

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

F I N A L M I N U T E S

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF NURSING

TIME: 9:04 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

June 05, 2025

State Board of Nursing
June 05, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair - Absent
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice
Chair
Kathryn L. Capiotis, MSN, BSN, RN - Absent
Charlene W. Compheer, PhD, RD, LDN, FASPEN - Absent
Susan Hellier, PhD, DNP, FNP-BC
Brandy Hershberger, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN
Sue E. Hertzler, LPN
Linda A. Kerns, Esquire, Public Member
David Scher, MPH, MSN, RN, CEN
Tina D. Siegel, LPN

COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL OFFICE STAFF:

Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel
Megan E. Castor, Esquire, Board Counsel
Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel
Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel
Tata Czekner, Intern, Counsel Division
Codi Tucker, Esquire, Board Prosecution Co-Liaison
T'rese Evancho, Esquire, Board Prosecution Co-Liaison
Kathryn Bellfy, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Garrett Rine, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Matthew Sniscak, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Carlton Smith, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Prosecution Division
Trista M. Boyd, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Adrianne E. Doll, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Matthew Fogal, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Alex Capitello, Legal Analyst, Office of Prosecution
Shemeika Chandler, Legal Assistant, Office of
Prosecution

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BOARD STAFF:

Wendy Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary
Cynthia K. Miller, Board Administrator
Kelly Hoffman, MSN, RN, Nursing Education Advisor
Sue Petula, PhD, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FRE, Nursing
Education Advisor

State Board of Nursing
June 05, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BOARD STAFF: (Cont.)

Tracy Scheirer, PhD, MSN, RN, CMSRN, CNE, Nursing
Education Advisor
Susan Bolig, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor
Dulcey Frantz, DNP, RN, RAC-C, Nursing Practice
Advisor
Kevin Knipe, MSW, LSW, CCDP Diplomate, Program
Co-Manager, Professional Health Monitoring Program
Andrew LaFratte, Deputy Policy Director, Department
of State
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State

ALSO PRESENT:

Melanie Holt, MSN, RN, Director, Practical Nursing
Program, Clearfield County Career and Technology
Center
Kathleen Rundquist, MSN, RN, Director, Practical
Nursing Program, Franklin County Career and
Technology Center
Michelle Davis, LPN, MSN, Director of Nursing,
Lincoln Technical Institute
Lauren Bowen, PhD, Provost, Juniata College
Dominick Peruso, Juniata College, Associate Provost
Aaron Shenck, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic
Association of Career Schools
Stacy Delaney, MSN, RN, Director, Practical Nursing
Program, Delaware County Technical Schools
Denise Vanacore, PhD, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, Vice
Dean and Professor, Holy Family University School
of Nursing & Health Sciences
Corey Glavin-Dennis, MSN, BA, RN, CNE, Director,
Practical Nursing Program, Pennsylvania Institute
of Technology
Elizabeth Menschner, DNP, MAS, MSN, RN, NEA-BC,
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Organization of
Nurse Leaders
Lisa Urban, MSN, RN, Director, Practical Nursing
Program, Greater Altoona Career and Technology
Center
Misha Patel, Esquire, Government Relations
Specialist, Pennsylvania Medical Society
Marissa Fouse, Executive Assistant, Juniata College
Ginger Peterson, Wilson College

