

Sallie Beth Todd, Chairperson of the South Carolina State Board of Nursing, called the September 2024 meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. on September 26, 2024. Public notice was properly posed at the Board offices, as well as on its website. A copy was provided to all requesting persons, organizations and news media agencies in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act. A quorum was present at all times.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

All Board Members are present. No motion made.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

BOARD MINUTES

Motion to approve May 2024 and July 2024 Minutes with changes as noted. Motion carried.

EDUCATION APPEARANCES

The Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce: Dr. Susan Deane appeared before the Board representing the Program. Dr. Deane submitted a written report in advance of the meeting, which was made available to the Board for their review and discussion during the meeting.

Motion to accept the information as presented. Motion carried.*

Motion to limit participation to nurses without disciplinary history. Motion carried.*

ReNurse Academy: Dr. Brittany Faison appeared before the Board representing the Program. Dr. Faison submitted a written report in advance of the meeting, which was made available to the Board for their review and discussion during the meeting. The Advisory Committee on Nursing Education (ACONE) recommended approval of the Program.

Motion to approve the ReNurse Academy for utilization in South Carolina for both the RN and LPN Refresher Courses with the stipulation that nurses with disciplinary action have to utilize 50% in-person or 100 % in-person clinical hours. Motion carried.*

Marion County School of Practical Nursing: Ms. Misty Owens appeared before the Board representing the Program in response to their request for continued faculty exemption. Ms. Owens stated that they are in the process of hiring a BSN prepared RN for the adjunct clinical faculty position, but that they are requesting continued exemption for the current faculty member so that she can fill in if needed.

Motion to grant the request for one year. Motion carried.

Bob Jones University: Dr. Megan Lanpher appeared before the Board representing Bob Jones University's Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in regards to their request for a faculty exemption for a BSN prepared RN to teach didactic nursing content. The faculty member has a Master's Degree in Healthcare Simulation and is seeking a PhD in Healthcare Professions Education. The request was previously before the ACONE at their April 2024 meeting, at which time the ACONE voted in a split decision to recommend approval of the request. The Program is accredited by CCNE through June 2028 and their year-to-date NCLEX score is 97.5%. The Program submitted a written request with materials which was made available to the Board for their review in advance of the meeting and discussed in further detail during the appearance.

Motion to approve the faculty member's continued work in simulation, but before approval to expand her teaching to other courses, a reappearance before the Board is required with documentation and syllabi of her education coursework and also syllabi and information of the courses that she will be teaching and the faculty member must appear at that time. Motion carried.*

Newberry College: Dr. Jenny Lindler, Dr. Jerry Alewine, Dr. Emily Livingston, Ms. Edwina Hallman, and Ms. Donna Elsenheimer appeared before the Board representing Newberry College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in a follow-up to a previous appearance for NCLEX deficiency. In January 2023, the Program was cited for deficient 2022 NCLEX scores. The Program appeared before the Board at their March 2023 meeting at which time the Board accepted the information presented. In January 2024, the Program was cited for deficient 2023 NCLEX scores. The Program again appeared before the Board at their March 2024 meeting at which time the Board ordered that the Board approval status be lowered from full Board approval to conditional Board approval with a reappearance at their September 2024 meeting. The Program is nationally accredited through the CCNE through June 2026 and the year-to-date NCLEX score is 86.96%. The Program provided a summary letter regarding their updated action plan which was provided to the Board for their review in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Lindler discussed the action plan and noted key improvements included all senior level nursing students participating in the Archer Live Review, which is a three-day live review. Dr. Lindler discussed grants that were received which allowed the Program to expand and update their simulation equipment. Dr. Lindler then discussed the annual boot camp for incoming students that took place in August 2024 and included seminars on test taking strategies and managing test-taking anxiety. Dr. Lindler then noted that an adjunct faculty member was hired to support the growing student body and that the Program was currently seeking a new full-time faculty position for the Spring 2025 semester. Dr. Lindler further stated that the Program remains steadfast in their commitment to improve their NCLEX pass rates and will continue the initiatives as noted with future cohorts and stated that the Program continues to attract a large number of students with the average GPA at 3.5.

