

NURSING ASSISTANT ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

OPEN SESSION

May 11, 2010

The Open Session of the Nursing Assistant Advisory Board was called to order at 9:10 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

Michele Carignan

Teresa Chopoorian

Alice Frezza

David P. Jasinski

Donna M. Policastro

Irene A. Qi

Laurie Salum

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Jamie A. Beauregard

Kathleen A. Butterfield

Lourdes V. Pichardo

Beverly A. St. Onge

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Donna Valletta, Board Administrator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Barbara Forloney, MS, RN

Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Donna Valletta called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was established at this time.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION OF March 9, 2010

Donna Valletta presented the Minutes of the Open Session of March 9, 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 acknowledged Nurse's Day to all and acknowledged Teresa Chopoorian as the award recipient of the "Nurse of the Year in a non-traditional setting." Donna Policastro, Executive Director of RISNA, provided an overview of the various awards, candidate nominations and selection, and the recent event to celebrate honorees.

Donna Valletta distributed a copy of Pearson VUE's letter, dated March 29, 2010, to the Rhode Island Nursing Assistant Training Program Coordinators and accompanying Application for Registration by Examination form and the revised Rhode Island Nursing Assistant Candidate Handbook, dated June 2010. The documents each reflect the increase in the examination fees, effective June 1, 2010. Copies of the application and handbook are available by contacting Pearson VUE's Customer Service Department or CCRI or via Pearson VUE's website, www.pearsonvue.com.

The Nursing Assistant Advisory Board and our guest, Barbara Forloney, discussed concerns relative to the content of the handbook, specifically the sample test, which is studied and memorized by Nursing Assistant candidates. The concern is that the handbook, when used as a study guide, may not truly reflect the aptitude and skills of the individual.

A concern was expressed once again with the number of interested students pursuing Nursing Assistant Training Programs. Also,

concerns relative to a candidate's age, education, language proficiency, and training program instruction were discussed. The concerns shared are that some of the Nursing Assistants whom are entering the workforce do not appear to be adequately prepared for their responsibilities and scope of services.

Donna Valletta advised that Pearson VUE has scheduled a skills evaluator review session on June 7, 2010 at CCRI's Lincoln campus and presented the proposed agenda. Donna and three board members will be attending.

Donna Valletta advised the Board of the upcoming renewal of those Nursing Assistants whose licenses expire on June 30, 2010.

Finally, Donna Policastro informed the board that 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, has been canceled.

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 Teresa Chopoorian, seconded by David Jasinski, the Open Session was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Valletta

Board Administrator