State Board of Nursing
June 05, 2025

ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Bailey Shafer, LPN, RN, BSN, MSN, Erie County
Community College
Andrea Potteiger, MSN, NE-BC, Nurse Expert for the
Prosecution
Heather Haines, MSN, BS, RN, Director, Practical
Nursing Program, Mifflin County Academy of Science
and Technology
Anna Gale, DNP, CRNP, FNP-BC, Coordinator of the FNP
Track, Professor of Nursing, Messiah University
Sandra Cohen, CRNP WHNP-BC, RN, Senior Associate
Dean, St. Luke's School of Nursing
Amina Harris, MBA, MSN, RN, Messiah University CRNP
Program
Patricia Delucia, Corporate Director of Nursing,
Lincoln Technical Institute
Cynthia Rish, Rish Law Firm
Wesley Rish, Esquire, Rish Law Firm
Nicole Campbell, Division Chief, Division of Law
Enforcement Education and Trade Schools,
Pennsylvania Department of Education
P. Daniel Altland, Esquire, Pennsylvania Association
of Nurse Anesthetists
Marcia Landman, MSN-FNP, BSN, RN, Director, Practical
Nursing, United Career Institute
Katie Gruber, MSW, CADDC, Case Manager, Physicians'
Health Program, PA Medical Society
Jenifer Stilgenbauer, MEd, BSN, Bethlehem Area
Vocational-Technical School
Kari Orchard, Democratic Executive Director, House
Professional Licensure Committee
Tracy Campbell, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Angela Simmons, DNP, MSN-NCEL, RN, Director,
Practical Nurse Program, Carlow University
Stephanie Weaver, BSN, RN, Practical Nursing
Instructor, Greater Altoona Career & Technology
Center
Jordan Fuhrman, Government Relations Specialist,
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
Michelle Borland, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CN, Vice
President, Director of Nursing, Laurel College of
Technology
Chad T. Callen, Chief Executive Officer, West
Virginia Junior College & United Career Institute
Jennifer McCabe, Student, Wilmington University
Amanda Sleeper, NP Student, Wilmington University

State Board of Nursing
June 05, 2025

ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Susan Lynch, Campus President, Fortis Institute-
Scranton Campus

Rachel Mann, Esquire, Imagine Different Coalition
Steering Committee/Consultant

Scott E. Van Vooren, EdD, Vice President, PITC
Institute

Erin Johnson, MPH, MSN, RN, Program Coordinator and
Public Health Nurse, Technology Assisted Children's
Home Program

Ryan Scott, Ascend Learning

Ben Krol, Ascend Learning

Kristin Doorley, Northeast Sales Director, Ascend
Learning

Patricia A. Hubbs, RN, BSN, MBA, Administrative
Director, Nursing and Clinical Care Services,
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Kelly A. Kuhns, PhD, RN, CNE, Professor, Millersville
University

Katrina Maurer, DNP, Dean, Practical Nursing Program,
Fortis Institute-Scranton Campus

George Mikluscak, EdD, Vice President, West Virginia
Re-Authorization Review Committee

Joanna Hughes Horne, BSN, RN, OCN, Pennsylvania
Institute of Technology

Kathleen Prendergast, LPN, Assistant Director of
Nursing Clinical and Lab Experiences,
Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

Sarah Hajkowski, Adjunct Faculty, Pennsylvania
Institute of Technology

Joseph A. Paletta, Esquire, Paletta Law

Gail Holby, MSN, Director, Wilkes-Barre Area Career &
Technical Center Practical Nursing

Kaitlin Cobourne, PhD, RN, CNE, CNEcl, Dean, South
College School of Nursing

Peggy Brinton, RRT, BSRT, MS, Respiratory Therapy
Director, South College

Marianne Schwalbe, BSN, RN, MS, Nursing Faculty,
Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

Larissa Smollar, MSN, RN, CHSE, Pennsylvania
Institute of Technology

Laurie Madera, Human Services Analyst, Pennsylvania
Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Brenda Elliott, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, Graduate Program
in Nursing Director, Assistant Professor of Nursing

