



South Carolina Board of Nursing

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NOVEMBER 21-22, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Sallie Beth Todd, Chairperson of the South Carolina State Board of Nursing, called the November 2024 meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. on November 21, 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	Excused	
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	
Tina Behles, Court Reporter	

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Motion to excuse Ms. Pagett. Motion carried.

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 the September 2024 Meeting Minutes with changes as noted. Motion carried.

EDUCATION APPEARANCES

Denmark Technical College: Ms. Karen Myers appeared before the Board representing Denmark Technical College's Practical Nursing Program in follow-up to their previous appearances before the Board regarding deficient NCLEX scores for 2020, 2021, and 2022. In January 2023, the Board ordered a downgrade of the Board Approval Status from full to conditional, verbalized a strong warning of concern, and ordered a reappearance at their July 2023 meeting. In July 2023, the Board accepted the information as presented and ordered the Program to remain in conditional status with a return before the Board at the January 2024 meeting. At that meeting, the Board ordered the Program to again remain in conditional status and to return in September 2024. The Program is not nationally accredited and the year-to-date NCLEX score is 100%.

The Program provided materials in advance of the meeting which were made available for the Board Members to review. Ms. Myers discussed the Continuous Improvement Plan and the actions that the Program has taken. Ms. Myers stated that the Program had gone through some staffing changes, had changed their competency testing system from Kaplan to ATI, had reviewed their admission requirements, and had instituted a remediation plan for assessments and clinical assignments. Ms. Myers further stated that the Program also instituted a boot camp at the end of the Program that compresses the Program from the beginning to the end into the two-week bootcamp. Ms. Myers explained that they look at each student individually and where each student was low in labs or ATI competency assessments and students work on those areas. Ms. Myers then reviewed the scheduling for the bootcamp, which is from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with weekend sessions available for students who need extra care.

Ms. Myers then discussed staffing and the two positions that are currently open, with one in the hiring process. Ms. Myers then went into further detail on the use of ATI throughout the Program, with the students having access to the full ATI package, onsite review, and virtual review. Ms. Myers then reviewed the initial requirements for admission into the Program, which remains the same for now, but is likely to increase for both the GPA requirement and the ATI TEAS Assessment Testing as the Program is in the candidacy phase of ACEN accreditation. Ms. Myers discussed the study sessions that have begun for the ATI TEAS in order to offer students additional help in any English or science areas that may need to be strengthened before entering the Program.

Ms. Myers then reviewed the remediation requirements for competency tests, which includes three days of review on their own and four days with an instructor. Ms. Myers additionally stated that for lab and nursing skills checklist remediation, students are given two weeks with one week of studying on their own and one week with an instructor inside of open lab before students re-test for that nursing skills assessment.

Next Ms. Myers discussed the use of games and movies, depending on the topic that is being discussed in class to help the content be cemented in their minds. Ms. Myers stressed the importance of learning the information for their future as a nurse caring for patients and not just for the purpose of testing. Ms. Myers discussed faculty professional development, evidence-based practice to improve curriculum, and the integration of ATI and the textbooks. Ms. Myers also discussed the end of course instructor surveys and stated that all have been from 95 to 100 percent. Ms. Myers further stated that the feedback from students who have taken the NCLEX within the past year was that the tests at school were much harder than the NCLEX, which was what the Program wanted to increase the students' comfort and confidence while taking the NCLEX.

The Board then inquired how the Program has incorporated Next Gen NCLEX (“Next Gen”) questions and Ms. Myers answered that the Program had a seminar for students when the Next Gen came out, which reviewed all of the types of questions that students may receive. Ms. Myers then discussed the workshop that faculty attended to both learn how to develop Next Gen style questions for their tests, and also how to teach students to answer that style of question including case study questions, reviewing the chart, and the process of elimination. The Board further inquired if the faculty for the pre-nursing requirements is strong and whether those faculty members are familiar with the Next Gen question types. Ms. Myers answered that she meets with the faculty for the nursing prerequisites twice a year, that she discussed APA format with the English instructors, and that she gave information to the biology instructor about the Next Gen questions and provides any updated information that is received about the Next Gen style questions as well. Ms. Myers further stated that the biology instructor participated in one of the workshops and incorporates those type of questions.

