

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

Open Session

March 10, 2008

The Open Session of the Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was called to order at 8:30am 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

Genevieve Rodrigues, LPN

Sharon Smith, MS, RN, President

Peggy Matteson, RN, PhD

Catherine Rose, RN, MS

Sandra Megerdichian, RN, MS

Michael Gerhardt

Kristen Kamm, LPN

Joslin Leasca, RN, MS, RNP

Theresa Jeremiah RN

Elizabeth Lamonde, RN, MS

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Cristiana Rosa, MS, RN, PCNS Vice President

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Linda TetuMouradjian, RN, Compliance Officer

Betsy James, RN Complaint Officer

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Ms Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30am. A quorum was established at this time.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION OF

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

Replace the name “Ms Leasca” with “ Ms Curran” as making the motion to adjourn the February 11, 2008 Open Session meeting of the Board.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

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

DIRECTOR, NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION REPORT

Ms McCue reported the Department of Health in conjunction with the Department of Education investigated an alledged LPN school called V-Tech, operating without both agencies approval. Upon conclusion of the investigation lead by DOE, a letter of Cease and Desist was issued. Fox news reporter, Susan Hogan, did a segment on this issue and Ms McCue participated in an interview that was aired earlier in the month.

Ms McCue informed the Board that the time period for nurse license renewal ended as of March 1, 2008. She explained that most nurses renewed on-line, however several nurses where not aware that a reminder post card was sent to them in December 2007 with information on how to access the on-line renewal form or request a paper copy. This was a new procedure for renewal that was implemented last year.

Ms McCue informed the Board that the staff is right on target with the timeline for the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) implementation. Letters will be mailed in April to all licensed nurses in the state informing them of the compact and how it will or will not affect them.

Ms McCue informed the Board of the Department's bills H7735 and

S2482, bills that would bring the CNA Board under the jurisdiction of the Nursing Board and allow the Department to outsource the processing of initial nursing applications. Ms McCue confirmed the outsourcing was proposed due to the increased volume of nurse licensure applications that the one staff person at the Board could no longer handle. This proposal in no way replaces any existing staff members it is a solution to the inability to add new staff to handle the increased volume and workload.

NEW BUSINESS

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A. Nurse Administration of Nitrous Oxide

Ms McCue reported to the Board that through researching the applicable statutes and regulations, it is not within the scope of practice of a RN to administer nitrous oxide, nor do current hospital regulations allow this practice. The Board acknowledged this information and affirmed this as their final decision. Discussion ensued as to whether this was in the scope of practice of a NP. The Board affirmed that the hospital regulations allowed it when the NP has been received the appropriate training and is credentialed by the facility to do so.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Ms Jeremiah, seconded by Ms. Mergerdichain, 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 9:15am.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Ms Smith called the open session back to order at 12:30pm.

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

On motion of Ms Kamm, 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:

Denise Kennedy reinstated on active probation

John Cunningham issued an unrestricted license

RN07-015 no unprofessional conduct

RN08-014 no unprofessional conduct

RN07-060 no unprofessional conduct

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Ms Kamm, seconded by Ms Matteson, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 1:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Lamonde, RN, MS