Jeff Mann, Campus Director, Prism Career Institute

Board of Nursing
June 05, 2025

ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Kristen Slabaugh, DNP, CRNP, FNP-C, CNE, Chief
Nursing Administrator, Assistant Dean of Nursing,
Professor of Nursing, Messiah University
Rebekah Ostby, Director of Operations & Finance,
Messiah University
Stephen Gaus, President, TruMerit
Nadesha Mercer, Manager of Credentials Evaluation
Services and Credentials Verification Service for
NY State, TruMerit
Courtney Pham, Program Learning Specialist, TruMerit
Josef Silny, President, Josef Silny & Associates Inc.
Lynda Belmehdi, International Credentials Evaluator,
TruMerit
Carla Le'coin, RN, Jefferson Einstein Philadelphia
Campus & PASNAP Executive Board
Mary Hartley, President, The Arc of Greater
Pittsburgh, Senior Vice-President of Achieva
Aboubakr Deramchi, Credential Specialist, TruMerit
Hadley Munro, Escalation Specialist-Credential
Evaluation, TruMerit
Jennifer DellAntonio, DEd, MSN, RN, CNE, Director of
Nursing, Juniata College
Muneeza Iqbal, MPH, Deputy Secretary for Health
Resources and Services, Pennsylvania Department of
Health
Shya M. Erdman, Director, International Student &
Scholar Services, Juniata College
James A. Troha, President, Juniata College
Tanny Wallish, Contractor, Pennsylvania Department of
Health
Reagan Hansen, Regulation Specialist, Nightingale
College
Francis Giglio, Vice President, Compliance &
Regulatory Services, Lincoln Technical Institute
Jeantel Romain, Pennsylvania Institute of Technology
Jacquelyn Condell, Pennsylvania Department of Health
Anthony Norwood, Pennsylvania Department of Health
Lauren Knepp, Pennsylvania Department of Community &
Economic Development
Edie Brous, Esquire, Law Offices of Edith Brous
Nikolaos S. Moraros, EdD, MSN, MSHSA, RN, PHN,
Executive Regional Dean of Nursing Education, Prism
Career Institute
Janyce Collier, MSN, RN, CNE, JLM Consulting

Board of Nursing
June 05, 2025

ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Beth Ann White, DNP, CRNP, ANP-C, CNE, Associate
Teaching Professor, Pennsylvania State College of
Nursing
Lauren Scheetz, RN, MSN, Director Practical Nursing,
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Susan Leight, EdD, Research Professor and Director of
CON Research Initiative; DNP-NP Options Director,
Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing, Penn State
University
Mary O'Connor, PhD, MSN, RN, Pennsylvania
Organization of Nurse Leaders (PONL) Legislative
Committee; Professor Emeritus (Retired), PennWest
University
Erika Sutton
Laurie Badzek, LLM, JD, MS, RN, FNAP, FAAN,
Pennsylvania State University College of Nursing
717-575-6888
215-791-2728
484-995-1680
610-892-1500
Allison Walker, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

State Board of Nursing

June 05, 2025

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Nursing was held on Thursday, June 5, 2025. Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Introduction of Board Members

[Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice Chair, requested an introduction of Board members. A quorum was present.]

Introduction of Board Staff

[Wendy Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary, provided an introduction of Board staff.]

Introduction of Board Counsel

[Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice Chair, requested an introduction of Board Counsel.]

Introduction of Board Prosecution

[Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice Chair, requested an introduction of Board

1 Prosecutors.]

2 ***

3 Introduction of In-Person Attendees

4 [Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice
5 Chair, requested an introduction of in-person
6 attendees.]

7 ***

8 Introduction of Virtual Attendees

9 [Cynthia K. Miller, Board Administrator, provided an
10 introduction of virtual attendees.]

11 ***

12 Adoption of the Agenda

13 JUDITH PACHTER SCHULDER:

14 Item No. 52 is tabled. The other thing
15 is that we are going to be going into
16 Executive Session at 11:30, and our
17 regulations meeting will follow the
18 Executive Session. And we're doing
19 that just because we have some Board
20 members who are not in attendance
21 today. And for us to be able to move
22 on certain matters, we need to have
23 everyone who's here, here. So we're
24 going to make those two corrections.

25 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

1 So can I have a motion to approve the
2 Agenda as amended?

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

4 So moved.

5 MS. HERTZLER:

6 Second.

7 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

8 Okay, all in favor? Any opposed or
9 abstentions?

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11 ***

12 Report of Prosecutorial Division

13 [Kathryn Bellfy, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
14 the Consent Agreements regarding the Operation
15 Nightingale Investigation batch cases at Agenda items
16 20, 21, and 24, as well as items 22 and 23.]

