

**South Carolina Board of Nursing**

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JANUARY 23-24, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Sallie Beth Todd, Chairperson of the South Carolina State Board of Nursing, called the January 2025 meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. on January 23, 2025. 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	1/23- Excused 1/24- 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 and Mr. McNutt. 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 November 2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

EDUCATION APPEARANCES**Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Nursing Education Regarding Nurse**

Refresher Programs: Dr. Jo Kuehn appeared before the Board representing the Advisory Committee on Nursing Education (ACONE), as Chairperson, in response to the Board's request to seek additional Nurse Refresher Programs for the Board's consideration. The Board specifically requested that the ACONE seek Refresher Programs that will accept disciplined nurses. Dr. Kuehn stated that based on feedback that she received, approximately ten nurses who previously lost their licenses due to disciplinary matters need a Refresher Program as part of their process for seeking reinstatement of licensure. Dr. Kuehn reviewed Refresher Programs currently approved by the Board, several of which will accept nurses with prior discipline or criminal histories. Dr. Kuehn stated that for the Refresher Programs which do accept disciplined nurses or those with criminal histories, it varies largely on a case-by-case basis and is typically due to problems finding a clinical location. Dr. Kuehn discussed The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Program which would require participants to complete the didactic portion at their Chapel Hill location and the clinical portion in South Carolina. Dr. Kuehn further discussed the difficulties that this presents in terms of how the clinical placement occurs, how the clinical is organized, and who would oversee the clinical as well. Dr. Kuehn stated that North Carolina AHEC and South Carolina AHEC do not currently collaborate on those placements, but that South Carolina AHEC is willing to work with the Board on those placements if desired. Dr. Kuehn sought feedback from the Board regarding their desire that she pursue that option. The Board thanked Dr. Kuehn and the ACONE for all of their work on this request and discussed accepting the information without further instruction. The Board further advised that as with MSN and DNP Programs, they feel like it is up to the nurse to seek their own clinical placement without the Board's input or interference, outside of mandating in-person clinicals as opposed to virtual clinicals as the situation dictates. No motions were made.

ECPI University North Charleston Associate Degree in Nursing Program: Dr. Jennifer Schlette and Ms. Andrea Lipsmeyer appeared before the Board representing the ECPI Charleston Campus Associate Degree in Nursing Program as a follow-up to NCLEX deficiency. The Program was cited in 2022 and 2023 for deficient NCLEX scores. The Program appeared before the Board in March 2024 at which time the Board ordered that the approval rating be lowered from full approval status to conditional approval status with a return before the Board at their September 2024 meeting. Nurse Education Consultant, Peter Kubas, and members of the Board's Site Survey team surveyed the Program in April 2024. The Board granted approval for an additional five years at their July 2024 meeting with the Program to remain in conditional approval status and ordered a reappearance before the Board at their January 2025 meeting. The Program was cited in January 2025 for deficient 2024 NCLEX scores. The Program is not nationally accredited and remains in conditional Board approval status at this time. The Program provided materials in advance of the meeting, which were made available to the Board Members in their read-ahead materials.

Dr. Schlette stated that since their initial deficiency in 2023, the Program has made steady progress and worked incredibly hard to implement processes and strategies to help improve NCLEX testing performance. Dr. Schlette further stated that first-time NCLEX test-taker performance has progressively increased as a result. Dr. Schlette reviewed some of the strategies and processes

implemented including the following: managing at-risk students; teaching strategies; learning strategies; addressing inadequacies in the testing process; and utilization of ATI as well as NCLEX preparation in each classroom as a content mastery series. Dr. Schlette stated that despite significant improvement to their scores in 2024, because state and national averages were higher as well, the Program still fell short and is using this as an opportunity to build on their success by adding to their Improvement Plan. Dr. Schlette listed the following as additional ways to improve scores: adding a case-based learning component to their curriculum; fully integrating simulation into each course with a clinical component; and addressing the needs of their LPN to RN transition students.

Dr. Schlette then detailed each including building faculty competence and confidence in designing and implementing case-based learning strategies through faculty training sessions and the development of faculty resources. Dr. Schlette then discussed the ongoing support to establish faculty mentoring teams to share experiences and troubleshoot challenges with case-based learning as well as strategies used to incorporate diverse clinical situations into their current curriculum. Dr. Schlette also provided information on the full integration of high-fidelity simulation in the associate degree program to provide realistic hands-on learning in a controlled environment to bridge the gap between classroom instruction and real-world practice. Dr. Shelette stated that faculty in the Practical Nursing Program are undergoing training to INACSL standards of best practice to ensure high quality simulation experiences and enhance clinical reasoning, decision-making and patient care skills, which Dr. Schlette believes will improve clinical NCLEX pass rates and nursing practice readiness. Dr. Schlette told the Board that integration of simulation across the curriculum would begin starting in Term 1 of 2025.