Motion to remain in conditional status with a return before the Board in September 2025.
Motion carried.* The Board also congratulated Ms. Myers and the Program for all of the changes that have been made.

Galen College of Nursing Myrtle Beach Campus: Dr. Stephanie Muminovic appeared before the Board representing the Galen College of Nursing Myrtle Beach Campus’ Associate Degree in Nursing Program in regards to their request for Full Board Approval Status. Per South Carolina Regulation, a nursing program must make application for full approval within six months following the taking of the NCLEX by the first graduating class. In accordance with regulation, the Program submitted a Self-Study for initial post-NCLEX site survey. The Program was surveyed by Nurse Education Consultant, Peter Kubas, and members of the Site Survey team on August 14-15, 2024 and the Program was then before the Advisory Committee on Nursing Education (ACONE) at their October 2024 meeting. At that time the ACONE recommended approval of the request. The Program is nationally accredited through ACEN until Spring 2028. The year-to-date NCLEX pass-rate is 89.33%, with 150 students testing. The Site Survey Report and materials received from the Program were made available in advance of the meeting for Board Members to review.

Dr. Muminovic stated that all findings and recommendations made during the survey visit have been addressed and revisions implemented, and referenced documentation provided to support that information. The Board then inquired about the passing score of 74% and expressed concerns that the score may be too low. Dr. Muminovic answered that only exams are scored with a percentage of passing and that all other aspects are pass/fail, except for in the transition course and that the College has used 74% across the nation for about 15 years with success. The Board further inquired about the Transition to Practice Course, which does not use preceptors. Dr. Muminovic detailed the faculty-led clinical sessions consisting of eight students maximum, which includes 144 hours, in 12-hour shifts. Dr. Muminovic explained that students begin assisting with care for two patients with the requirement to progress to three patients before completion of the course and that students assess, document, and pass medication just as they would if a preceptor was there. The Board then inquired if the faculty is on the floor evaluating, teach, and giving feedback during those hours and if there is a portfolio or something that shows what students have accomplished and the types of patients that they have cared for. Dr. Muminovic discussed the clinical packets that are completed during each of their 12-hour shifts which show what assessments and skills they have performed as well as how they performed the care plans. In follow-up to further questions from the Board, Dr. Muminovic explained that the students stay with the same faculty for the entire 144 hour course and that student hours are split between peds and OB experiences with students staying with one site for each of those experiences, without daily rotation. The Board further inquired about the pre-nursing courses and faculty in the different science areas. Dr. Muminovic answered that the College is nationwide and that arts and science faculty are nationwide, with most being full time faculty and some adjunct. She further explained that courses are completed online and that the faculty may be from another

campus and that faculty are vetted for the entire nation. The Board asked if that has been successful, particularly for the Anatomy & Physiology courses and Dr. Muminovic stated that in comparing students who transferred into the Program having taken their nursing prerequisites at other institutions and their own students who participate in online learning, their own students perform better in the nursing courses. Dr. Muminovic further stated that while there are not arts and sciences courses or adjuncts available on campus, students do have access to tutors and enrichment through their Student Success Team.

Motion to grant full approval status for the Galen College of Nursing Myrtle Beach Campus Associate Degree in Nursing program. Motion carried.*

Dr. Holder is recused from this matter and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the appearance.

Advisory Committee on Nursing Education Simulation Request: Nurse Education Consultant, Peter Kubas, presented an update from the ACONE regarding their recommendation to add a new simulation representative to the ACONE as a voting member.

Motion to approve an ex officio member to be added to ACONE who is a nurse certified in simulation, nominated and approved by the Board, and to amend the ACONE Bylaws accordingly. Motion carried.*

CGFNS English Proficiency Standards: Nurse Education Consultant, Peter Kubas, updated the Board on a recent notification from CGFNS regarding an increase in the minimum PTE Speaking Score. Mr. Kubas inquired whether the Board would like to review their own minimum score requirements as a result of the change.

Motion to amend the Pearson PTE Academic Speaking Score to 63. Motion carried.*

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion to move into Closed Session to discuss pending disciplinary actions. 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.