17 ***

18 [Trista Boyd, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
19 Agenda item 13, the Consent Agreement at Case No. 24-
20 51-017074.]

21 ***

22 [Adrianne Doll, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
23 Consent Agreements at Agenda items 14 through 19.]

24 ***

25 [T'rese Evancho, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented

1 Agenda items 25, 26, and 27.]

2 ***

3 [Matthew Fogal, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
4 the Consent Agreements regarding Agenda items 28, 29,
5 and 30.]

6 ***

7 [Garrett Rine, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
8 the Consent Agreements regarding Agenda items 31 and
9 32.]

10 ***

11 [Matthew Sniscak, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
12 presented the Consent Agreement regarding Agenda item
13 83.]

14 ***

15 Appointment - PA Kids Need Complex Care Now
16 Presentation

17 [Rachel Mann, Esquire, Imagine Different Coalition
18 Steering Committee/Consultant, introduced her
19 colleague, Erin Johnson, MPH, MSN, RN, Program
20 Coordinator and Registered Public Health Nurse,
21 Technology Assisted Children's Home Program.

22 Ms. Johnson stated she had worked since August
23 2019 as a non-clinical, Master's-prepared Public
24 Health nurse and Program Coordinator supporting
25 families with medically complex, technology-dependent

1 children across 31 counties in eastern Pennsylvania.
2 She clarified that she was speaking as a private
3 citizen and not in her professional role or as a
4 member of the Imagine Different Coalition Nurses
5 Nursing Work Group. She highlighted that many
6 families she worked with had approved pediatric home
7 nursing hours that were unfilled or only partially
8 filled. She shared her personal experience from 2016
9 when her 11-month-old daughter was diagnosed with a
10 difficult-to-treat form of leukemia. Over three
11 years, they spent more than 250 nights inpatient,
12 during which time, as a single parent and nurse, she
13 was solely responsible for her daughter's complex
14 care without any authorized home nursing or aide
15 support.

16 Ms. Johnson stated her responsibilities included
17 administering medications, managing feeding tubes,
18 central lines, and pumps, and handling severe side
19 effects such as mucositis and high blood pressure.
20 She emphasized that while she had the advantage of
21 nursing training, most parents do not. She explained
22 that many parents caring for children with complex
23 needs, such as tracheostomies or ventilators, were
24 not allowed to be paid for their skilled caregiving
25 work despite being required to meet hospital-grade

1 training standards.

2 Ms. Johnson cited Monica Ruh, Director of Nursing
3 at Abby Care, who emphasized the unique skill and
4 compassion family caregivers bring and noted that
5 many families teach professional nurses how to better
6 care for their children. Ms. Johnson concluded by
7 stressing that although the state already relies on
8 parent caregivers, it refuses to pay them, and she
9 redirected the floor to Ms. Mann to discuss
10 legislative solutions to this issue.

11 Ms. Mann stated she served on the Steering
12 Committee of the Imagine Different Coalition, a group
13 of stakeholders focused on ensuring children grow up
14 in families rather than institutions. She explained
15 that the coalition was working on two bills: One to
16 improve access to nurses, and another, House Bill
17 1068, to create a licensing pathway for parents or
18 relatives to be paid caregivers through home health
19 agencies.

20 Ms. Mann emphasized that parents often had to
21 choose between employment and institutionalizing
22 their child due to the lack of paid caregiving
23 options. HB 1068, sponsored by Representative
24 Brandon Markosek and co-sponsored by 18 legislators,
25 had support from over 20 organizations and no stated

1 opposition. The bill would allow a parent, relative,
2 or cohabiting caregiver to obtain a license valid
3 only for caring for their specific child while
4 employed by a home health agency. The caregiver
5 could work regular shifts up to 12 hours per day or
6 fill in for absent nurses and would receive training
7 in both federal home health aide standards and the
8 child's specific medical procedures.

