

The Investigative Committee A of the Georgia Board of Nursing met Thursday, January 6, 2022 via conference call at the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022**

### **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  
Edye Tillman-Johnson, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline  
Natara Miller, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline  
Alexis Cromartie, JD, Assistant Attorney General  
Kathy Winstead, Board Support Specialist

Fort called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2022.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Batson 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, January 6, 2022, Fort 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.

**RNI220601**– Allow applicant to complete deficiency in OB/GYN and Mental Health hours and reapply for licensure

**RNI220602** – Refer to Attorney General’s Office for Public Consent Agreement and \$2800.00 fine for 30 months of ULP. Issue license upon receipt of signed Consent Agreement & payment of fine in full.

**RNI220412** – Refer to Attorney General’s Office to Mirror SC Consent Agreement/RPP Monitoring Agreement –Public Consent Order, five years’ probation (may petition to lift with 5 years of sobriety or until SC RPP terminates agreement), CRNA suspension with one year, quarterly reports (self, employer, after care), substance abuse stipulations, Standard work restrictions, Submit drug tests required by SC RPP, courses to include Substance Use in Nursing, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI220181**– Revoke Temporary License. Check about notifying AL.

**LPNI210319** – Refer to Attorney General’s Office for a Public Reprimand \$500 fine for positive drug test at work, Consent Order with two years’ probation, quarterly reports (self, employer, psychotherapist), quarterly Hair (Hairstat 5) x 12mos, monthly urine drug screens throughout order, Standard work restrictions, courses to include Substance Use in Nursing, Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI220305** – After completion of reentry, issue license by reinstatement.

**RNI220207**– Close case with no disciplinary action.

**LPNI210361** - Investigative Letter with courses to include Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know, Medication Errors: Don't Let Them Happen to You, Documentation: Accurate and Legal.

**RNI180432** – Refer to Attorney General's Office for public consent agreement with 5 years' probation, 2 years narcotic restrictions, quarterly reports (self, employer, after care and psychotherapist), random urine drug screens throughout the order, substance abuse stipulations, standard work restrictions, courses in Substance Use Disorder in Nursing and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**LPNI210454**

**LPNI220142** – 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 deny renewal, May petition to lift with MPE and proof of standard practice requirements.

**RNI220554**– Refer to Attorney General's Office for Public Consent Agreement x 24months, quarterly reports (self, employer, psychotherapy), REENTRY required, courses in Narcotic Drugs: Handling and Documentation and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI220558** – Refer to Attorney General's Office for a Public Consent Agreement with 12 months monitoring, quarterly reports (self, employer, after care, medication management), substance abuse stipulations, random urine drug screens through Affinity and standard work restrictions plus no more than 12 hours per shift and no more than 40 hours per week.

**RNI210857**– Letter of concern – poor communication with patient's provider.

**RNI210845** – Letter of concern – poor communication with patient's provider.

**RNI211077** – Close case with no disciplinary action

**RNI211183** – 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 deny renewal, May petition to lift with MPE and proof of standard practice requirements.

**RNI220576**– Refer to Attorney General's Office for a Private Consent Order with \$500.00 fine for Continuing Education violation.

**LPNI220198** – Issue LPN license by exam when passes NCLEX (let analyst know so she can notify applicant that she is eligible to sit for exam).

**LPNI210382** – 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 deny renewal, May petition to lift with MPE and proof of standard practice requirements.

**RNI220603** - License with Letter of Concern – Criminal.

**LPNI220189** - Refer to Attorney General's Office for 3 month's suspension, followed by amending current Consent Order to include a \$500 fine for violation of Consent Order (superseding order). Public Consent Order with five years' probation, quarterly reports (self, employer, after care), substance abuse stipulations, Standard work restrictions, start over with drug testing - Monthly PEth x 24mos, quarterly urine drug screens throughout the order, \$500 fine for violation of Consent Order, course to include Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing, stayed suspension language for any further fraudulent quarterly reports..

**RNI220566** – 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 deny renewal, May petition to lift with MPE and proof of standard practice requirements.

**RNI201485** – Approve request to lift work hour restrictions and to work in a supervisory role.

**RNI220408** – Refer to Attorney General's office for Private Consent Order with five years' probation, sobriety or completion of AL ATD program, quarterly reports (self, employer, after care, psychotherapist), Drug testing through ATD program, substance abuse stipulations, Standard work restrictions, courses in Substance Use in Nursing, and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI220442** - Refer to Attorney General's Office to Amend current Consent Order to include a stayed suspension (superseding order). Public Consent Order, \$500 fine for violation of Consent Order, five years' probation, quarterly reports (self, employer, after care, psychotherapist, medication management), substance abuse stipulations, Monthly PEth tests x 24 months, quarterly urine drug screens throughout the order, standard work restrictions, Stayed suspension language, courses in Substance Use in Nursing, and Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

**RNI220520** - Table – Investigation pending.

**RNI220642** – Table – Investigation pending.

**RNI210759** - Refer to Attorney General's Office for Public Consent Order with three years' probation and 2 years of narcotic restrictions, \$500 fine for Unprofessional Conduct, quarterly reports (self, employer, psychotherapist), monthly urine drug screens throughout the order, standard work restrictions, courses to include Substance Use in Nursing, Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing, Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know.

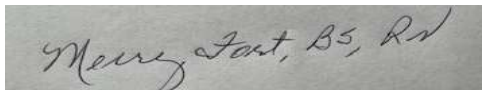
Thompson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Board news updates:**

Janet Freeman – Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline has retired, will be out for the month of January and projected to return part-time in February

New Board Member Ryan Loke, to replace Candice Broce / Consumer Member

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 5:10 p.m.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive 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.

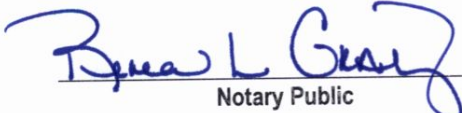
**Comes now the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.**

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 January 6, 2022 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

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