Then Dr. Schelette discussed the LPN to RN transition program and stated that those students have a lower pass rate percentage than their traditional RN students. Dr. Schlette detailed the strategies, which were identified due to that data and feedback from student interviews after they completed the NCLEX. Some of those strategies include: case study analysis using complex patient scenarios; scope of practice comparisons; engaging students in activities focusing on leadership skills; chart review activities of mock patient charts; and delegation and supervision as a role-playing option in the lab simulation portion of the Nurse 240 class.

Dr. Schlette stated that their scores have continued to increase and these new strategies will build on that success to meet and surpass the NCLEX RN national average moving forward. The Board then had follow-up questions concerning the following: feedback from students in the LPN to RN transition program; test preparation activities available to students; certification of simulation faculty; simulation clinical hours versus hands-on clinical hours and activities; the availability of assistance with test-taking anxiety; the use of ATI and incorporating their suggestions into test preparation; and the availability of remediation activities for students who were not successful upon their first test-taking attempt.

Motion for ECPI Charleston Campus to remain on conditional approval status and to reappear before the Board at their September 2025 meeting to re-evaluate their NCLEX scores and to commend the Program on their positive progress. Motion carried.*

Ms. Mitcham is recused from this matter and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the appearance.

Joyce University of Nursing Health Sciences Associate Degree in Nursing Program & Joyce University of Nursing Health Sciences Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program: Dr. Kelly McCullough appeared before the Board representing Joyce University of Nursing and Health Sciences in response to their requests to conduct clinical experiences in South Carolina for their Pre-Licensure Associate of Science in Nursing Program and their Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. The Programs were previously before the ACONE at their December 2024 meeting regarding the requests, at which time the ACONE voted to recommend approval of both requests to the Board. The Programs provided materials in advance of the meeting, which were made available to the Board Members in their read-ahead materials.

Dr. McCullough introduced the Programs stating that Joyce University is located in Draper, Utah which is outside of Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. McCullough referred to the Program as a destination model of nursing, which gives students the opportunity to take their didactic coursework online, to travel to the campus for immersive lab and simulation experiences, and to complete their clinical in the communities in which the students live. Dr. McCullough discussed the Affiliation Agreements which are in place which would allow them to place students in South Carolina and stated that they have qualified faculty and meet the requirements as outlined by the Board. Dr. McCullough further stated that the Associate of Science in Nursing Program is five semesters and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program is eight semesters, with an accelerated option available for students who already hold a Baccalaureate Degree to complete the Program in six semesters. Dr. McCullough reviewed the Program's test scores for 2024 which are 88% for the Associate of Science in Nursing Program and 94.3% for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. The Board then inquired about the following: confirming the clinical partnerships with signed agreements; the projected number of students who will participate in the Programs and complete clinical experiences in South Carolina; the clinical faculty to student ratios; the science prerequisites for admittance into the Programs; the Summative Preceptor Evaluations and Formative Faculty Evaluations; the on-campus intensives and skills check-offs prior to clinical experiences; the simulation lab set-up, training and experience of simulation lab faculty, and whether that is a shared resource with other programs within the school; the minimum GPA requirement for progression within the Programs; and accreditation of the Programs. It is noted that the Associate of Science in Nursing Program is accredited through ACEN and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is accredited through CCNE.

Motion to approve the request to conduct clinical experiences for Joyce University's Associate Degree Program in South Carolina. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the request to conduct clinical experiences for Joyce University's Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in South Carolina. Motion carried.*

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

Laurel Institute of Technology Practical Nursing Program: Dr. Michelle Borland and Dr. Doug Decker appeared before the Board representing the Laurel Institute of Technology in regards to their request for initial approval status of their Practical Nursing Program in Fort Mill. The Board previously accepted the ACONE's recommendation to approve the Feasibility Study. The Program submitted a Self-Study in accordance with South Carolina Regulation and the Board's Site Survey Team visited the Program in October 2024. At their December 2024 meeting, the ACONE voted to recommend approval of the request.

