

The Investigative Committee A of the Georgia Board of Nursing met Thursday, July 1, 2021 via conference call at the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Merry Fort, BS, RN – Vice President
Darrell Thompson, RN, DNP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC
Stephanie Dickerson, RN, BSN
Joshua Batson NP-C

STAFF PRESENT

Zelma Delgado, Executive Director, Georgia Board of Nursing
Janet Freeman, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline
Edye Tillman-Johnson, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline
Natara Miller, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline
Sandy Bailey, Assistant Attorney General
Kathy Winstead, Board Support Specialist

Fort called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 1, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Thompson moved, Fort 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, July 1, 2021, 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)

Dickerson moved to present the following recommendations to the Board.

RNI210473 – Close case with no disciplinary action.

LPNI210372 – Refer to Attorney General's Office to amend current Consent Order to include a stayed suspension (superseding order). Public Consent Order, one year probation, \$500 fine that was not paid in current Consent Order, quarterly reports (self, employer, after care, psychotherapy, medication management), substance abuse stipulations, standard work restrictions, quarterly urine drug screens throughout the order, Stayed suspension language.

RNI200283 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension. May petition to lift with successful completion of IOP, quarter of compliance with aftercare and other reports, payment of fines, and completion of coursework.

RNI200920

RNI200588 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension. May petition to lift with payment of fines and completion of continued education deficiencies.

LPNI210275 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for Private Consent Order with \$500.00 fine for failure to disclose.

LPNI170406 – License with a letter of concern - Action in Another Jurisdiction

RNI160698 – License with a letter of concern - Action in Another Jurisdiction

RNI210558 - Allow respondent to withdraw application.

RNI210111 – Refer to Attorney General's office to amend Consent Order to include a stayed suspension (superseding order). Public Consent Order with five years probation, substance abuse stipulations, quarterly reports (self, employer, after care, psychotherapy), standard work restrictions, no more than 40 hours per work week, Monthly PEth x 24 months, quarterly urine drug screens throughout the order, Stayed suspension language.

RNI210324 – Investigative letter with courses in Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses, Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

RNI201568 – Close case no action.

RNI211237 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for an outpatient mental physical examination from a Board approved evaluator, results to be reviewed by the Investigative Committee and the Legal/Discipline Nurse Consultant. If non-compliant, refer for a voluntary surrender or indefinite suspension. May petition to lift suspension with mental physical examination and standard practice requirements. Safe to practice statement.

RNI211324 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for Private Agreement with \$50.00 fine for 2 months of unlicensed practice.

RNI211325 – Letter of concern for failure to disclose.

RNI201521 – Issue authorization of NP once Consent Order is signed & docketed.

RNI210285 – Send out for Peer Review.

RNI210465 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for Public Consent Order with courses in Ethics of Nursing Practice; Narcotic Drugs: Handling and Documentation, and Substance Use Disorder in Nursing, random urine drug screens throughout the order, quarterly reports X 24 months (self, employer, aftercare). Include stayed suspension language.

RNI211326 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for Private Consent Agreement with \$1,000.00 fine for Failure to Disclose on two renewals (2018-2020 and 2020-2022)

RNI211092 – Close case and issue license.

RNI210338 - Rescind the previous motion for peer review and send the case to Office of Investigations to obtain a copy of Emory Hospital's investigative file (if one was completed) and a copy of the patient's medical record. Upon receipt will then need peer review.

LPNI190078 – Approve request to work in the home as a RN Case Manager with Kindred at Home only.

RNI211327 – Refer to Staff for Private Consent Agreement with fine of \$50.00 for 2 months of unlicensed practice.

RNI210492– Close case with no disciplinary action.

RNI210520 – Rescind previous motion and close case.

RNI211187 - Refer to Office of Investigations to obtain patient medical records and send out for peer review.

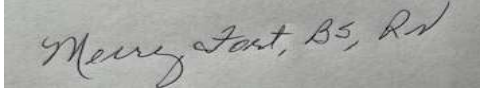
RNI211346 - Close case – continuing education documents received.

RNI211280 – Send Certified Letter and email to licensee informing her that her multistate license will be deactivated upon her receipt of the letter due to the fact that she has a felony conviction and is not eligible to hold a multistate license. (Analyst: Deactivate the license upon the board's receipt of the CMR or response to the email; whichever comes first.)

RNI210427 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for Public Reprimand \$500 fine for drug diversion, three years of probation with two years of narcotic restrictions, quarterly reports (self, employer, after care, psychotherapy), substance abuse stipulations, standard work restrictions, weekly urine drug screens x 1 year, monthly urine drug screens for remainder of order, Courses in Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know, GA RN Jurisprudence, Deactivate Multistate License. Investigative Costs: \$96.24, Fort abstained.

Fort seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 4:32 p.m.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Merry Fort, BS, RN".

Merry Fort, **Vice President**

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 July 1st, 2021 IC(A) 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



Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me
This 1st day of July, 2021.



Notary Public

