



GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING

The Georgia Board of Nursing met on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 4:00pm via Webex video conference.

Monday, August 24, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Maceo Tanner, RN, President
- Joshua Batson, RN, NP-C
- Lydia Watkins, DNP, RN, CPNP, CNE
- Dena Zinker, MSN, RN, NE-BC, FACHE
- Autumn Garber, RN, CRNA
- Cynthia Summerlin, NP-C, DNP
- Ryan Loke, Consumer Member
- Ashley Gresham, MSN, RN, CCRN
- Roger Pierce, RN, MSN
- Jessica Willcox, MSN, RN

STAFF PRESENT:

- Natara Taylor, Executive Director
- LaWanda Davis, RN, BSN, Legal/Discipline Nursing Consultant
- Trisha McNair, RN, BSN, Legal/Discipline Nursing Consultant
- Edye Tillman-Johnson, Legal/Discipline Nursing Consultant
- Stevan Van Hook, Education Consultant
- Erika McKinney, Board Support Specialist
- Giovanna Franchi Souza, Assistant Attorney General
- D. Christopher Smith, Assistant Attorney General
- Thomas McNulty, Assistant Attorney General

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Heather Bohannon, LPN, CPC, Vice President
- Brandy Hollins, LPN
- Ashlan Porter, BSN, RN

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Austin Dykstra
- Blake Halladay, RN
- Caleb Trotter
- Kamryn Wham (GHA)
- Katherine Borden
- Kathleen Goerke
- Katie Chargualaf
- Michelle Sweat
- Myla Wilson
- Pam Cospers
- Pamela Russman-Chambers
- Rob Peterson
- Tamme Sanders
- Lynne Wallom

OPEN SESSION

Tanner called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm on Monday, August 24, 2026.

The Board of Nursing conducted a public rule hearing to propose amendments to Board Rule 410-8-.01 General Requirements, Rule 410-8-.03 Organization and Administration, Rule 410-8-.05 Faculty, Rule 410-8-.12 Development and Implementation of New Nursing Education Programs, and Proposed Rule 410-8-.14 Approval of Out-of-State Pre-Licensure Nursing Education Programs to Conduct Clinical Learning Activities in Georgia.

Key Amendments:

Proposed Changes to Rule 410-8-.03 and Rule 410-8-.12 are to clarify that accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is not the only acceptable form of institutional accreditation. The amendment provides that accreditation by any accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education satisfies this requirement.

Proposed Changes to Rule 410-8-.05 are to clarify that a candidate for nursing administrator may satisfy the teaching experience requirement through experience in any type of nursing education program, rather than being limited to a prelicensure nursing education program. Additionally, faculty without a graduate degree may require additional oversight and mentorship compared to graduate-prepared faculty, and this revision provides greater clarity regarding that expectation.

Rule 410-8-.14 is a newly proposed rule to create a pathway for out-of-state nursing education programs to place their students in clinical learning experiences in Georgia.

The rule was duly posted for 30 days, and three public comments were received from the following entities and individuals:

University of South Carolina – Katie Chargualaf
Nightingale College – Blake Halladay
Georgia Hospital Association – Keri Conley
Nightingale College – Blake Halladay.

Lydia Watkins responded to Mrs. Chargualaf's concerns.

Public comments were reviewed by the Board.

Gresham made a motion to adopt the proposed amendments to Board Rule 410-8 and proposed Rule 410-8-14. Watkins seconded the motion, and it carried.

Gresham made a motion to release the Attorney General's Memorandum of Authority to the Governor's Office. Willcox seconded the motion, and it carried. The public hearing was then concluded.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on August 24, 2026, at 4:20 pm.

Maceo Tanner, RN

Maceo Tanner, **President**

Natara Taylor, RN

Natara Taylor, **Executive Director**