

The Investigative Committee A of the Georgia Board of Nursing met Thursday, September 7, 2023, via conference call at the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

**Thursday, September 7, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Merry Fort, RN, BS, Vice President  
Joshua Batson, NP-C  
Ashley Gresham, MSN, RN, CCRN  
Andrea Phipps, LPN  
Cynthia Summerlin, NP-C, DNP  
Maceo Tanner, RN

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Darrell Thompson, RN, DNP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC

**STAFF PRESENT**

Tara Taylor, Executive Director, Georgia Board of Nursing  
Edye Tillman-Johnson, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline  
LaWanda Davis, RN, BSN, Nursing Consultant – Legal/Discipline  
Trisha McNair, RN, BSN, Legal/Discipline Nursing Consultant  
Max Changus, Assistant Attorney General  
Erika McKinney, Board Support Specialist

Fort called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2023.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Phipps moved, Gresham 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 7, 2023, 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)

Summerlin moved to present the following recommendations to the Board. Gresham seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**RNI230100** – Refer to AG for a Public Reprimand with \$500.00 for AAJ

**LPNI220368** – Investigative Letter with Courses to include: 1. Upholding the Standard: Professional Accountability in Nursing, 2. Jurisprudence – Georgia LPN, and 3. Resident’s Rights

**RNI240046** – Refer to AG- Cease and Desist Order

**RNI240118** – Applicant MPE with a safe to practice statement

**RNI230237** – Refer to Cherokee County Solicitors office for criminal prosecution

**RNI230583** – Refer to SOS investigations to obtain the full medical record, upon receipt send for Peer Review.

**LPNI230014** – LOC-Positive Marijuana

**RNI230802** – Refer to AG: Public Consent Order for 5 Years Probation, QTR x 3(e,s,a), Medication Management, Monthly PEth testing X24 months and random monthly UDS with EtG and EtS for duration of probation, SAS, narcotic restrictions, standard work restrictions. May petition to terminate after 3 years documented sobriety.

**RNI240129** – Refer to AG- Private Reprimand with 1500 fine for CE Violation (no documentation of competency requirements for 3 renewal cycles).

**RNI240131** – Issue License with LOC- Arrest. Will need to submit final court disposition with 10 days of adjudication. Eligible for eNLC.

**LPNI180366** – Approve request for early termination of probation

**RNI191111** – Approve request to lift Consent Order

**RNI240139** – Issue License with LOC- Arrest. Applicant not eligible for eNLC due to felony conviction.

**LPNI230207** – Close Case

**RNI221187** – Refer to AG- Public Reprimand with Probation x 2 years, QTR reports (e,s), Work Restrictions, Indirect Supervision: Respondent shall be supervised by an APRN or Physician who is on premises and readily available to provide assistance and intervention if necessary.

**RNI230572** – Investigative Letter with Courses to include: 1. Upholding the Standard: Professional Accountability in Nursing. 2. Jurisprudence – Georgia RN, and 3. Documentation: Accurate and Legal

**RNI231118** – Investigative Letter with Courses to include: 1. Upholding the Standard: Professional Accountability in Nursing, 2. Jurisprudence – Georgia RN, and 3. Resident's Rights

**LPNI240095** – Issue single state license with LOC-Criminal

**LPNI230296** – Public Consent Order (for submitted fraudulent documents as CE's) and \$500.00 fine for CE violation for 2021-2023 renewal

**RNI240295** – Issue RN license with LOC-Criminal. Ineligible for eNLC.

**RNI200822** – Approve request to float between Respondent's current work location and the DaVita region clinics. These clinics only.

**RNI230155** – Approve request to lift suspension. Refer to AG for a public consent order with 5 years' probation, narcotic restrictions X2 years, quarterly reports X4 (s, e, a, and psychotherapy), quarterly HairStat 5 x 12mo, random monthly UDS with EtG and EtS throughout the period of probation, monthly PEth X12 months, SAS, standard work restrictions and course in Understanding the Disease of Addiction.

**RNI200978** – Allow applicant to withdraw application. May reapply with documentation of completion of an IOP program with a safe to practice statement from an addictionologist.

**RNI230820** – Refer to AG for a public consent order with 5 years' probation, quarterly reports X3 (s, e, a.), random monthly UDS with EtG and EtS throughout the period of probation, monthly PEth X 24 months, SAS, standard work restrictions and course in Understanding the Disease of Addiction.

**RNI240059** – Close Case

**LPNI220116** – Issue Letter of Modification changing HairStat 5 testing from monthly to quarterly X12months.

**RNI240309** – Issue a single RN license with LOC-Criminal

**RNI240245** – VS/IS may petition to lift with MPE or documentation of completion of treatment with a safe to practice statement from an addictionologist.

**RNI210793** – Amend current work restriction from working no more than 36 hours per week to working no more than 48 hours per week.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

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

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Merry Fort, **Vice President**

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

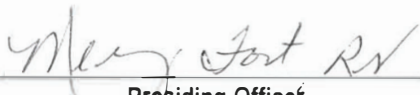
**AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF  
PUBLIC MEETING**

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 September 7, 2023 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 7th day of September, 2023.

  
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Notary Public

