

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING
EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF MEETING

OPEN SESSION

September 12, 2011

The Open Session of the Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was called to order at 8:30 am on the above date in room 401 of the 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.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Linda Twardowski, RN, MS

Jeannine Borozny, RN

Kristen Young, RN

Manuela Raposo

Linda Damon, RN, MS, Vice President

Michelle Cahill, LPN, Secretary

Anne Tierney, RN, CRNA

Joslin Leasca, RN, MS, RNP

Michael Gerhardt

Sandra Mergerdichian, RN, MS

Genevieve Rodrigues, LPN

Peggy Matteson, RN, PhD, President

Carol Cairns RN, MS

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Alexandre, PhD, RN, Director

Linda Tetu Mouradjian, RN, MS Compliance Officer

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

President Matteson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. A quorum was established.

2. PRESENTATION OF MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION OF July 11, 2011

On motion of Ms. Borozny, and seconded by Ms. Damon, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of July 11, 2011 with the following amendments:

- The minutes approved at that meeting were from June 13, 2011**

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT –

Dr. Matteson welcomed the Board and deferred her report to the next scheduled meeting.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT-

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) reported that the impact of the increased NCLEX-PN passing standard was a

drop in the over-all pass rate of first time candidates to 82%. This is a 3% drop over the same period last year. This is expected with a change in the passing standard and historically the rate has reverted to prior level after about 18 months.

The NCSBN has published a white paper The Nurse's Guide to the use of Social Media. This important paper would benefit individual nurses, employers and educators. It is available on the NCSBN website (www.ncsbn.org).

The Rhode Island Center for Nursing Excellence (RICNE) and the Lifespan Learning Institute have been named lead organizations for the Rhode Island Action Coalition, a group established to implement the IOM recommendations for nursing. Dr. Alexandre represents the Department and the Board on the Operations Group and will also participate in the Workforce Data workgroup and the APRN Consensus Model implementation work group. Dr. Lynne Dunphey, RICNE executive director, will be invited to a future meeting to introduce the work of the Action Coalition and any role for the Board.

Legislation pass during the 2011 session of the General Assembly mandates the Board require a local and national criminal background checks on all new nurse license applicants and for nurses reinstating a lapsed license. The Department is revising all nursing applications to require the submission of documentation from the Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) for a national criminal records check that

shall include fingerprints submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. All applicable fees are to be paid by the applicant.

Volume of new licenses remained high for the month of August. 204 new licenses were issued.

The schedule for board meetings for the remainder of calendar year 2011 and 2012 was distributed.

5. BUSINESS

Report from NCSBN 2011 Delegate Assembly

Ms. Damon and Ms. Twardowski served as delegates to the 2011 annual meeting in Indianapolis, IN.

- Ms. Damon reported on two research studies presented at the meeting. The first study investigated the use of simulation by US nursing programs and found that 80% of all programs are currently using simulation within their curriculum. The second study is investigating transition to practice for graduates of nursing programs. Three Midwestern states will participate in this study that will examine current practices with respect to transition to practice to identify best practices. Ms. Damon also reported on the availability of information regarding substance abuse among nurses on the NCSBN website.**

- Ms. Twardowski reported on TERCAP (Taxonomy of Error Root Cause Analysis Program), a project of NCSBN meant to assist Boards of Nursing when reviewing complaints of practice errors by nurses.**

The project seeks to identify system errors that may be contributing to individual errors with the goal of improving over-all patient safety. Ms. Twardowski also reported on a newly completed study by NCSBN that surveys medication aides to identify training and scope of practice issues.

- Ms. Cahill represented the Board at the NCSBN meeting on the regulatory perspectives of long term care. Among the topics discussed were the medication aide study and issues regarding delegation of tasks to nursing assistants. Dr. Alexandre reminded the Board that medication aides are licensed by the Department with regulatory oversight delegated to the Nursing Assistant Advisory Board. Training programs are at least 45 hours long and taught by or in conjunction with a school of pharmacy. Rhode Island requires that medication aides be licensed as nursing assistants. Ms. McCue (RINI Middle College) informed the Board that the NCSBN study focused on duties performed by the medication aide, noting that medication aides that are dually licensed as nursing assistants may be at increased risk for error when required to work as both a NA and medication aide. The study will be provided to the Board upon release.**

Proposed Nursing Regulations – Discussion and Vote to move to public hearing

Dr. Matteson presented the regulations updated to reflect the language approved at the July 11, 2011 meeting. Dr. Matteson asked

the board and visitors for comments or questions.

