



South Carolina Board of Nursing

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JULY 25-26, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Sallie Beth Todd, Chairperson of the South Carolina State Board of Nursing, called the July 2024 meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. on July 25, 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.

Member	Representing		BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT & VOTING
Bridget Enos, DNP, APRN, FNP-C	1 st Congressional District	Present	
Frances Pagett, RN	2 nd Congressional District	Present	
John Whitcomb, PhD, RN, CCRN, FCCM	3 rd Congressional District	Present	
Sallie Beth Todd, RN, MSN-Ed	Board of Nursing Chair 4 th Congressional District	Present	
Samuel McNutt, RN, CRNA, MHSA	Board of Nursing Vice- Chair 5 th Congressional District	Present	
Bridget J. Holder, DNP, RNC-MNN, C-ONQS	6 th Congressional District	Present	
Leslie Lyerly, RN	7 th Congressional District	Present	
Melissa May-Engel, LPN	At-Large, LPN	Present	
Robert J. Wolff, PhD	Board of Nursing Secretary Public Member	Present	
Lindsey Mitcham	Public Member	Present	
Vacancy	At-Large, LPN	Vacant	

Carol Moody, Board Executive, Board of Nursing	LLR STAFF PRESENT
Megan Flannery, Advice Counsel for the Board of Nursing	
Peter Kubas, Nurse Education Consultant	
Mindy Carithers, Nurse Practice Consultant & Compliance Manager	
Shannon Stricklin, Office of Compliance Administrative Coordinator	
Tierra Sims, Office of Compliance	
Jennifer Mitchell, Board of Nursing Administrative Coordinator	
Tina Brown, Assistant Disciplinary Counsel	
Sherri Butterbaugh, Assistant Disciplinary Counsel	
Bianca Smith, Lead Investigator	
Ashley East, Lead Investigator	
Tina Behles, Court Reporter	

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 defer Minutes. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS & ANNOUNCEMENT OF NCLEX SCORES

Chairperson Todd welcomed new Board Members Dr. Bridget Enos, Ms. Frances Pagett, Dr. John Whitcomb, Ms. Leslie Lyerly, and Ms. Melissa May-Engel.

Chairperson Todd then praised nursing educators in an announcement that, per the second quarter NCLEX scores that came out at the end of June 2024, South Carolina was in the top five in the nation for first-time RN examinations and in the top ten in the nation for first-time PN examinations.

EDUCATION APPEARANCES

Fortis College: Ms. Hope Fox appeared before the Board representing Fortis College's Practical Nursing Program in regards to their request for initial Board approval status. The Program was previously before the Board at their July 2023 Board meeting at which time the Board accepted the Advisory Committee on Nursing Education's (ACONE) recommendation for approval of the Feasibility Study and granted approval for development. The Program has submitted a Self Study in accordance with regulation and the Program was surveyed by Nurse Education Consultant, Peter Kubas, and members of the Board's Site Survey team in April 2024. The Program then appeared before the ACONe at their June 2024 meeting at which time the Committee voted to recommend approval. Mr. Kubas noted that the Survey, Survey Report, and Survey Responses were provided to Board Members in advance of the meeting and that two of the items noted in the Survey Report were corrected on site at the time of the survey. Ms. Fox stated that the Program hopes to begin in October 2024 with an initial cohort of 16 students with plans to increase to 48 students in the future. Ms. Fox noted that in addition to the citations that were corrected while Mr. Kubas and the Site Survey team were conducting the survey, all findings have been corrected and discussed updates to the curriculum, syllabi, and student handbook. Ms. Fox then discussed the importance of soft skills and how that has been woven into the development of the Program.

Motion to approve the request. Motion carried.

ECPI Columbia: Dr. Stephanie Stewart and Mr. Matthew Stein appeared before the Board representing ECPI Columbia's Practical Nursing Program in regards to a request for continued full Board approval status. The Program was previously before the Board in July 2018, at which time the Board granted full Board approval status for five years. The Program was surveyed in March 2024 and a Site Survey Report was provided to the Board. Mr. Kubas noted that all of the findings listed were corrected at the time of the visit. The Program was then before the ACONe at their June 2024 meeting at which time the ACONe voted to recommend continued approval. Dr. Stewart highlighted improvement in the Program's NCLEX Scores with Mr. Kubas stating that their year-to-date score is 93.62%.

