open Session**

**February 11, 2008**

**The Open Session of the Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was called to order at 8:50am on the above date in Room 401, Department of Health, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Law, so called, and other applicable sections of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended.**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Jeannine Borozny, RN**

**Lynn Curran, MS, RN, CRNA**

**Cristiana Rosa, MS, RN, PCNS Vice President**

**Genevieve Rodrigues, LPN**

**Sharon Smith, MS, RN, President**

**Peggy Matteson, RN, PhD**

**Catherine Rose, RN, MS**

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

**Sandra Megerdichian, RN, MS**

**Michael Gerhardt**

**Kristen Kamm, LPN**

**Joslin Leasca, RN, MS, RNP**

**Theresa Jeremiah RN**

**Elizabeth Lamonde, RN, MS**

**STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Pam McCue, RN, MS, Director Nursing Registration and Nursing Education**

**Linda Mouradjian, Compliance Officer**

**Betsy James, RN Complaint Officer**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

**Ms Smith called the meeting to order at 8:50am. A quorum was established at this time.**

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION OF**

**On motion of Ms. Matteson, seconded by Ms Curran, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes with the following corrections:**

**Ms Matteson should have PhD after her name and the agenda item B should read “suprapubic tube”.**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

**Ms Smith welcome members and stated that she had nothing new to report.**

## **DIRECTOR, NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION REPORT**

**Ms McCue introduced her new staff member Linda Mouradjian, as the Board's Compliance Officer. Ms McCue stated that Ms Mouradjian is a RN pursuing a Masters degree in Nursing Administration at URI and comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience in nursing and public health.**

**Ms McCue informed the Board that in the case of inclement weather, the decision to cancel would be made prior to 6:30am on the day of the Board meeting. The notice of cancellation will be sent out via email and Pam will also leave a cancellation message on her office voicemail.**

**Ms McCue notified the Board that she would be assisting the Health Department in lobbying activities at the state house. Ms McCue notified the Board of two pieces of legislation that the Health Department is submitting. One bill makes the CNA Board an advisory board to the Board of Nursing and allows for the Department to outsource the initial licensure application process. The other bill establishes a Patient Safety Organization to create best practices to reduce medical errors.**

**Ms McCue informed the Board that public hearing on the Nurse**

**Licensure Compact proposed regulations is scheduled for March 7, 2008.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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### **A. Nurse Administration of Nitrous Oxide**

**Representatives from Rhode Island Hospital (RIH) presented a proposal to the Board regarding RN administration of nitrous oxide to patients in the ER at Hasbro Children's Hospital. The hospital's policy and three articles were provided to the Board as supporting material. Representatives from RIH informed the Board that nitrous oxide would be administered from highly trained RNs to children undergoing certain uncomfortable procedures as a comfort measure.**

**Discussion ensued as to appropriate scope of practice, training, and support of overall Lifespan/RIH leadership. President Smith thanked the RIH representatives for their presentation and informed them that the Board will further discuss and make a decision very soon. President Smith informed them that the hospital should not proceed with this clinical practice until they hear from the Board.**

### **B. Presentation by Cheryl Bennet-Substance Abuse in Nursing**

**Ms Bennet provided a presentation to the Board, including a literature review on this topic. At the conclusion of this presentation, based on her research, Ms Bennet made recommendations to the Board on the non-disciplinary alternative program. The recommendations included,**

**Diversion contract should be for 5 years, more Board approved providers in different geographic locations around the state, 30-day employer progress reports.**

### **C. Criteria for Board Approved Program**

**The Board voted to convene a sub committee of Board members to develop criteria for approval of health care providers. Ms Rosa, Ms Smith, and Ms Rose volunteered for this committee. Ms Mouradjian will facilitate the meeting dates.**

## **ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**On motion of Ms Borozny, seconded by Ms. Rosa, it was unanimously voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws for discussion of job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure and licensees and for discussion of investigatory proceedings relating to misconduct by applicants for licensure and licensees, and investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct. The Open Session adjourned at 10:20am.**

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**Ms Smith called the open session back to order at 12:45pm.**

**VOTE TO SEAL MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTIONS OF 42-46-5 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS**

**On motion of Ms Curran, seconded by Ms. Rose, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in the Executive Session and to seal those minutes in as much as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.**

**PRESENTATION OF FINAL ACTIONS**

**The Board voted to the following actions in Executive Session at today's meeting:**

**PN07-020 Susan Iacobucci**

**Lois McGee- issue RN license on probation**

**Susan Serio reinstate RN license on probation**

**Robert Dufresne-Reprimand NP license**

**Barbara Hallum-Release from probation and issue an unrestricted license**

**Deirdre Couture - Release from probation and issue an unrestricted license**

**Cynthia Johnson - Release from probation and issue an unrestricted license**

**The following cases were voted a finding of “No Unprofessional Conduct”**

**RN08-002**

**NO08-010**

**PN08-007**

**PN07-080**

**RN07-067**

**RN07-069**

**RN08-001**

**RN08-011**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of Ms Leasca, seconded by Ms Curran, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 2:45 pm. .**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Cristiana Rosa**