2019-34 & 2021-459: 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 Private Reprimand. Motion carried.*

Dr. Whitcomb was recused from this matter.

2022-424: 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 Final Order Hearing Recommendation. Motion carried.*

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

2022-466: 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; narcotics restriction at the discretion of the Director of Nursing; completion of the following courses within six months of the date of the Order: Righting a Wrong, Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing, and Substance Abuse and Trauma; as well as other terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board. Motion carried.*

Dr. Whitcomb remained recused for this matter and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the hearing.

THE RECOVERING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM:

RPP Program Director, Tia Cooper, and RPP Special Counsel, Robyn Madden, appeared before the Board seeking clarity on a recent direction from the Board regarding testing for CRNAs.

Motion to require all CRNA participants to have a baseline hair or nail test for Propofol, whether their participation is voluntary or Board-ordered. If the voluntary participant receives a negative baseline test, there is no need for further testing specific to Propofol unless an issue arises. For Board-ordered participants, Propofol testing can be suspended until a Return to Work is received. Board-ordered participants have the option of either six urine tests per year, in addition to standard testing, or three hair or nail tests per year, in addition to the standard testing. Motion carried.*

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion to move into Closed Session to discuss pending disciplinary actions. 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.

2021-607: Respondent appeared before the Board having submitted a request to modify a prior Board Order.

Motion to deny the request for modification. Motion carried.*

Ms. Mitcham was recused from this matter and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the hearing.

2021-99: 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; and completion of the Board-approved Documentation course within six months of the date of the Order. Motion carried.*

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

2023-352: 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; a civil penalty in the amount of \$500 due within six months of the date of the Order; payment of investigative costs of \$125 due within six months of the date of the Order; and completion of the following courses due within six months of the date of the Order: Upholding the Standard, Professional Accountability in Nursing, Righting a Wrong-Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing, Nursing Documentation, and Legal Aspects. Motion carried.*

2022-599: This matter was continued.

2022-482: 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 and Stipulation of Facts with the following disciplinary sanctions: indefinite suspension; payment of investigative costs of \$75 prior to reinstatement; and reappearance before the Board once certain terms and conditions known to both the Respondent and the Board are met, and before the license is reinstated. Motion carried.*

Ms. Mitcham is excused from the remainder of the day's appearances. A quorum is maintained at all times.

2022-229: 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 adopt the Final Order Hearing Recommendation. Motion carried.

2019-557: 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 adopt the Final Order Hearing Recommendation. Motion carried.

2020-144 & 2023-138: 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 adopt the Panel's recommendation. Motion carried.

Dr. Whitcomb was recused from this matter and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the hearing.
Motion to adjourn for the evening at 5:20 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Todd called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. on Friday, November 22, 2024. It is noted that a quorum was present at all times.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Motion to excuse Ms. Pagett. Motion carried.

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT:

Lead Investigator Bianca Smith presented the Investigative Review Conference Report for approval. *Conducted in Closed Session.*

Motion to approve 36 Dismissals. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 32 Formal Complaints. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 20 Letters of Caution. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 29 Dismissals. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 56 Formal Complaints. Motion carried.

Motion to add 2023-487 to the Formal Complaints. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 15 Letters of Caution. Motion carried.

Ms. Mitcham joined the meeting during this appearance.

Please note: The Office of Investigations and Enforcement did not have an opportunity to present their report during the September 2024 meeting because Day 2 was unexpectedly cancelled due to hazardous weather throughout the state. The September report and an additional report for November were presented separately.

Ms. Smith then presented the Statistical Reports for both September and November.

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.

2021-407: 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 private reprimand; and completion of the Board approved Righting a Wrong course within six months of the date of the Order. Motion carried.*

2022-162 and 2022-202: Respondent appeared before the Board having submitted a request for reinstatement of licensure.

Motion to reinstate licensure with the following restrictions: compliance with all prior Board Orders, licensee may not practice at an entity in which he has an ownership interest, and licensee is to remain compliant with all other terms and conditions known to the licensee and the Board. Motion carried.*

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

2011-337 & 2015-553 & 2016-20: Respondent appeared before the Board having submitted a request to modify a prior Board Order.