9 Licensing would be overseen by the Board, which
10 would verify training, employment, and clearances.
11 Licenses would become inactive when employment ended.
12 Participation would be entirely voluntary, and
13 agencies would retain discretion over hiring.
14 Caregivers would be paid at rates equivalent to
15 licensed practical nurses to prevent financial
16 incentives to replace professional nurses. Ms. Mann
17 noted that similar programs existed in Arizona,
18 Florida, and partially in Colorado.

19 Ms. Pachter Schulder acknowledged the
20 presentation and directed the speakers to continue
21 discussions with the Legislative Director regarding
22 the Department's stance on the bill.

23 Ms. Mann confirmed that they had already
24 initiated contact with the Legislative Director and
25 affirmed that they were preparing a packet of

1 information for submission.]

2 ***

3 Regulation Updates

4 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
5 stated there were no new updates for regulation 16A-
6 5139 concerning volunteer licensing as it is planned
7 to be handled as one package within the Bureau;
8 however, she confirmed that volunteer licenses are
9 being issued.

10 On 16A-5141, the Nursing Education Programs
11 regulation, the Board will be continuing its review
12 of the post-publication comments later in the
13 meeting. She added that public comment would be
14 invited afterward and that discussion on faculty and
15 administrator qualifications was deferred to the July
16 meeting at Chair Hunsberger's request.

17 Ms. Pachter Schulder reported that regulation
18 16A-5145, regarding Certified Registered Nurse
19 Anesthetist (CRNA) Licensure, had been delivered to
20 the House and Senate Licensure Committees, the
21 Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC), and
22 the Legislative Reference Bureau. The regulation is
23 set for publication on June 28, 2025, with a public
24 comment period running through July 28, 2025. The
25 Board will review the comments at its September

1 meeting. If feedback from the Independent Regulatory
2 Review Commission (IRRC) was not available by the
3 date the agenda is due, discussion will occur at a
4 later meeting.

5 Ms. Pachter Schulder explained that regulation
6 16A-5146, addressing Opioid Prescription and
7 Education and Organ Donation Education, had been
8 delayed at the Commissioner's request to align with
9 the Medical and Osteopathic Boards' regulation.
10 However, because the Nursing Board delivered the
11 proposed regulation to the Legislative committees in
12 September 2023, the final form regulation has to be
13 delivered by September 2025 to avoid restarting the
14 process. The plan is to publish in August/September
15 2025 with an effective date of May 1, 2026. This
16 timeline would allow integration into the upcoming
17 licensure system and coordination with the other
18 Boards. She reminded attendees that while the Opioid
19 Education requirement already exists, licensees could
20 begin the Organ Donation Education early and receive
21 credit for it within the five-year compliance window.

22 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted that regulation 16A-
23 5148 related to the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)
24 temporary regulations had been published on May 24.
25 An implementation date was pending but would be

1 communicated to all licensees through an email blast
2 with at least two weeks' notice. Training materials,
3 including videos and instructions, would be made
4 available in advance. She emphasized that an FBI
5 criminal background check, now required for all
6 healthcare practitioners, including those not seeking
7 a multistate license, would be obtained through
8 IDEMIA, which will forward results to the
9 Pennsylvania State Police for Board review. It is
10 expected that licenses will not be issued on the go-
11 live date as background checks would not be completed
12 immediately. Staff, Counsel, and Prosecutors are
13 scheduled for Compact-related training from June 16
14 to 18, 2025, and new Frequently Asked Questions had
15 been posted to the Board's website.

16 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated regulation 16A-5150
17 regarding Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners
18 (CRNPs) Prescribing and Dispensing is currently on
19 the back burner due to prioritization of other
20 regulatory packages.

21 Ms. Pachter Schulder shared that regulation 16A-
22 5151 which concerns Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
23 Pronouncement of Death had completed its pre-draft
24 input phase with few comments received. These would
25 be reviewed during the July meeting for further

1 discussion and possible adoption in proposed form.