Motion to grant full Board approval status. Motion carried.

Ms. Mitcham was recused from this appearance.

ECPI North Charleston: Ms. Jennifer Schlette and Mr. James Weaver appeared before the Board representing ECPI North Charleston's Associate Degree in Nursing Program in regard to the Program's request for continued Board approval status. The Program was previously before the Board at their November 2018 meeting, at which time the Board granted full approval status for five years. The Program was cited with deficient 2022 and 2023 NCLEX scores and last appeared before the Board in March 2024. At that time the Board lowered the approval status to conditional and ordered a reappearance at the September 2024 Board meeting. The Program was surveyed by Mr. Kubas and the Board's Site Survey team in April 2024 and then appeared before the ACONe at their June 2024 meeting, at which time the ACONe voted to recommend approval of the survey. Mr. Kubas noted that all findings noted in the Survey Report were corrected at the time of the visit and that the year-to-date NCLEX score is 90.2%. The Program requested to address the NCLEX deficiency follow-up at this appearance as well. Ms. Schlette discussed the plan of correction that was initially implemented in February 2023 and noted improvement since that time which included

four main areas of focused improvement. Ms. Schlette further discussed the process of identifying at-risk students and weekly tutoring for the remainder of the course and a seminar on test taking and anxiety, as well as the implementation of ATI test prep throughout the Program.

Motion to accept the Survey Report and for the Program to remain in conditional approval status with a return before the Board at their January 2025 meeting. Motion carried.*

Ms. Mitcham remained recused for this appearance as well and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion.

Laurel Institute of Technology: Dr. Michelle Borland and Ms. Christine Knouff appeared before the Board representing Laurel Institute of Technology in regards to their request to offer a Practical Nursing Program at their Fort Mill campus. The Program submitted a Feasibility Study which was reviewed by Mr. Kubas and the Board's Site Survey team. Mr. Kubas notes that the Survey team found one condition related to a clinical site for pediatrics experiences. Dr. Borland provided some background information on other campus locations noting that their other nursing programs all have a 100% NCLEX pass-rate. The Board inquired about the pediatrics clinical site and Dr. Borland provided an update on their clinical agreement with Celebree, which is a daycare and school, and provided additional information about the use of simulation in the Program. Dr. Borland then discussed techniques for anxiety management that have been implemented and noted the success of those tools.

Motion to accept the Feasibility Study and allow development of the Practical Nursing program at the Fort Mill campus. Motion carried.

Bob Jones University: The Board granted a continuance in this matter.

REFRESHER PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board requested that the ACONE review the list of Board approved Refresher Programs for the following: to ensure that the program is appropriate to prepare a nurse to return to work; to determine whether the Program is in-person classroom based or virtual; and to clarify whether the Program will accept someone who has prior discipline. The Board further requested that the ACONE identify additional programs to consider for Board approval to expand the list and give as much flexibility as possible to licensees, while ensuring the quality of the Program. Dr. Whitcomb served on the ACONE prior to his appointment to the Board and provided a summary of the Committee's findings.

Motion to request presentations from existing and potential Refresher Programs that use virtual clinicals. Motion carried.*

The Board then requested that Mr. Kubas reach out to AHEC regarding potential collaboration with a North Carolina Program.

USE OF SIMULATION IN PRE-LICENSURE NURSING PROGRAMS SIMULATION POSITION STATEMENT RECOMMENDED UPDATES

The Board requested that the ACONE review the Position Statement related to the use of simulation in pre-licensure nursing programs. Dr. Ruth Henderson and Dr. Kelly Russin appeared before the Board to present the Committee's findings. Dr. Russin stated that she worked with and Dr. Henderson and they requested feedback from every nursing school in the state in the review of the Position Statement. Dr. Henderson further stated that the suggested changes incorporate the most relevant research that is available now and the new International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) standard and recommendations from the Committee.

