

**NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**TELECONFERENCE MEETING**  
**July 9, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Nursing was called to order by Patricia Motl, Board President, at 9:02 a.m., July 9, 2020. The central meeting location was the Licensure Unit Conference Room, Nebraska State Office Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE 68508. Copies of the agenda were mailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website. Motl announced the location of an available copy of the Open Meetings Act within the room.

**ROLL CALL**

The following board members were present at the central meeting location and answered roll:

- Janet Andrew, LPN, *Board Vice-President*
- Patricia Motl, RN, *Board President*

The following board members answered roll call via teleconference:

- Tag Herbek, *Public Member*
- Tom Hoover, RN
- Angela Kula, LPN
- Louise LaFramboise, RN
- Kristin Ruiz, RN
- Linda Stones, RN
- Lana Taylor, RN

The following Board member called in after roll call: Rita Thalken, *Public Member* (called in at 9:04 a.m.).

The following Board members were absent: Anne Dey, RN, and Katherine Werth, APRN-NP.

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were present:

- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office attended part or all of the meeting via teleconference:

- Kathy Hoebelheinrich, APRN-NP, *Nursing Practice Consultant*
- Jacci Reznicek, RN, *Nursing Education Consultant*
- Anna Harrison, *Compliance Monitor*
- Brittany Bigham, *Investigator*
- Jessica Bowman, *Investigator*
- Sharon Fitts, *Investigator*
- Susan Held, *Investigator*
- Patricia Lemke, *Investigator*
- Mendy Mahar-Clark, *Investigator*
- Natalee Hart, *Assistant Attorney General*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

These minutes were approved by the Board  
of Nursing on August 20, 2020.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Andrew made the motion, seconded by Ruiz, to adopt the agenda for the July 9, 2020, Board of Nursing meeting.

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Andrew made the motion, seconded by Ruiz, to approve the consent agenda.

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### MidPlains Community College

**MOTION:** The Education Committee moved that the Board of Nursing approve the MidPlains Community College courses: NURS 1105 Health Concepts I, NURS 1205 Health Concepts II, and NURS 1206 Pharmacology II.

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

### UNMC College of Nursing

**MOTION:** The Education Committee moved that the Board of Nursing approve the UNMC College of Nursing elective course NRSG 403 Introduction to Primary Care Nursing.

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

### Nebraska Methodist College BSN Program

**MOTION:** The Education Committee moved that the Board of Nursing approve Nebraska Methodist College's BSN courses NRS261: Care & Development of the Neonate & Family, NRS 361: Pain Management, NRS 365: History of Nursing, NRS 370: Healthcare Spanish Community Engagement, NRS 402: Transition to Practice, NRS 410: Specialized Populations, and NRS 471: Senior Synthesis

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

### World Education Services

Reznicek presented information on World Education Services (WES) for possible inclusion on the list of approved credential evaluation services that graduates of foreign nursing programs can use when applying for Nebraska RN and LPN licenses. LaFramboise reported that the Education Committee had reviewed the WES materials and found them to be acceptable, and that WES has a long-established history of providing equivalency reports to colleges and universities.

**MOTION:** LaFramboise moved, seconded by Kula, to approve World Education Services as provider of credential evaluation services reports.

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

## NCLEX Reports for First Quarter, 2020

Reznicek summarized the NCLEX results for people who took their first NCLEX exam between January 1, 2020, and March 31, 2020. Of the 275 graduates of Nebraska RN programs who took NCLEX during this quarter, 93.82% passed, which is above the national pass rate of 89.52%. For graduates of Nebraska LPN programs, 18 tested during the quarter, and 88.89% passed, which is above the national pass rate of 86.05%.

## **IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON NURSE LICENSURE**

Reznicek reported that Pearson VUE expects to have its testing capacity for NCLEX exam at 100% of its pre-Covid capacity by mid-July. According to Reznicek, there are many appointment slots available in July. Since May 1, 2020, approximately 517 of Nebraska's RN applicants have taken NCLEX and approximately 68 LPN applicants have tested. LaFramboise reported that of her program's 300 May graduates, approximately 125 have already taken NCLEX.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Nurse Licensure Compact Update – Joyner reported that Indiana has implemented the Nurse Licensure Compact. Nurses with multistate RN licenses can now practice in Indiana. Indiana nurses who wish to change their licenses to multistate status need to apply with the Indiana Board of Nursing.

NCSBN Delegate Assembly – LaFramboise and Motl will represent the Board at the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's Delegate Assembly on August 12, 2020. Items to be voted on include elections for positions on the Board of Directors and proposed changes to the APRN Compact.

Application for 407 Review of APRN Licensure – The first meeting of the APRN Technical Review Committee is scheduled for July 30, 2020. Stones and Motl will attend the meeting on behalf of the Board of Nursing, which is sponsoring the 407 Review.

Nursing Regulations Update – Joyner reported that it is her understanding that with the exception of Chapter 97, the amended nursing regulation chapters have been forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for the next step in the approval process.

Nursing News – Staff plan to include information about RN renewals in the next edition of *Nursing News*. Joyner explained that renewals are being postponed until after the Governor lifts the declaration of emergency for COVID-19. Once the emergency is lifted, renewal notices will be mailed to RNs within 30 days, and RNs would then have 90 days to renew their licenses. Hoebelheinrich and Reznicek are preparing articles pertinent to APRN issues, including information relating to the APRN Compact, consensus alignment, and interviews with Nebraska APRNs. They are also planning to include articles on prescriptive authority, peer-reviewed continuing education, and NCLEX pass rates for 2019.

Staff Updates – JoAnn Russell has joined the Licensure Unit's Nursing Section team. She will be responsible for processing APRN applications in addition to reinstatement applications for RNs, LPNs, and APRNs.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Andrew made the motion, seconded by Stones, for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

9:39 a.m. Meeting went into closed session.  
12:10 p.m. Meeting returned to open session.

### **LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **MICHAEL J. BERTRAND, JR. – LPN APPLICANT**

**MOTION:** Andrew made the motion, seconded by Kula, to recommend denying Michael Bertrand's application for an LPN license based on misdemeanor convictions rationally related to the profession and disciplinary action against license in another jurisdiction.

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken.  
Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

#### **ERIKA C. NEWILL – LPN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE**

**MOTION:** Stones made the motion, seconded by LaFramboise, to recommend reinstating an unrestricted LPN license to Erika Newill based on applicant's completion of treatment, compliance with treatment recommendations, active involvement in the substance abuse/addiction recovery process, reported period of sobriety from May 2015, and positive letters of reference.

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

#### **REBECCA L. WILLITS – RN REINSTATEMENT FROM DISCIPLINE**

**MOTION:** Stones made the motion, seconded by Ruiz, to recommend reinstating an unrestricted RN license to Rebecca Willits based on applicant's completion of treatment, compliance with treatment recommendations, active involvement in the substance abuse/addiction recovery process, reported period of sobriety from September 2014, and positive letters of reference

Voting Yes: Andrew, Herbek, Hoover, Kula, LaFramboise, Motl, Ruiz, Stones, Taylor, and Thalken. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dey and Werth. Motion carried.

### **CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner  
Health Licensing Coordinator