

NURSING ASSISTANT ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

OPEN SESSION

March 9, 2010

The Open Session of the Nursing Assistant Advisory Board was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on the above date in Room 104, Rhode Island Department of Health, 3 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

Jamie A. Beauregard

Kathleen A. Butterfield

Michele Carignan

Teresa Chopoorian

Alice Frezza

Lourdes V. Pichardo

Donna M. Policastro

Irene A. Qi

Laurie Salum

Beverly A. St. Onge

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

David P. Jasinski

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Donna Valletta, Board Administrator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

None

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Donna Valletta called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. A quorum was established at this time.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION OF January 12, 2010

Donna Valletta presented the Minutes of the Open Session of January 12, 2010. On motion of Donna Policastro, seconded by Teresa Chopoorian, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as presented.

3. BOARD ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Donna Valletta reminded the Nursing Assistant Advisory Board

(Board) that there would be an increase in the examination fees. Pearson VUE, as administrator of the examination program, will be notifying the Nursing Assistant Training Program coordinators of the upcoming change and will revise the exam application form and Rhode Island Nursing Assistant Candidate Handbook accordingly.

Donna distributed a current list of Nursing Assistant Training Programs, which is given to individuals inquiring on program locations. Michele Carignan expressed concern with the number of interested students pursuing Nursing Assistant Training Programs. The Department does not promote a specific program and/or location; the Department advises interested individuals to contact the programs directly to inquire on program availability, hours and cost.

Donna Valletta distributed a copy of the Quarterly Training Program Reports from the NNAAP administration periods of October 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Donna has requested 2007, 2008, and 2009 annual report data from Pearson VUE, which will be presented at the next Board meeting for review and discussion.

The Nursing Assistant application process and the review of those individuals with a criminal background was discussed; the Board expressed concern with the current process of only requiring a Rhode Island background check rather than a national inquiry. Donna Valletta advised the Board that a letter was sent to hospitals, long term and assisted living facilities to remind the facility

administrators of the upcoming renewal of those Nursing Assistants whose licenses expire on June 30, 2010.

As requested by the Board, Donna distributed sample copies of Department Orders, reflecting recent disciplinary actions, i.e. Reprimand, Suspension and Revocation, which are public documents available on the Department's website.

Donna Valletta distributed a newsletter article entitled, "Feds Reassign Heads of Troubled Caregivers Database" and discussed the Department's responsibility of the timely posting of disciplinary actions to the Department's database and reporting such actions to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

Finally, Donna Valletta distributed a copy of the proposed bill, H 7512, which would permit "the administration of needles/injections, prescriptions and nonprescription medications" by Nursing Assistants to individuals who are homebound. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Board expressed their concerns and strong opposition to Helen Drew.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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 licensure and licensees, and investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

On motion of Donna Policastro, seconded by Beverly St. Onge, the Open Session was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Valletta

Board Administrator