Motion to approve the suggested changes to the Use of Simulation in Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs Position Statement. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the suggested questions to be added to the Board's annual nursing program survey. Motion carried.

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.

2015-608: 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 the following disciplinary sanctions: license will remain in surrendered status with a public reprimand; completion of a Board Approved Refresher Course or successful completion of the NCLEX, and further terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board. Motion carried.*

2021-219: 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 a public reprimand and reinstatement of single-state licensure and the following disciplinary sanctions: completion of the following courses within six months of the date of the Order- Professional Boundaries, Professional Accountability, Righting a Wrong, and Professional Ethics. Additionally, the Respondent is not to work in a correctional institution or in behavioral health. Motion carried.*

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

2021-134: 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. In opening remarks, Respondent expressed that she would like to have the benefit of legal counsel for the appearance and requested a continuance.

Motion to grant continuance to allow Respondent to return before the Board with legal counsel. Motion carried.

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

2020-364 & 2021-144: 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 and Ms. May-Engel were recused from this matter and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the hearing.

2022-214: 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.

2022-566: Respondent previously executed a Memorandum of Agreement and the case is before the Board for a final resolution of the matter. A continuance was requested.

Motion to continue the case until further notice. Motion carried.

2022-405: 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 the following disciplinary sanctions: issuance of a public reprimand; reinstate license to active practice with conditions known to the Respondent and the Board; narcotics restriction at the discretion of the Director of Nursing; and no home-based care, staffing agency, telenursing, or telehealth. Motion carried.*

2023-644: 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 the following disciplinary sanctions: issuance of a public reprimand; reinstate license to active practice with conditions known to the Respondent and the Board; narcotics restriction at the discretion of the Director of Nursing; no home-based care, staffing agency, telenursing, or telehealth; and payment of investigative costs in the amount of \$125 due within six months of the date of the Order. Motion carried.*

2023-285: 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 the following disciplinary sanctions: issuance of a public reprimand; civil penalty of \$500 due with six months of the date of the Order; payment investigative costs in the amount of \$100 due with six months of the date of the Order; and completion of the following courses within six months of the date of the Order: Professional Ethics, Critical Thinking, and Legal Aspects. Motion carried.*

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

2023-297: 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 the following disciplinary sanctions: issuance of a public reprimand; suspension for one year immediately stayed upon probation for one year; quarterly reports from employer; civil penalty in the amount of \$500 due within one year of the date of the Order; payment of investigative costs in the amount of \$125 due within one year of the date of the Order; and completion of the following courses within six months of the date of the Order: Professional Accountability, Medication Error Prevention, Critical Thinking, and Professional Ethics. Motion carried.*

2016-752: This case was scheduled before the Board. The Respondent did not appear for the hearing. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel requested a continuance, which was granted. No motion was made.

Motion to adjourn for the evening at 4:46 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Todd called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 26, 2024. It is noted that a quorum was present at all times.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

All Board Members are present. No motion made.

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT:

Lead Investigators Ashley East and Bianca Smith presented the Investigative Review Conference Report for approval. *Conducted in Closed Session.*

Motion to approve 38 Dismissals. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 62 Formal Complaints. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 19 Letters of Caution. Motion carried.

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

Ms. East then presented the Statistical Report.

Ms. Smith presented a course that was requested by Investigative Review Conference members related to de-escalation training.

Motion to approve the de-escalation course. 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 accept the recommendation for case 2021-516. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the recommendation for case 2021-603. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the recommendation for case 2023-323. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the recommendation for cases 2023-229 and 2023-303. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The Board sent a communication to every licensee in late 2023 seeking nominations for the Hearing Panel, Investigative Review Conference, Expert Reviewers, members of the Advanced Practice Committee, members of the Nursing Practice and Standards Committee, and members of the Advisory Committee on Nursing Education. Due to overwhelming response to the request for nominations, the Board formed a workgroup at their last meeting to review nominations and make recommendations to the full Board. Dr. Wolff presented their recommendations.