- Ms. Mergerdichian asked for clarifications about the role of preceptors. Ms. Leasca expressed concern about preceptors ongoing contact with faculty and about their being used in “high stakes” settings, while supporting their use in community placements and capstone courses. She asked for documentation of outcome studies regarding the use of preceptor by nursing education programs. Ms. Damon reminded the board that the regulations define the preceptor experience as “faculty directed clinical learning.” Ms. Twardowski expressed support for the use of preceptors in high stakes setting noting that placement in these setting would enhance the clinical experience for these students.

- Discussion shifted to Section 16.2 (c)(3)(ii) with Ms. Mergerdichian asking for clarification of the requirement for the preceptor to be licensed at or above the level of the student or educated at or above the level of the student. Ms. Costigan (CCRI) expressed concern that the preceptor be educated at the bachelor’s level or higher. Ms. Policastro (RISNA) expressed concern that this would be too restrictive and put the board in the position of over-regulating the nursing programs. Ms. McCue stated that all RN graduates sit for the same licensure examination and are deemed competent to practice at that level and that less than 50% of nurses in RI have a bachelor’s degree. Ms. Cairns noted that requiring a bachelor’s degree would limit the number of otherwise qualified nurses to precept students. Dr. Joseph (URI) remarked that nursing programs must work with the staff that currently works in the facilities and that requiring only

nurses educated at the baccalaureate level would harm the student nurses. Dr. Williams (RIC) noted that her program works with nursing administration at the agencies to ensure that preceptors are chosen based on their level of experience and competence in the area. Dr. Williams also stated that outcomes with respect to student evaluations and success on the NCLEX-RN clearly demonstrate that the use of preceptors is a positive experience for students in her program.

- Ms. Leasca asked that the board reconsider the requirement that the chief academic officer of the RN programs be required to have a doctoral degree. She noted that because NLNAC and CCNE do not require a doctoral degree the board should follow their lead. Dr. Alexandre noted that, in general accrediting bodies defer these types of decisions to the regulatory boards and require the programs to demonstrate compliance with the state regulations. Dr. Matteson noted that this topic has been discussed at the national level (NCSBN) as well.

- At the close of the discussion, on motion of Ms. Tierney, seconded by Mr. Gerhardt, the Board voted unanimously to move the current draft of the regulations to public hearing.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Matteson invited Board members and visitors to announce any upcoming events or initiatives of interest to those present.

Ms. Policastro (RISNA) informed the board of the following RISNA

activities

- **The RINI Middle College Charter School will host a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday September 19 at 11:00 and extended an invitation to those present to attend. The Board acknowledged Ms. McCue as the Academic Dean and Chief Nursing Officer. Ms. McCue described the mission of the school.**
- **The RISNA offices are moving to the RINI Middle College, 150 Washington Street, Providence.**
- **On September 23rd RISNA will be sponsoring a workshop on the topic of substance abuse in nursing. The conference will take place at the Ray Conference Center, Butler Hospital.**
- **The RISNA Annual meeting will take place on Monday October 24.**

Dr. Alexandre introduced Jennifer Sternick, Senior Legal Counsel, for the Board and the Nursing Assistant Advisory Board.

Ms. Rodrigues announced that she is retiring from her position at Rhode Island Hospital and will be resigning her position on the Board. Dr. Matteson acknowledged Ms. Rodrigues for her exemplary service to the Board and her commitment to ensuring a safe health care environment for the citizens of the state.

7. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Ms. Borozny, seconded by Ms. Megerdichian, 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 the

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 licensure and licensees, and investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct. The Open Session adjourned at 10:00am

8. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

President Matteson called the Open Session back to order at 1:30 pm.

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

On motion of Ms Twardowski, seconded by Ms Cairns, 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.

10. PRESENTATION OF FINAL ACTIONS

RN11-051 Teresa Tortolani Reprimand, No home care for 1year

RN05-135 Kristen Moffat Release from Probation

The Board, on unanimous vote, found no unprofessional conduct for the following:

RN11-044

RN11-058

RN11-057

The Board, on majority vote, with Ms. Rodrigues voting no, found no unprofessional conduct for the following:

RN11-052

11. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Ms. Tierney, seconded by Ms. Twardowski, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Michelle Cahill, LPN, Secretary