2 Ms. Pachter Schulder also briefly referenced
3 regulation 16A-5152 related to permanent Nurse
4 Licensure Compact regulations, noting it was not
5 currently listed on the agenda. She suggested
6 waiting to determine whether further regulatory
7 changes would be necessary based on issues arising
8 from the multistate licensure process.]

9 ***

10 Pennsylvania Legislative Update

11 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
12 stated the Pennsylvania Legislative update included
13 two items. The first was the previously discussed
14 bill, and the second was House Bill 1490, concerning
15 the Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP)
16 pilot program originally drafted in 2019. She
17 explained that significant amendments to the bill
18 were expected, and a new bill might be introduced or
19 House Bill 1490 amended. She noted the existence of
20 two competing CRNP proposals. One was the
21 independent practice bill, which would still require
22 three years and 3600 hours of collaborative practice
23 along with prescriptive authority. The other
24 proposal involved pilot bills that also required the
25 same experience and prescriptive authority but

1 limited practice to shortage areas and potentially to
2 specific CRNP specialties. These pilot bills
3 included a study component and are still under
4 discussion regarding the subcommittee's authority and
5 scope for the current year.]

6 ***

7 Report of Chairperson - No Report

8 ***

9 Report of Acting Commissioner

10 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
11 Professional and Occupational Affairs, noted that the
12 replacement for the PALS Licensure System, Evoke, is
13 still on schedule for early 2026.]

14 ***

15 Report of Committees - Probable Cause

16 [Sue E. Hertzler, LPN, reported that the Probable
17 Cause Committee moved on 8 Petitions for Appropriate
18 Relief, 27 Petitions for Mental and Physical
19 Examinations, and 2 Immediate Temporary Suspensions—
20 one on April 22nd and the other on May 29th.]

21 ***

22 Report of Committees - Application Review

23 [Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice
24 Chair, reported that virtual meetings occurred, and
25 the Committee moved on applications submitted.]

Report of Committees - Advanced Practice - No Report

Report of Committees - RN/PN Practice, Education and Regulation - The regulations meeting will follow the Executive Session.

Report of Committees - Dietitian-Nutritionist - No Report

Report of Executive Secretary

[Wendy J. Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary, reported that she had recently returned from the NCSBN Executive Officer Summit where one of the main topics was artificial intelligence (AI). She shared that Summit participants emphasized the importance of nursing being involved early in shaping the role of AI in the profession. She noted that while AI is highly advanced, the discussions at the Summit were that it functions as a mimic or autocomplete tool, not a thinker, and is only 85 to 90 percent accurate. Due to the increasing volume of AI-generated content on the internet, that accuracy is slightly declining.

Ms. Miller also mentioned pending legislation in Oregon that would prohibit any non-human or entity

1 from being referred to as a nurse. However, the
2 Oregon Board of Nursing had concerns about the bill's
3 current wording. Additionally, she stated NCSBN was
4 preparing for its next strategic initiative cycle,
5 with a focus on creating guardrails rather than
6 barriers for nurses and nursing practice.]

7 ***

8 Old Business

9 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
10 stated under the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), an
11 Alternative to Discipline flag applies to licensees
12 enrolled in programs such as the Voluntary Recovery
13 Program (VRP), Professional Health Monitoring Program
14 (PHMP), the Practice, Education, Remediation, and
15 Collaboration Program (PERC), and the Disciplinary
16 Monitoring Unit (DMU).

17 Although no current participants are in PERC,
18 formal discipline like suspension or revocation, as
19 well as participation in the other programs would
20 prevent participants from obtaining a multistate
21 license. She noted that this impacts the PHMP
22 Program, and Prosecution and PHMP staff were
23 collaborating on a letter to inform participants,
24 especially those in VRP Agreements, that while their
25 enrollment may be confidential, applying for a

1 multistate license requires disclosure. Applicants
2 must declare they are not in an alternative
3 discipline program, and confidentiality does not
4 override that requirement. Letters advising
5 individuals in PHMP of this policy were scheduled to
6 be sent soon.