Motion to accept Family Nurse Practitioners Dr. J'Wana Lee Torian and Ms. Lisa Mittie Wallace as Expert Reviewers. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Jennifer Crawford, Heidi Kline McCaulley, and Dr. Kellie Lavaun Middleton to the Investigative Review Conference. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Dr. J'Wana Lee Torian, Ms. Chanda Flynn, Ms. Charice Tramaine Jones, and Ms. Lisa Mittie Wallace to the Board's Hearing Panel. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Dr. Ruth Henderson, Dr. Elizabeth Harmon, and Dr. Ryan Crawford for the Advisory Committee on Nursing Education. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Dr. Kelli Garber for the Advanced Practice Committee. Motion carried.*
Dr. Whitcomb abstained from voting on this motion.

Motion to update the APC By-Laws from Adult Nurse Practitioner to Adult Gerontological Nurse Practitioner to reflect a change in the certification title. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Dr. Matthew VanDeventer for the Advanced Practice Committee. Motion carried.

2024 LICENSURE RENEWAL AUDIT

The Board requests that Board staff begin preparing for an audit of 2024 licensure renewals.

PRACTICE REPORT

Nurse Practice Consultant, Dr. Mindy Carithers, provided an update from the Nursing Practice and Standards Committee (NPSC).

Dr. Carithers presented the following Advisory Opinions, which have been reviewed with no changes recommended: AO #2, AO #19, AO #26, AO #33, AO #36, and AO #41.

Motion to approve the Advisory Opinions as presented. Motion carried.*

Dr. Carithers presented suggested changes to AO #3, AO #8, AO #44, and AO #49.

Motion to accept the changes to AOs # 3, 8, 44, and 49. Motion carried.

Dr. Carithers then presented a newly formed Advisory Opinion #78.

Motion to accept AO #78 with change as discussed. Motion carried.

Dr. Carithers also presented suggested changes to the Line Chart.

Motion to accept the changes. Motion carried.

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS CONTINUED:

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.

2020-74: 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 addendum as presented and the following disciplinary sanction: issuance of a private reprimand; payment of investigative costs in the amount of \$100 due within six months of the date of the Order; completion of the following courses within six months of the date of the Order- Critical Thinking and Nurse Documentation; and other terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board.
Motion carried.*

HEALTHCARE COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE:

The Healthcare Collaborative Committee is composed of representatives appointed by the Boards of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Medicine to collaborate on matters concerning member Boards. The Committee has not been called to meet for several years and the members who the Board had previously designated to represent them have now stepped down from the Committee. Ms. Flannery is requesting that the Board designate new members in advance of an anticipated need to meet later

in 2024. Board Chairperson Ms. Todd asked for volunteers and Dr. Whitcomb and Ms. Lyerly volunteered to represent the Board at HCC meetings. No motion was made.

BOARD EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Board Executive, Carol Moody, provided an update on the 2024 License Renewal and noted a decrease of 5,000 licensees across the various license types post renewal. Ms. Moody stated that licensees renew every other year and we typically see a loss of around 10,000 licensees post renewal. Ms. Moody noted that the total number of active licensees is 91,394, with 11,155 of those licensees being APRNs. Ms. Moody explained that the number of APRN licensees has more than doubled since she joined Board staff in 2017. Ms. Moody then provided further statistical information as well as an update on Board vacancies and reappointments. With the addition of the newly appointed Board Members, one vacancy for an LPN At-Large remains. Ms. Moody also provided an update on Board staff. Ms. Moody discussed the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) and APRN Compact updates and noted that Massachusetts has pending legislation to join the NLC in their current legislative session. The APRN Compact is still awaiting implementation once seven states and territories have joined with the current number of states at four of the seven required. Ms. Moody discussed upcoming NCSBN meetings, including the annual meeting in Chicago the last week of August and requested that Program Director Maggie Murdock be granted approval to attend.

Motion to allow Ms. Murdock to attend the Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois in August 2024.
Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

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