

The Georgia Board of Nursing met February 8, 2012 via conference call at the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Barry Cranfill, RN, CRNA, MHS, MBA, FAAPM, President  
Mary Chatman, Ph.D. (c), RN, Vice President  
Ashley Barnett, Consumer  
Anita Hufft, PhD., RN  
Nancy Barton, MS, RN  
Brenda Rowe, JD, MN, RN  
Nancy Robinson, RNC, LNHA

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Katherine Mann, RN, CRNA

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

James Cleghorn, Executive Director  
Janet Jackson, Assistant Attorney General, JD  
Adrienne Price, RN, MSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline

Cranfill called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. The Board worked as a committee to conduct disciplinary matters until a quorum was present.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Robinson moved, Barton seconded and the Board voted to enter into **Executive Session** in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2(k); 43-1-19(h), 43-26-5(c) and 43-26-11, to deliberate on applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on applications, investigative reports and pending cases. The motion passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, Cranfill declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq.

#### **APPLICATION REVIEWS AND APPROVAL OF LICENSURE**

(RNI – Registered Nurse Investigative Case Number)

**Applicant N.L., #1729327** – Rowe moved to request applicant to obtain a statement from the dean of the nursing education program indicating that the pharmacology course was integrated into the master’s program of study. If unable to obtain this information, the applicant must complete an advanced course in pharmacology. Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mary Chatman joined the conference call at 4:24 p.m.

**Applicant J.S., #1733618** – Robinson moved to proceed with authorization. Applicant must submit proof of completion of Florida Board of Nursing consent order within ten (10) days of termination. Chatman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Applicant J.P., #1739284** – Barton moved to close the case and proceed with licensure by examination with a Letter of Concern re: Criminal and Drugs. Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Applicant A.G., #1198275** – Robinson moved to close the case and proceed with licensure by examination with a Letter of Concern re: Criminal. Rowe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Applicant M.L., #1278840** – Robinson moved to refer to Legal Services for a private consent agreement to include a fine of \$500 for failure to disclose arrest. Rowe seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

## **RENEWAL 2012-2014**

(RNI – Registered Nurse Investigative Case Number)

**RNI120509** – Barton moved to refer to the Attorney General's office for a hearing or a public consent order to include suspension for three (3) months. Licensee must complete a MPE before restoration of licensure. Chatman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**RNI120521** – Rowe moved to renew license with a Letter of Concern re: Criminal. Barton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**RNI120500** – Chatman moved to close the case with a Letter of Concern re: Criminal and to inform licensee that if law is violated in future, license will be sanctioned. Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**RNI120505** – Robinson moved to refer to the Attorney General's office for a public consent order to track criminal probation, quarterly reports (employer, aftercare and probation officer reports). The licensee must report the final disposition of pending criminal case to the Board within ten (10) days of adjudication. The Board reserves the right to amend the terms of order upon review of the outcome of the criminal case. Rowe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

(RNI – Registered Nurse Investigative Case Number)

**RNI111103** – Chatman moved to rescind the previous motion from the January 18-20, 2012 board meeting and refer to the Attorney General's office for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension. Barton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**RNI110064** – Robinson moved to rescind the private consent agreement for licensure by endorsement based on insufficient evidence and legal advice. Barton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**RNI120211** – Robinson moved to rescind the previous motion from the January 18-20, 2012 board meeting and accept the consent agreement for reinstatement of licensure. Rowe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **INVESTIGATIONS**

(RNI – Registered Nurse Investigative Case Number)

**RNI120140** – Barton moved to reject the cease and desist order and refer to Legal Services for a private consent agreement to include a fine of \$400 for unlicensed practice. Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**RNI120283** – Barton moved to keep license in renewal pending status and order licensee to have an expedited outpatient MPE. Results are to be reviewed by the full board. After receipt of MPE results the Board will review licensee's failure to disclose felony arrest. Rowe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **APPLICATION REVIEWS AND APPROVAL OF LICENSURE**

(RNI – Registered Nurse Investigative Case Number)

Chatman moved to accept the Cognizant Report regarding unlicensed/unauthorized practice and to refer identified cases to Legal Services for issuance of a Private Consent Order. Barton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**APP#1741680   APP#1735421   APP#1287890   APP#1242844**

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

### **Senate Bill 368 – Continuing Competency**

Rowe moved to submit the following language as a proposed addition to Senate Bill 368:

“Failure to meet minimum continuing competency requirement for renewal of a license shall be grounds for denial of a renewal application. The Board may waive or modify the continuing competency requirement state by rule or regulation in cases of hardship, disability, illness, or under such other circumstances as the board, in its discretion, deems appropriate.”

Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Anita Hufft joined the conference call at 5:52 p.m.

Ashley Barnett joined the conference call at 5:55 p.m.

### **House Bill 675 – Definition of Approved Nursing Education**

This bill was passed by the House and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature to become effective.

### **Senate Bill 376 – Mandatory Reporting**

The Board tabled discussion regarding recommendations that the medical malpractice claim amount should be at least \$100,000. Discussion was held regarding requiring amending the application for licensure by examination to include information detailing any substance abuse history.

### **Senate Bill 386 – APRN Delegation**

The Board took no formal position on this legislation.

### **Senate Bill 879 – Diabetes Care/Unlicensed Personnel**

The Board took no formal position on this legislation. The Board discussed a recommendation from the Assistant Attorney General's to contact LPNs, public health nurses and school nurses regarding implementation of this legislation if passed. Mary Chatman agreed to obtain information regarding how the North Carolina Board of Nursing addresses this issue.

### **Senate Bill 445 – Professional Licensure Regulation**

The Board held a discussion regarding the recent meetings with Secretary of State Brian Kemp. The Board discussed recent efforts to streamline processes for applications, discipline and investigations. Board members were concerned that the lack of a bill prevented the Board from addressing specific points of the proposed legislation. The Board noted that no other jurisdiction has removed licensing, disciplinary and investigative authority from the respective board of nursing. Board members discussed the statutory role of the Board.

## **GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING SENATE BILL 445**

Rowe moved to approve the following statement:

*The purpose of the Georgia Board of Nursing is to protect, promote and preserve the public health, safety and welfare through regulation and control of nursing education and practice. The Georgia Board of Nursing fully appreciates the need for governmental processes to be more efficient. The Board has taken enormous strides over the past year to streamline procedures, improve throughout and empower the Georgia Board of Nursing staff to expedite processes. The Georgia Board of Nursing is committed to improving the performance of the Board through a continuous process improvement program in an effort to better serve the public. However, patient safety and the protection of the public must take precedence over expediency.*

*One of the hallmarks of professional practice is responsible and proper self regulation of the profession. The Georgia Board of Nursing strongly believes that the authority to license, investigate, discipline and promulgate rules for the profession of nursing should remain solely with the Georgia Board of Nursing.*

Chatman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Board requests that the position statement be sent out to the Georgia Nurses Association (GNA), Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) and Georgia Organization of Nursing Leaders (GNL).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 7:05 p.m.

  
Barry Cranfill, **President**

  
James Cleghorn, **Executive Director**

The minutes were recorded by Gwendolyn Dodson, Administrative Assistant and approved on