

The Investigative Committee of the Georgia Board of Nursing met Thursday, September 12, 2019 via conference call at the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

## **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Darrell Thompson, RN, DNP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC  
Tracey Blalock, RN, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC  
Irene Cordell, RN  
Blair Train, Consumer Member

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tina Fletcher, LPN

### **STAFF PRESENT**

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

Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Blalock moved, Train 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, September 12, 2019 Thompson 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.

**RNI191424** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a public reprimand for impairment and include five (5) years probation, quarterly reports (self, employer, aftercare, psychotherapy), Substance Abuse Stipulations, quarterly hair follicle testing for 12 months (Hairstat 5), quarterly urine drug screenings throughout the order, standard work restrictions, courses in Understanding Substance Use Disorder in Nursing, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know and Narcotic Documentation and Handling, and Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing.

**RNI200070** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for 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. 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 within 30 days of petition and documentation of completion of the standard practice requirements as provided in Board Rule 410-4-.01(1)(d).

**RNI191455** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for 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. 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 within 30 days of petition and documentation of completion of the standard practice requirements as provided in Board Rule 410-4-.01(1)(d).

**LPNI170457** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for an public consent order to include two (2) years probation, quarterly reports (employer, personal), a fine of \$500 for Unprofessional Conduct, courses in Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know, Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care, Jurisprudence – Georgia LPN and Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills.

**RNI200140** – Continue to monitor drug tests through aftercare.

**LPNI180196** – Send an investigative letter requesting courses in Professional Accountability and Legal Liability, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know, and Narcotic Drugs: Handling and Documentation.

**RNI190198** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for 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. 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 within 30 days of petition and documentation of completion of the standard practice requirements as provided in Board Rule 410-4-.01(1)(d).

**LPNI190232** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for 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. 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 within 30 days of petition and documentation of completion of the standard practice requirements as provided in Board Rule 410-4-.01(1)(d). Blalock abstained.

**RNI190964** – Close with a Letter of Concern (Unprofessional Conduct).

**RNI180676** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a public reprimand to include five (5) years probation, two (2) years narcotic restrictions quarterly reports (self, employer, aftercare, psychotherapy), Substance Abuse Stipulations, quarterly hair follicle testing for two (2) years (Hairstat 5), quarterly urine drug screenings throughout order, standard work restrictions, courses in Understanding Substance Use Disorder in Nursing, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know, and Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing.

**RNI170949** – Send the applicant a letter requesting 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.

**RNI200263** – Deny the application. May reapply with 12 months of documented continuous sobriety and 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. 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 within 30 days of petition and documentation of completion of the standard practice requirements as provided in Board Rule 410-4-.01(1)(d).

**RNI190658** – Close case with a Letter of Concern (Positive Drug Test).

**RNI200157** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for 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. 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 within 30 days of petition and documentation of completion of the standard practice requirements as provided in Board Rule 410-4-.01(1)(d).

**RNI191083** – Refer to the Attorney General's Office for a public reprimand to include five (5) years quarterly reports, two (2) years narcotic restriction, four (4) years quarterly reports (self, employer, aftercare, psychotherapy), Substance Abuse Stipulations, quarterly hair follicle testing for 24 months (Hairstat 14), quarterly urine drug screenings throughout, monthly PEth for 12 months, Substance Abuse Stipulations, standard work restrictions, courses in Understanding Substance Use Disorder in Nursing, Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing, and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI200152** – Send a letter of modification with a new sobriety date (next negative UDS).

**RNI190695** – Close the case with no disciplinary action.

**RNI190231** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for 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. 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 within 30 days of petition and documentation of completion of the standard practice requirements as provided in Board Rule 410-4-.02(1)(d).

**RNI190484** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for 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. 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 within 30 days of petition and documentation of completion of the standard practice requirements as provided in Board Rule 410-4-.02(1)(d).

**RNI190216** – Close the case with no disciplinary action.

**RNI190962** – Send an investigative letter requesting courses in Principles of Safe Prescribing for APRNs, Risk Advisors for APRNs: How to Protect Your License, Ethics of Nursing Practice and Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses.

**LPNI190072** – Send an investigative letter with courses to include Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses, Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI190286** – Send an investigative letter with courses in Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know and Narcotic Drugs: Handling and Documentation.

**RNI200250** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for a private consent order to include a fine of \$500 for a Continuing Education Violation.

**LPNI180036** – Close the case with no disciplinary action.

**LPNI200253** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office to obtain additional information.

**RNI200244** – Issue the license with a Letter of Concern (Alcohol).

**RNI200080** – Close the case with no disciplinary action.

**RNI181441** – Refer to the Attorney General’s Office for 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. 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 within 30 days of petition and documentation of completion of the standard practice requirements as provided in Board Rule 410-4-.02(1)(d).

**LPNI190272** – Close the case with no disciplinary action.

Train seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 4:20 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 Georgia Board of Nursing.
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 Sept. 12, 2019 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

Daniel Johnson  
Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me  
This 12th day of September, 2019

Renea L. Gray  
Notary Public

