



Posting Date: December 18, 2015

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSING REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION

3 Capitol Hill, Conference Room 401, Providence, RI 02908

November 9, 2015 @ 8:49 a.m.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn Blanchette
Diane Blier
Jessica Brier
Wendy Chicoine
Maria Ducharme
Kathleen Heren
Karen Matook
Joanne Matthew
Maria Pezzillo
Roberta Powell
Maria Ross
Betty Sadaniantz
Delores Walters

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jane Morgan, Chief Legal Counsel
Kimberly McNulty, Chief Implementation Aide
Margaret Clifton, Director of Nursing

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Donna Policatro, RISNA
Ericka Newman, CCRI
Chelsea Russell, CCRI
Debra Grosskurth, Salve Regina
Jason Bennett, CCRI
Rosemary Costigan, CCRI
Mary Barlas, LTI
Eleanor Clapprod, NPARI
Anne Tierney, SJHSNA
Jordan Menzird, CCRI
Jacqueline Ayuso, CCRI
Dayle Joseph, NEIT
Linda McDonald, UNAP
Tim Innis, CCRI
Mary Sullivan, URI
Victoria Morrone, CCRI

1) Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was held on Monday, November 9, 2015 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 401, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 8:49 am on a motion by Lynn Blanchette and seconded by Maria Ducharme. Motion carried.

Chief Legal Counsel, Jane Morgan, read the “Roberts rules” for Board elections and instructed pro tempore Secretary Diane Blier to hold elections for officers.

PRESIDENT: Jessica Brier: motion made by Maria Pezzillo, seconded by Kathleen Heren

VICE PRESIDENT: Lynn Blanchette: motion made by Diane Blier, seconded by Jessica Brier

SECRETARY: Diane Blier: motion made by Jessica Brier, seconded by Kathleen Heren

All motions were accepted unanimously by the Board. Newly elected President Jessica Brier directed the meeting going forward.

2) Presentation of the October 5, 2015 Open Session Meeting Minutes

The October 5, 2015 minutes were reviewed and two minor edits were requested to 3(f) and 4(b). Motion was made by Lynn Blanchette and seconded by Maria Ducharme to accept the minutes as amended. The Board voted unanimously to approve the amended Open Session minutes. Motion carried.

3) NURSING DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

a) Welcome new Board members:

In light of five (5) new members being appointed to the Board each member was asked to introduce themselves, identify the seat they represented and give a brief background on their experience and qualifications.

b) Distribute the *Journal of Nursing Regulation* Volume 6, Issue 3, October 2015:

Each member received a copy.

c) Distribute the 2016 scheduled meetings for Board of Nursing:

Each member received a copy and was asked to review the dates for 2016 in order to ensure quorums throughout the year.

d) Distribute NCLEX reports:

Director Clifton distributed the reports via US Mail to the nursing school deans.

Director Clifton advised the members of the Board to review the reports each quarter focusing on the percentage of each school with 80% or more being the standard per the Nurse Practice Act.

Director Clifton wanted the record to reflect that New England Tech and the University of Rhode Island’s action plans as presented to the Board earlier this year are effective as evidenced by the report.

- e) Discuss: RN assisting with a nerve block:

The Board received a letter asking “can an RN anesthesiologist with a nerve block? The anesthesiologist places the needle into the site and verifies placement by ultrasound. The RN would check for blood return and inject the medication into the placed needle with the anesthesiologist continuing to monitor the placement by ultrasound”.

The Board discussed possible scenarios in which an RN may be asked to assist with a nerve block and who would be ultimately responsible should something go wrong.

A motion was made by Maria Ducharme and seconded by Lynn Blanchette that as long as it is within the scope of the nurse’s practice and if it is within the facility’s policy that an RN may assist with a nerve block then the RN may do so.

- f) Review of approved nursing licenses for September and October 2015

The list of recently approved RN licenses was distributed for all members to review.

4) Reports from the work groups of the Board of Nursing

- a) Task Force on Education, Lead: Maria Pezzillo:

The task force will meet again to review the nursing school annual reports.

- b) Task Force for Website improvement: Lead: Jessica Brier:

Joanne Matthew has been appointed to be the lead of this task. Chief Legal Counsel, Jane Morgan, advised that the Board should write to the Director of Health stating that the current website is not user friendly and outline the Board desired changes.

5) New Business and Public Comment:

- a) Donna Policastro: Discuss continuing education programs

Ms. Policastro informed the Board that the Governor’s Overdose/Addiction Task Force is requesting that nurses be required to dedicate a specific number of their annual continuing education hours (CEUs) during each licensing cycle to substance abuse.

The Board is the authority that requires nurses to obtain ten (10) CEUs every two years (Section 8 of the Rhode Island Department of Health’s Rules and Regulations for Licensing Nurses). The Board could make a policy that requires two (2) of those CEUs be specifically related to substance abuse. Director Clifton stated that her office could forward letters to all licensed nurses advising them of this change before their next renewal period as well as send letters to the nursing unions and advisory groups. The Department could discuss this change in its “Health Connections” periodical sent to nurses. However, the change would not be fully executed until 2018 due to the bi-annual renewal period.

A motion was made by Lynn Blanchette and seconded by Kathleen Heren to require all nurses renewing their license in 2017 and 2018 be required to have two (2) CEUs specifically related to substance abuse. Motion carried.

The Board also discussed the possibility of requiring a specific number of CEUs be dedicated to infection control (i.e. Ebola). This issue was tabled until the Board meets with Director Alexander-Scott.

b) Jeanne McColl: Discuss CCRI's continuing education program

Ms. McColl emailed the Board's Director, Margaret Clifton, stating that the Community College of Rhode Island Nursing Program would like to become a continuing education provider thereby being able to offer Rhode Island nurses a local program. Ms. McColl was not in attendance at this meeting. The Board will reach out to Ms. McColl for clarification on what she is seeking to do (i.e. refresher course, continuing education courses). Ms. McColl will be invited to the December Board meeting to discuss this matter further.

6) Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Joanne Matthew and seconded by Maria Pezzillo to adjourn to Closed Session at 10:33 am. Motion carried. President Brier read the following:

Pursuant to Sections § 42-46-4 and § 42-46-5(a)(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for the purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure. Said individuals have been notified in advance by writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting.

Pursuant to Sections § 42-46-4 and § 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

7) Return to Open Session

Motion was made by Joanne Matthew and seconded by Kathleen Heren to re-open the Open Session and to seal the Minutes of the Closed Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Motion carried.

8) Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

The Board proposed action on nine (9) cases.

9) Adjournment

The next Board of Nursing Registration and Nursing Education meeting will be held Monday, December 14, 2015 at 8:45 am at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 401, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Joanne Matthew and seconded by Maria Ducharme to adjourn at 3:35 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly McNulty
Chief Implementation Aide
Legal Services