The Board then requested follow-up information regarding the Archer Live Review and follow-up with the three students who were unsuccessful on their first attempt. Dr. Lindler noted that she met with all three students and as follow-up to those conversations she brought in a licensed psychiatrist to review test-taking strategies as well as test-taking skills with ATI. The Board inquired about how often the faculty gets together to plan and review the Program's needs. Dr. Lindler then discussed the Program's partnership with ATI and the data review and analysis that they provide which is reviewed as a faculty. The Board further inquired about student feedback regarding use of ATI and

Dr. Lindler stated that while the students are in the Program, they do not like it because of the increased workload but that once they have graduated and passed the NCLEX they feel like it prepared them to do so. The Board the asked for further information about study skills both in the Program as well as the pre-nursing curriculum and Dr. Lindler stated that has been her main focus throughout the Program including the College Life Class in the freshmen year. Dr. Lindler then discussed the incorporation of NCLEX preparation and studying skills into the prerequisite classes. The Board further asked for specific examples of ways that students are encouraged to reduce their test-taking anxiety and Dr. Linder stated that the Program tries to mimic the NCLEX experience as closely as possible, including restricting materials in the classroom during testing, as well as a restriction on food, beverages, and bathroom breaks to mimic the experience as closely as possible. Dr. Lindler then noted that beginning in their junior year, the Program begins building stamina with the number of questions on the exams so that students can get to the point where they can sit for all of the NCLEX questions. Dr. Lindler then discussed testing in ATI which includes Next Gen style questions with case studies all in an effort to incorporate test preparation from day one to help students not be as anxious when they are taking the NCLEX. In closing, Dr. Lindler discussed the ATI live review and the requirement to receive the green light to test with a 93% or higher probability of passing the NCLEX in order to be endorsed by the Program.

Motion to remain in conditional Board approval status with a reappearance in September 2024 for an update on their NCLEX results at that time. Motion carried.*

The Citadel: Dr. Kim Subasic and Dr. Darin Zimmerman appeared before the Board representing The Citadel's Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in a follow-up to a previous appearance for NCLEX deficiency. The Program was granted initial Board approval in September 2016 and graduated its first cohort of students in 2019. The Program has been cited for deficient pass rates from 2019 through 2022. In September 2020 the Program appeared before the Board and at that time the Board ordered a change in approval status from initial to conditional. In January 2023 the Board ordered that the Program would remain in conditional status with a reappearance at their July 2023 meeting and verbalized a strong warning of concern at that time. At their July 2023 meeting, the Board noted the Program's success and ordered that the approval status would remain conditional at that time with a reappearance in July 2024. The Program is accredited through CCNE through June 2034 and the year-to-date NCLEX score is 75.9%. Dr. Subasic stated that since she joined the Program in the Summer of 2021, every aspect of the Program has been reviewed, reevaluated and recreated with faculty changes and reinstatement of study habits for students including mandatory study hours for two hours every Tuesday evening. Dr. Subasic then discussed the monitored study sessions, which are split with one session containing freshmen through juniors and the other session containing senior year students. Dr. Subasic noted that the senior year session is like a Kaplan review session in which integrated exams are reviewed, and students retake previous exams to measure their growth. Dr. Subasic stated that while the Program still uses Kaplan for senior students, they have adopted ATI this year as well for sophomore and junior year students. Dr. Subasic then explained that while their small class sizes are a detriment when calculating the pass-rate, but that all of their students were successful passing by their second attempt. Dr. Subasic then stated that their small class sizes are beneficial for tracking students and noted that of the 127 students who have graduated from the Program 74% are registered nurses working in the state of South Carolina, with 10% of their graduates going into the military as nurses, 10% who are registered nurses in other areas, and only six students unaccounted for at this time.

The Board praised Dr. Subasic and the Program for their leadership and growth and expressed understanding of the unique needs and learning experiences of the Cadets. The Board then inquired about what students do for NCLEX prep in their final semester. Dr. Subasic explained that they follow Kaplan integrated exams throughout the school year and then in the final semester there is an on-site three-day course review. Dr. Subasic then further detailed the mandatory weekly study sessions which include predictor exams, the CAT exam, and computer adaptive testing. If students get an incorrect answer they are required to remediate and provide the rationale for why they answered the question incorrectly. Dr. Subasic then discussed the four-hour open lab time that is scheduled with the Program's skills coordinator for every Med Surg course outside of student's regular clinical expectations. The Board then inquired whether the CAT exam included Next Gen NCLEX style questions and Dr. Subasic explained that while the Kaplan package was comprehensive and similar to ATI, the Program did not feel like the Kaplan was accurately predicting the first-time test results. Dr. Subasic and the Board discussed circumstances such as sickness and accidents that happen last-minute and cause students to be unable to pass on their first attempt and how nurse educators can convey to students the need to reschedule the test if circumstances change. The Board then inquired about the Program's recent CCNE reaccreditation and whether the pass-rate had been an issue for the surveyors. Dr. Subasic answered that both NLN and CCNE have multiple avenues to produce pass-rates and due to the date of the survey they were able to use their most recent data at that time of 86.6%. The Board also inquired about the faculty numbers and composition and Dr. Subasic stated that there are seven full-time faculty at this time in addition to adjunct faculty members as well and discussed certifications and continuing education opportunities for faculty members. Dr. Subasic then detailed plans for an onsite conference for faculty members in December which will include adjunct faculty members as well. The Board also inquired about the admission cap for the Program and Dr. Subasic discussed the current caps of 24 for Cadets and 32 for the evening students, with a current combined total of 20 between the two. Finally, the Board and Dr. Subasic discussed the science courses, remediation throughout the Program, the student nursing association, the availability of tutoring, and the accommodations that the College has made to allow all nursing Cadets to be in the same battalion and to offer priority class registration.