Dr. Borland stated that Laurel Institute of Technology is part of a bigger technical school called Laurel with a 40-year history of providing education throughout Pennsylvania with nursing Programs in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Dr. Borland then provided further details on the schools in various locations highlighting that their previous year pass-rate was 100% for a new Program finalizing their first full year of testing in 2024. Dr. Borland then discussed two of the Programs in West Virginia stating that the Practical Nursing Program had a 100% pass-rate in 2024 and the Associate Degree in Nursing Program had a greater than 95% pass-rate in 2024. Dr. Borland stated that their goal was to build on their success in Pennsylvania and West Virginia to bring student-centered education to Fort Mill. Dr. Borland detailed the remediation that is built throughout the Program and how that prepares students to be successful on taking the NCLEX. Dr. Borland then discussed the mentorship that is built into the Program from the first test and how the expectations are communicated and the plans that students are given to help them improve. Dr. Borland explained that all students are advised at midterm and are counseled in what is needed to be successful. Dr. Borland further discussed the one-on-one instructor-led tutoring that is available to all students, even those who are not required to remediate. Dr. Borland stated that the Practical Nursing Program in Pennsylvania is currently seeking ACEN accreditation and that the Programs in West Virginia are all ACEN accredited, with plans in place to seek ACEN accreditation for the Fort Mill Program in the future. The Board then

inquired about the Site Survey Report and Response and found that all comments had been addressed.

Motion to grant initial approval for Laurel Institute of Technology and Practical Nursing Program in Fort Mill, South Carolina. Motion carried.*

Southeastern College North Charleston Campus Practical Nursing Program & Southeastern College Columbia Campus Practical Nursing Program: Dr. Simona Parvulescu-Codrea appeared before the Board representing the Practical Nursing Program at Southeastern College's North Charleston and Columbia campuses in regards to their requests for approval for development. The Program submitted a Feasibility Study as required by Regulation, which was reviewed by the Board's Site Survey Team, who recommends approval of the Study.

Dr. Parvulescu-Codrea introduced other faculty and administration from both Programs and discussed the need for Licensed Practical Nurses in South Carolina, particularly to care for the State's aging population. Dr. Parvulescu-Codrea then discussed the signed Affiliate Agreements for both campuses. Dr. Parvulescu-Codrea explained the curriculum requirements and provided the organizational chart as well for both campuses.

Motion to accept the Feasibility Study and move forward with the development of the North Charleston Campus Practical Nursing Program.

Motion to accept the Feasibility Study and move forward with the development of the Columbia Campus Practical Nursing Program.

Galen College of Nursing Associate Degree in Nursing Program: Dr. Stephanie Muminovic appeared before the Board representing Galen College of Nursing in regards to their request to offer an Associate Degree in Nursing Prelicensure Program in Charleston, South Carolina. The Program submitted a Feasibility Study as required by Regulation, which was reviewed by the Board's Site Survey Team, who recommends approval of the Study. Dr. Muminovic discussed the projected nursing shortage for South Carolina and stated that Galen College of Nursing has over 30 years of experience in delivering nursing education and has graduated over 31,000 nurses. Dr. Muminovic then discussed the Program's request to offer an Associate Degree in Nursing Program with two options, a two-year option as well as an LPN to RN Bridge option with an intended start date of September 2025. Dr. Muminovic stated that the first cohort of 50 students is expected to start in April 2026, with the intention to increase enrollment approximately one to five students per quarter. Dr. Muminovic then discussed the plans to hire faculty, open the campus, the resources and mentorship that the College will provide. Dr. Muminovic further detailed their Affiliation Agreements and discussed the state-of-the-art simulation lab which will be located on campus as well.

Motion to accept the Feasibility Study and move forward with the development of the Associate Degree in Nursing Program at the Charleston campus of Galen College of Nursing. *Dr. Holder is recused from this matter and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the appearance.*

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.

2019-235: Respondent appeared before the Board having executed a Memorandum of Agreement for the purpose of determining disciplinary sanction.

Motion to dismiss. Motion carried.*

2023-263: 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 non-disciplinary Letter of Caution to be mindful to fully document patient and family encounters, messages, education, and discussions. Motion carried.*

Ms. Mitcham is excused from the meeting until noted below. A quorum is maintained at all times.

2023-508: 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 public reprimand, investigative costs in the amount of \$250 due within one year of the date of the Order, and other terms and conditions known to the Respondent and the Board. Motion carried.*

2012-506 & 2014-209 & 2015-146: Respondent appeared before the Board having submitted a request to modify a prior Board Order.

