



DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSING REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION
3 Capitol Hill, Conference Room 401, Providence, RI 02908

December 11, 2017
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Wendy Chicoine
Maria Ducharme
Joan Flynn (*departed at 11:30 a.m.*)
Gillian Grant
Kathleen Heren
Diane Martins
Karen Matook
Maria Pezzillo
Maria Ross
Betty Sadaniantz
Sylvia Weber

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Jessica Brier

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Margaret Clifton, Director of Nursing
Kimberly McNulty, Case Manager
Linda Tetu Mouradjian, Compliance Officer
Julie Sacks, Senior Legal Counsel
Lisa Bortolotti, Legal Counsel

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Darlene Noret, NEIT
Jeanne McColl, CCRI
Mary Barlas, LTI

1) **Establishment of a quorum**

A meeting of the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was held on Monday, December 11, 2017, 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 8:46 am.

2) **Presentation of the October 16, 2017 Open Session Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for the October 16, 2017 were reviewed, typographical edits were discussed and agreed upon, a Motion was made by Joan Flynn and seconded by Gillian Grant to accept the October 16, 2017, minutes once the edits were made, all in favor, Motion carried.

3) BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

➤ SCOPE OF PRACTICE Questions:

a. LPNs – Telephone Verbal Orders:

The Board was asked for clarification on whether or not an LPN can take a verbal or telephone order. The Board discussed several scenarios in which verbal orders occur and agreed it is a facility policy and each institution should have its own policy which the Board would support.

b. Removal of Intrajugular and Subclavian by RNs in the ICU:

The Board was asked if it has a position on the removal of intrajugular and subclavian lines by RNs in the ICU. The Board agreed that the removal of intrajugular and subclavian lines by RN is an institutional policy and that RNs must have the appropriate training before being instructed to do so.

c. Nursing Interns working outside of school:

The Board is being asked for guidance about nursing students working within a facility as an intern. The Board discussed various scenarios in which a student could gain necessary training during such an internship. The student would serve as a “shadow” or second set hands to an RN within the facility and work under their supervision. However, it was agreed that if a nursing intern worked directly with patients then it is necessary for the intern to be licensed as a Certified Nurse Assistant (C.NA) and only do work that falls within the scope of practice for the license.

4) NURSING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. RULES AND REGULATIONS:

i. C.NA Medical Technicians giving Medications in the Home Environment:

Director Clifton presented the Board with the following statement:

“There is a consensus in the RIDOH team that the home-administration of routine medications by nursing assistants which are pre-packaged by pharmacists and clearly identified would be an acceptable revision to the current regulation. This practice would necessarily be conducted only under the indirect supervision of a registered nurse, and yes, Scheduled II controlled substances, injections, and central line maintenance would not be allowed.”

The Board strongly disagrees and believes this would be out of the scope of practice for nursing assistants. The Board stated this would be in the scope of practice for a licensed practical nurse due to their training. An RN cannot indirectly supervise a C.NA giving such medications and direct supervision is the best practice should any issues arise from the administration of such medications.

Accordingly, a Motion was made by Wendy Chicoine and seconded by Diane Martins stating that the Board's position is that C.NAs should not be allowed to administer medications in the home environment with indirect supervision of a registered nurse.

ii. Transfer to Inactive List – Reinstatement Section 9.1.1:

Upon review of the current Nursing Regulations, Director Clifton advised the Board that Section 9.1.1 of the Nursing Regulations states:

Should a nurse resume practice at some future time, he or she will so notify the Department, remit the renewal fee, sign a statement attesting to the completion of the above continuing education requirements for the period during which the license was inactive [i.e., five (5) hours per year] or a re-entry program approved by the Board, and upon approval of the Board, the license shall be reinstated in accordance with the provision of § 6.0 of these Regulations.

This regulation requires a nurse submit five additional CEUs for each year their license was inactive. Currently Rhode Island does not offer a “refresher” program. The Board discussed the importance of continuing education for nurses reentering the field and voted to keep this sub-section within the Regulations.

Motion was made by Maria Ducharme and seconded by Maria Ross to keep Section 9.1.1 in the Nursing Regulations.

b. Puerto Rican Nurses taking NCLEX in USA:

Director Clifton advised the Board that this question was originally posed due to the loss of services in Puerto Rico due to damage from the hurricane. However, because testing centers have now reopened in Puerto Rico this question is moot.

5) Public Comment

➤ Director Clifton discussed the status of the Nursing Compact in Rhode Island and throughout the country. Currently Rhode Island will not be a part of the new compact as of January 18, 2018; the National Council will present a Bill to RI’s legislature to gain support to join.

6) Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Karen Matook and seconded by Sylvia Weber to adjourn to Closed Session at 9:40 am. Motion carried. Vice President Sadaniantz 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.

Return to Open Session

Motion was made Sylvia Weber and seconded by Kathy Heren to re-open the Open Session at 2:03 p.m. 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.

7) Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

The Board proposed action on fifteen (15) cases.

8) Adjournment

The next Board of Nursing Registration and Nursing Education meeting will be held Monday, January 8, 2018 at 8:45 am at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 401, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Sylvia Weber and seconded by Kathy Heren to adjourn at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly McNulty
Case Manager

Margaret Clifton, RN-BC, MS, CLNC
Director, Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education