Motion to accept the report as presented, for the Program to remain in conditional Board approval status, with a return before the Board at their September 2025 meeting. Motion carried.*

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College: Dr. Melissa Black, Ms. Susan Chavis, and Mr. Kim Huff appeared before the Board representing Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College's Associate Degree in Nursing Program in a follow-up to a previous appearance for NCLEX deficiency. In January 2022, the Program was cited for deficient 2021 NCLEX scores. The Program was before the Board at their May 2022 meeting, at which time the Board accepted the information as presented. In January 2023, the Program was cited for deficient 2022 NCLEX scores. The Program again appeared before the Board at their March 2023 meeting at which time the Board accepted the information as presented and ordered a reappearance at the September 2023 meeting. At the September 2023 meeting the Board again accepted the information presented and ordered a reappearance at the September 2024 meeting. The Program is nationally accredited through ACEN through Spring 2027 and the year-to-date pass rate is 91.5%. The Program submitted a written report in advance of the meeting which was made available for the Board's review.

Dr. Black stated that 2023 was a busy year for the Program with appearances before the Board in March and September and that that time the Program had begun changes throughout the Program

that are coming to fruition and will continue to be monitored. Dr. Black discussed the 60% pass-rate at the beginning of 2023 and how as a result of the changes that had begun the Program ended the year with an 85.1% pass rate. Dr. Black then referred to the written which outlines the changes that have been incorporated and continue. Dr. Black also discussed the admissions criteria and the goal for students to come into the Program college ready and set up for success. Dr. Black further discussed the incorporation of ATI in the Program. Dr. Black then detailed the use of at-home proctored testing through ExamSoft and the benefit of being able to review those videos and see the test stress to help identify those students with testing anxiety so that resources can be provided to assist. Dr. Black discussed the incorporation of TrackPrep as an evidence-based clinical evaluation tool to provide realtime feedback to students and UbiSim to help enhance clinical experiences as well. Dr. Black introduced members of the College's administration that were present and detailed the support received from administration including the ability to hire faculty and the priority to improve the success of students and faculty. Dr. Black provided information on the two certificate programs that will begin in the coming academic year which were created by the Health Sciences Department to provide all of the prerequisites needed to identify students love of nursing and provide the help needed to be successful in the Program.

The Board inquired about feedback received from students who were unsuccessful at their first attempt and Dr. Black discussed feedback that has been received and the follow-up conversations with ATI to incorporate that feedback. Dr. Black stated that they have realized that a more formalized remediation plan is needed for struggling students and that the Program plans to incorporate that in the upcoming year. Dr. Black and Ms. Chavis then discussed the three-day ATI live review and the use of the ATI Comp Predictor, as well as the HESI Exit Exam. Ms. Chavis discussed the data received from the HESI exam and the correlation between that percentage and success on the NCLEX. Ms. Chavis then discussed the incorporation of test-taking skills and anxiety reducing strategies from day one of the Program including the Success Coach hired by the College and housed in the nursing building. Ms. Chavis described the availability for mental health services for all students to additionally help with anxiety and other factors that may contribute to struggles both in the Program and in testing. Ms. Chavis then explained why the decision was made to incorporate at-home testing and how it has been beneficial in reducing test taking anxieties and contributed to student success. Dr. Black then discussed the incorporation of trauma-based education into the Program so that faculty can better understand student circumstances and how to better support students and highlighted that as faculty members are nurses empathy is built into the Program. Ms. Chavis followed up by saying that the faculty are their cheerleaders and that students are not afraid to talk to them. The Board then asked about the admission requirements as well as the time limit for accepting science courses and Dr. Black responded that the admission GPA was increased from 2.0 to 2.5 and that the Program mirrored The University of South Carolina's time seven-year limit for science prerequisites. The Board also asked about having prior students come back to talk to current students and Ms. Chavis stated that she will have senior students address her classes for support and encouragement and also described nursing tutors who are prior students currently employed in nursing. The Board again praised the Program and faculty for all of the measures taken to holistically support students and the impact that will be felt in their community at large as a result.

Motion to accept the information as presented and congratulate the school. Motion carried.*

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW REPORT:

The Administrator Review Report was presented for the Board's approval. Cases on this report are recommended either for Dismissal or a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution. Conducted in Closed Session.