Motion to change the order from public to private. Motion carried.*

2012-89: Respondent appeared before the Board having submitted a request to modify a prior Board Order.

Motion to change the order from public to private. Motion carried.*

Ms. Mitcham has rejoined the meeting.

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.*

2023-593: Motion to accept the recommendation to issue a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution reminding the Respondent that licensees are always accountable for their judgement, decisions and actions and are not to engage in practices prohibited by law or the Nurse Practice Act. Motion carried.

2023-292: Motion to accept the recommendation to issue a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution reminding the Respondent of the responsibility of accurate responses to the Board and that failure to do so can result in future disciplinary action. Motion carried.

2022-533: Motion to reject the recommendation to issue a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution. Motion carried.

2023-340: Motion to accept the recommendation to issue a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution reminding the Respondent to be mindful to comply with the laws and regulations involving criminal matters and to comply with all professional licensing standards to include taking corrective action where one may be engaging in actions which can impair nursing practice. Respondent is reminded actions which occur outside of one's nursing practice may still impact the ability to retain the privilege to practice nursing. Motion carried.

Ms. Brown then presented the Statistical Report for information. No motions were made.

Motion to adjourn for the evening at 6:22 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Todd called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. on Friday, January 24, 2025. It is noted that a quorum was present at all times.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Motion to excuse Ms. Pagett. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion to move into Closed Session to discuss pending disciplinary actions. 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 28 Dismissals. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 35 Formal Complaints. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 7 Letters of Caution. Motion carried.

Ms. Smith then presented the Statistical Report.

Ms. Mitcham joined the meeting during the Reports.

OPEN SESSION:

Motion to return to Open Session. Motion carried.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Board Chairperson, Sallie Beth Todd, then presented her Chairperson's Report.

Nominations: The Board reviewed nominations received for various committees.

Motion to accept the nomination for Michael Delane Faust as an Investigative Review Conference Member. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the nomination for Rebecca Morrison for the Hearing Panel. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the nomination for Michael Blake Wilson for an Expert Case Reviewer for psychiatric mental health related matters. Motion carried.*

Strategic Plan: Ms. Todd discussed a presentation on Strategic Plans that she observed during an NCSBN meeting and asked the Board to consider whether they would like to implement a Strategic Plan going forward and what would be included. The Board decided to form a workgroup to review the current Mission Statement and to make recommendations about the Strategic Plan in future meetings. No motions were made.

Ms. May-Engel is excused from the remainder of the meeting. A quorum is maintained at all times.

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 stated Massachusetts has recently enacted the NLC and there is pending legislation in Nevada to join as well. Ms. Moody further stated that Montana, Arizona, and Maryland have pending legislation related to the APRN Compact. Ms. Moody then discussed the availability of NCSBN Passport for Board Members as well as the International Center for Regulatory Scholarship. Ms. Moody reminded Board Members to complete their Statement of Economic Interest by the March 31st deadline and then discussed upcoming NCSBN meetings.

Mr. McNutt is excused from the remainder of the meeting. A quorum is maintained at all times.

UPDATES FROM THE NURSING PRACTICE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Nurse Practice Consultant, Dr. Mindy Carithers, provided an update from the Nursing Practice and Standards Committee (NPSC). Dr. Carithers stated that due to questions received from licensees regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence in Nursing, she presented the Position Statement Regarding Artificial Intelligence from the American Nurses Association (ANA) to the NPSC for their consideration. The NPSC voted to recommend adoption by the Board.

Motion to place the ANA Position Statement on the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Practice on the Board's website. Motion carried.

UPDATES FROM THE ADVANCED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Nurse Education Consultant, Mr. Peter Kubas, provided an update from the Advanced Practice Committee (APC) regarding the review of Advisory Opinions and Position Statements.

Motion to accept Advisory Opinions # 43, 58, 60, 63, and 67 as well as the Position Statement Regarding Pharmaceutical Education Required at Application as presented with no changes recommended. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the changes as recommended for the Position Statement Regarding Prescription Ordering for APRNs with Prescriptive Authority as presented. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the changes as recommended for the Position Statement Regarding Use of Samples by APRNs with Prescriptive Authority as presented. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the changes as recommended for the Position Statement Regarding Use of Expedited Partner Therapy as presented. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the changes as recommended for the Position Statement Regarding Recommended Age Parameters for APRNs Practicing in South Carolina as presented. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 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.*