7 Additionally, future Consent Agreements for VRP
8 and DMU participants would include language about the
9 Compact and the implications of alternative
10 discipline status on multistate licensure.]

11 ***

12 New Business

13 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

14 So New Business on the Agenda 2025 NLC
15 and NCSBN Annual Meeting. And
16 normally, if possible, we'd like to
17 send some Board members to that. So I
18 think Dr. Hunsberger and myself would
19 like to go. Just wondering if we could
20 maybe do Board members and then Wendy
21 Miller and then Dr. Kmetz who's on the
22 Leadership Succession Committee. That
23 is part of her responsibility.

24 Okay. So, can I have a motion for
25 that?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 So moved.

3 MR. SCHER:

4 Second.

5 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

6 All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

7 [The motion carried unanimously.]

8 ***

9 Appointment - South College Practical Nursing
10 Program's Request to Change the Day Program to
11 Evening/Weekend Option

12 [Kaitlin Cobourne, PhD, RN, CNE, CNEcl, Dean,
13 presented on behalf of South College Nursing
14 Program's proposal.]

15 Dr. Cobourne stated South College submitted a
16 proposal requesting approval to transition its LPN
17 program to an evening and weekend format to align
18 with institutional practices and meet community
19 needs. She confirmed that the proposal included
20 documentation demonstrating adequate staffing,
21 facilities, and institutional resources. She
22 reported that four students had graduated from the
23 current program with a 100 percent pass rate. The
24 original cohort had six students; one student
25 remained in the program and was set to graduate with

1 the summer cohort while another withdrew.

2 Dr. Cobourne explained that the change from day
3 to evening instruction was driven by institutional
4 consistency, as all South College campuses across ten
5 states offer evening programs, and by increased
6 student interest in evening options. Regarding
7 clinical placement compliance, she noted that the
8 Pennsylvania LPN program spans six quarters due to
9 hour requirements, allowing the program to stay
10 within regulatory timeframes.

11 Dr. Cobourne confirmed that South College would
12 stop enrolling new students into the day program
13 after the summer cohort and would begin the evening
14 and weekend program in the fall. All existing day
15 cohorts would be taught out without disruption. She
16 clarified that no enrollment increases were planned;
17 the change only involved shifting instructional
18 hours. Starting in the fall, three remaining day
19 cohorts would be taught out through spring by which
20 point the transition would be complete.]

21 ***

22 Appointment - Department of Health's (DOH) Licensure
23 Survey for Healthcare Providers
24 [Muneeza Iqbal, MPH, Deputy Secretary for Health
25 Resources and Services, Pennsylvania Department of

1 Health, presented an overview of the Pennsylvania
2 Primary Care Office (PPCO). She explained that the
3 PPCO aimed to improve primary medical, mental health,
4 and dental care across the Commonwealth by enhancing
5 workforce distribution to medically underserved
6 populations. She described key PPCO programs
7 including the loan repayment program, visa waiver
8 program, community-based healthcare grant program,
9 shortage designations, and workforce dashboards.

10 Ms. Iqbal elaborated on shortage designations,
11 which include Health Professional Shortage Areas
12 (HPSAs) and Medically Underserved Areas or
13 Populations (MUAs/MUPs). These federal designations
14 are tied to access to resources and can be lost if
15 local data indicates improved socioeconomic
16 conditions. The PPCO advocated to retain these
17 designations when possible. To maintain accurate
18 data, the office conducted biennial workforce surveys
19 in collaboration with the Department of State during
20 license renewal for professionals such as RNs, LPNs,
21 MDs, and dentists. Although participation was
22 voluntary due to the lack of legislative mandate, the
23 data was vital for program eligibility and resource
24 allocation.

25 Ms. Iqbal highlighted the importance of accurate

1 and current survey responses, which included provider
2 location, hours, specialty, practice setting, and
3 patient demographics. These responses directly
4 influenced program eligibility, especially for
5 underserved rural areas. She noted that data
6 supported policy decisions, including budget
7 allocations such as \$10 million proposed for the
8 Behavioral Health Global Payment Program and \$5
9 million for rural health initiatives.