Motion to approve the recommendation for dismissal for 2023-242. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the recommendation for issuance of a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution for case 2023-582. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the recommendation for issuance of a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution for case 2023-317. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the recommendation for issuance of a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution for case 2020-400.

Dr. Whitcomb was recused from cases 2023-582 and 2023-317. Dr. Whitcomb and Ms. Mitcham were recused from case 2020-400. A quorum was maintained at all times and Dr. Whitcomb and Ms. Mitcham returned to the meeting upon completion of the Report.

ODC STATISTICAL REPORT:

Assistant Disciplinary Counsel, Tina Brown, reviewed the Statistical Report. No motions were made.

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS:

Respondents appeared before the Board to determine disciplinary actions. Hearings are conducted in Closed Session to meet the statutory requirement that disciplinary actions remain confidential.

2021-134: The Respondent was before the Board for a Final Order Hearing and was previously before the Board of Nursing Hearing Panel. A report has been issued by the Hearing Panel with recommendations regarding violations of the Nurse Practice Act and disciplinary sanction. The Board had an opportunity to review the evidence presented during the full evidentiary hearing as well as the recommendation of the Panel.

Motion to accept the Final Order Recommendation and Report of the State Board of Nursing Panel as recommended. Motion carried.*

Ely Grote served as Advice Counsel for this appearance. Ms. Flannery returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the hearing.

2021-558: Respondent appeared before the Board having executed a Memorandum of Agreement for the purpose of determining disciplinary sanction.

Motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement with issuance of the following disciplinary sanctions: issuance of a private reprimand; acceptance of the coursework already completed; payment of investigative costs of \$450 due within six months of the date of the Order; and other terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board. Motion carried.*

2021-338: Respondent appeared before the Board having executed a Memorandum of Agreement for the purpose of determining disciplinary sanction.

Motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement with issuance of the following disciplinary sanctions: issuance of a private reprimand; payment of investigative costs of \$120; and other terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board. Motion carried.*

Dr. Whitcomb was recused from this matter and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the hearing.

2023-496: Respondent appeared before the Board having executed a Memorandum of Agreement for the purpose of determining disciplinary sanction.

Motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement with issuance of the following disciplinary sanctions: permanent revocation of licensure for the following reasons: failure to comply with the facility's Medication Administration Policy and Procedure; failure to properly report a medication error; and failure to intervene after adverse effects became apparent, all of these actions contributing to the death of a patient. Motion carried.*

2022-482: The Respondent requested a continuance, which was granted.

THE RECOVERING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM:

Program Director Tia Cooper and Special Counsel Robyn Madden appeared before the Board to request feedback about challenges to level of care recommendations from Program participants.

Motion to require Program participants to comply with treatment recommendations or to follow current RPP protocol which includes a reevaluation before those challenges may be heard by the Internal Review Committee. Motion carried.

Motion to add testing for Propofol/Diprivan to their testing requirements for CRNAs enrolled in the Program. Motion carried.*

Ms. Mitcham left the meeting at the conclusion of this appearance. A quorum was maintained at all times.

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS CONTINUED:

2022-293: This case was before the Board for a Final Order Hearing and was previously before the Board of Nursing Hearing Panel. A report has been issued by the Hearing Panel with recommendations regarding violations of the Nurse Practice Act and disciplinary sanction. The Board had an opportunity to review the evidence presented during the full evidentiary hearing as well as the recommendation of the Panel. The Respondent was not present for the Final Order Hearing. After first determining that proper notice was provided to the Respondent, the Board proceeded with the hearing.

Motion to accept the Hearing Panel's recommendation. Motion carried.

Dr. Whitcomb left the meeting at the conclusion of this appearance as he was recused from the final appearance of the day. A quorum was maintained at all times.

2023-329: This case was before the Board for a Final Order Hearing and was previously before the Board of Nursing Hearing Panel. A report has been issued by the Hearing Panel with recommendations regarding violations of the Nurse Practice Act and disciplinary sanction. The Board had an opportunity to review the evidence presented during the full evidentiary hearing as well as the recommendation of the Panel. The Respondent was not present for the Final Order Hearing. After first determining that proper notice was provided to the Respondent, the Board proceeded with the hearing.

Motion to accept the Hearing Panel's recommendation. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn for the evening at 6:39 p.m.

The Board had originally planned to meet for a second day on September 27th, however due to the impact of Hurricane Helene which moved through the area early that morning, all government agencies were closed and the meeting was cancelled. All business before the Board for that date will be rescheduled.

**Indicates that the Board entered into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal counsel. No official actions were taken while in Executive Session.*