

The Investigative Committee of the Georgia Board of Nursing met Thursday, November 1, 2018 via conference call at the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Darrell Thompson, RN, DNP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC  
Tracey Blalock, RN, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC  
Nancy Barton, RN, MSN  
Tina Fletcher, LPN

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Julia Worthy, RN, MSN

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Jim Cleghorn, Executive Director  
Janet Freeman, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline  
Edye Tillman-Johnson, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline  
Tara Miller, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline  
Betsy Cohen, JD, Assistant Attorney General

Barton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2018.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Blalock moved, Thompson seconded and the Committee 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 Thursday, November 1, 2018 Barton declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during executive session.

### **INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE CASES**

(LPNI = Licensed Practical Nurse Investigative Case Number) (RNI=Registered Nurse Investigative Case Number)

Blalock moved to present the following recommendations to the Board.

**RNI1990229** – Close the case with no disciplinary action.

**RNI190102** – Close the case with no disciplinary action.

**LPNI190015** – Close the case with no disciplinary action.

**LPNI180256** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for an expedited outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. If non-compliant, refer for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension and deny the renewal. May petition to lift with submission of mental physical examination.

**LPNI180258** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for an expedited outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. If non-compliant, refer for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension and deny the renewal. May petition to lift with submission of mental physical examination.

**LPNI190128** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a private consent order to include a fine of \$500 for Continuing Education violation and a fine of \$500 for Failure to Disclose.

**RNI180818** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for an expedited outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. If non-compliant, refer for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension and deny the renewal. May petition to lift with submission of mental physical examination.

**RNI181141** – Refer for an Investigative Interview. Blalock abstained.

**LPNI190083** – Send an investigative letter requesting courses in Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses, Patient's Rights and Responsibilities and Difficult of Challenging? Dealing with Patients. Fletcher abstained.

**RNI170744** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a public consent order to include five (5) years probation, two (2) years narcotic restrictions, quarterly reports (self, employer, aftercare, psychotherapy, (two (2) reports from therapist and psychiatrist)), Substance Abuse Stipulations, quarterly hair follicle tests for 12 months, quarterly urine drug screenings throughout the order, standard work restrictions, a fine of \$500 for Diversion, courses in Understanding Substance Use Disorder in Nursing, Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing, Narcotic Drugs: Handling and Documentation and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI190350** – Send a letter requesting an outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator for consideration of licensure. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant.

**RNI161041** – Send a letter of modification to change sobriety date to June 2018.

**RNI190293** – Rescind the previous motion. Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a voluntary surrender or an indefinite suspension. May petition to lift with documentation of 24 months of documented sobriety, an outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. A fine of \$500 for violation of consent order.

**RNI140329** – Refer for an Investigative Interview.

**RNI190351** – Authorize as an APRN. Blalock abstained.

**LPNI150018** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a voluntary surrender or an indefinite suspension. May petition to lift with one (1) full quarter of compliance with the consent order and a fine of \$500 for violation of the consent order.

**RNI180896** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for an expedited outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. If non-compliant refer for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension and deny the renewal. May petition to lift with a mental physical examination.

**RNI181261** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for an expedited outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. If non-compliant refer for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension and deny the renewal. May petition to lift with a mental physical examination.

**RNI181172** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for an expedited outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. If non-compliant refer for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension and deny the renewal. May petition to lift with a mental physical examination.

**RNI180626** – Send an investigative letter requesting courses in Professional Accountability and Legal Liability, Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care, Narcotic Drugs: Handling and Documentation and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI190298/RNI190337** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for six (6) month suspension. May petition to lift with two (2) quarters of compliance, treatment records with safe to practice statement or an outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator as a consideration of the application. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. A fine of \$1000 for violation of consent order, courses in Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing and Understanding Substance Use Disorder in Nursing, GA RN Jurisprudence and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI180246/RNI181107** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for an expedited outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. If non-compliant refer for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension and deny the renewal. May petition to lift with a mental physical examination.

**RN180084 TJP** – Send an investigative letter requesting courses in Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses, Narcotic Drugs: Handling and Documentation and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know. Fletcher abstained.

**RN180084 SMW** - Send an investigative letter requesting courses in Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses, Narcotic Drugs: Handling and Documentation and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know. Fletcher abstained.

**RNI181405** – Refer for an Investigative Interview.

**LPNI170393/LPNI180019** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension. May petition to lift with a mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator as a consideration of the application. Results are to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. A fine of \$2000 for violation of the consent order. Must show one full year of documented compliance.

**RNI181361** – Approve the request to lift suspension. Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a public consent order to include five (5) years probation, quarterly reports (self, employer, aftercare, psychotherapy – addictionologist), Substance Abuse Stipulations, monthly Peth for 24 months and quarterly urine drug screens throughout the order, standard work restrictions plus no more than 40 hours per work week, courses in Understanding Substance Use Disorder in Nursing and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI170806** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a public reprimand to include five (5) years probation, four (4) years narcotic restriction, quarterly reports (self, employer, aftercare, psychotherapy-addiction counselor, medication management-addictionologist), Substance Abuse Stipulations, quarterly hair follicle testing with EtG and EtS for 24 months and quarterly urine drug screens throughout the order, standard work restrictions, courses in Understanding Substance Use Disorder in Nursing and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know and Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing.

**RNI181342** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a public consent order to include three (3) years probation, quarterly reports (self, employer, psychotherapy with psychiatrist and with mental health counselor, medication management with quarterly Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program reports), standard work restrictions plus no night shift work for six (6) months. Must submit documentation of completion of probation and submit copy of order to probation officer, quarterly urine drug screens and courses in Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.



James D. Cleghorn, *Executive Director*

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

**AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF  
PUBLIC MEETING**

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.*, requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specific exceptions relied upon. O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting in question.

**Comes now the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.**

1. I am the presiding officer of the RN Board.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On November 1, 2018 this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of the members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof for the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for the closure of this meeting was:  
O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h)
5. The subject(s) discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are:  
To deliberate applications and enforcement matters and to receive information on applications and investigative reports.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

  
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Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me  
This 1st day of November 2018

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