Motion to redact existing orders to remove protected personal health information. Motion carried.*

Evadne Beshiri: Respondent appeared before the Board having submitted a request to modify a prior Board Order.

Motion to grant the modification request and to lift all terms and conditions. Motion carried.*

Applicant One: A prior licensee submitted an application for reinstatement as a Registered Nurse.

Motion to deny the request and require the applicant to comply with the terms and conditions known to the prior licensee and the Board. Once the terms and conditions are met, an application can be processed without a re-appearance before the Board. Motion carried.*

2023-355: Respondent appeared before the Board having executed a Memorandum of Agreement for the purpose of determining disciplinary sanction.

Motion to issue a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution. Motion carried.*

2023-600: 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 a finding of a violation of the Nurse Practice Act as follows: 40-33-110 (A) (7) and 40-30-110 (A) (5) and issuance of the following disciplinary sanctions: issuance of a public reprimand; payment of investigative costs of \$300 due within six months of the date of the Order; completion of the following courses within six months of the date of the Order: Substance Use and Trauma; as well as compliance with other terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board. Motion carried.*
Motion to reinstate licensure. Motion carried.

PRACTICE REPORT

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

Advisory Opinion (AO) #5: This AO is presented with no changes recommended from the NPSC.
Motion to approve. Motion carried.

AO #11: This AO is presented with no changes recommended from the NPSC.
Motion to approve. Motion carried.

AO #28: This AO is presented with no changes recommended from the NPSC.
Motion to approve. Motion carried.

AO #31: This AO is presented with no changes recommended from the NPSC.
Motion to approve. Motion carried.

AO #57: This AO is presented with no changes recommended from the NPSC.
Motion to approve. Motion carried.

AO #27: The NPSC recommended edits regarding the addition of competencies as well as a facility policy as noted.

Motion to approve with the addition of the competency and facility policy. Motion carried.

AO #70: The NPSC recommended edits regarding the inclusion of cystoscopy as noted.
Motion to approve with the addition of cystoscopy. Motion carried.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Board Chairperson, Sallie Beth Todd, then presented her Chairperson's Report. Ms. Todd discussed the NCSBN Annual meeting that occurred in August 2024. Ms. Todd asked for a Board Member to serve as the Legislative Contact for 2024. There were not any Board Members available to serve in that capacity so Ms. Todd agreed to volunteer as the primary and Dr. Whitcomb will be the backup. The Board then discussed Board representatives to participate in the various committees. Ms. Todd will be the representative to the ACONE and Dr. Whitcomb will be the backup. Dr. Enos will continue to be the representative to the Advanced Practice Committee (APC) and Ms. Lyerly will be the backup. Dr. Holder will continue to be the representative to the NPSC and Ms. May-Engel will be the backup. Dr. Wolff will continue to be the representative for the RPP committees and Ms. Mitcham will be the backup.

Dr. Wolff then presented recommendations regarding Committee nominations:

Motion to approve Dr. Whitney Ann Smith as the Adult Nurse Practitioner for the APC. Motion carried.

Dr. Wolff noted that the CRNA vacancy on the APC remains at this time.

Motion to approve Heather Green as the LPN for the NPSC. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Amber Bentolila as the Maternal/Child Obstetrics RN for the NPSC. Motion carried.

Ms. Todd was recused from the discussion and voting for this nomination.

Motion to approve Tucouria Green for the Emergency Nursing RN for the NPSC. Motion carried.

Dr. Wolff noted that the Pediatrics RN and Critical Care RN positions remain vacant at this time.

Motion to approve Dr. Tracy Hudgins as the Deans & Directors representative for the ACONE.
Motion carried.

Ms. Todd was recused from the discussion and voting for this nomination.

Ms. Todd then presented the proposed meeting dates for 2025:

Motion to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2025. Motion carried.

BOARD EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Board Executive, Carol Moody, provided statistical information as well as an update on the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). Ms. Moody then discussed upcoming NCSBN meetings, including the Midyear meeting in Pittsburgh in March 2025 and asked the Board to vote on who to send to the meeting, most of which expense is covered via funding from the national council.

Motion to ask for funding for four Board Members, the Board Executive, and Advice Counsel to attend the Midyear meeting. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 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.*