10 She reported several accomplishments, including
11 support for 300 healthcare providers annually, 70
12 funded organizations through the community-based
13 healthcare grant program, 400 designated shortage
14 areas, and 135 MUA/MUP designations across
15 Pennsylvania. Data sources also included Medicaid
16 claims and direct outreach to facilities, with
17 feedback used to update dashboards. Ms. Iqbal urged
18 continued survey participation and data accuracy and
19 encouraged providers to update their information via
20 CMS and respond to outreach efforts.

21 Mr. Scher asked whether the PPCO received funding
22 from HRSA. Ms. Iqbal confirmed that the office
23 received approximately \$1 million in HRSA funding for
24 loan repayment and other initiatives and also
25 received state funding. She acknowledged that some

1 funding remained uncertain but affirmed that PPCO
2 operations were stable and ongoing.

3 Ms. Iqbal urged the Board to reach out to her
4 should anyone have questions.]

5 ***

6 For the Board's Information - Sunshine Act and
7 Recusal Presentation

8 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
9 presented the biannual Sunshine Act and Recusal
10 Guidelines Presentation. She summarized that the
11 Sunshine Act ensures transparency in government by
12 requiring open meetings for all official actions and
13 deliberations involving agency matters. Any time a
14 quorum of Board members meets to discuss Board
15 business, the meeting must be publicly advertised.
16 Deliberations are defined as discussions intended to
17 lead to decisions, and official actions include votes
18 or policy decisions.

19 Public notice of meetings must be issued at the
20 beginning of the calendar year and at least three
21 days in advance, with any changes requiring 24-hour
22 notice. Emergency meetings are exempt but must be
23 justified. All meetings and Agendas are posted
24 publicly, including in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and
25 on the Board's website.

1 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted that amendments to the
2 Sunshine Act in 2021 require that if the agenda
3 changes within 24 hours of the meeting, an amended
4 agenda must be published afterward. Meeting
5 locations and agendas must be made available in
6 advance, and discussions outside the posted agenda
7 are only allowed if there is a natural connection.
8 All votes must be publicly cast, so virtual
9 participant members must have cameras on. Meeting
10 minutes must include the time, place, attendance, and
11 substance of discussions, though not verbatim.
12 Executive Sessions may be held for limited purposes,
13 such as discussing litigation strategy, deliberation
14 matters, or personnel issues, though personnel issues
15 typically fall outside Board purview. Executive
16 Sessions must be announced with reasons and remain
17 confidential even after the meeting.

18 She warned that violations of the Sunshine Act
19 can invalidate meeting actions and lead to litigation
20 or attorney fees. Criminal penalties are rare and
21 require District Attorney action. She clarified that
22 actions of Board committees like the Application
23 Committee or Probable Cause Committee are not
24 considered to be a meeting if there is no quorum and
25 if actions are preliminary or administrative.

1 Regarding recusals, Ms. Pachter Schulder outlined
2 the types of recusals and the impact of those
3 recusals. Mandatory recusals include involvement in
4 prosecution, being a complainant, or having a direct
5 financial interest. Strongly recommended recusals
6 include personal connections or outside knowledge of
7 a case. Discretionary recusals apply when
8 impartiality is uncertain. She advised Board members
9 to consult Counsel in advance when unsure.
10 Abstentions from voting are allowed for lack of
11 preparation or uncertainty but prevent a member from
12 requesting reconsideration later. Members may still
13 attend for quorum purposes, but recusals count
14 against quorum.

15 She also detailed conflict-of-interest rules.
16 Professional members may not serve as officers or
17 agents of statewide professional associations, and
18 public members may not be part of the regulated
19 profession or have immediate family members who are.
20 Public members must not hold any other appointed
21 office in the Commonwealth. She noted the difficulty
22 in recruiting public members due to the potential
23 closeness to the profession, which remains a
24 consistent need across Pennsylvania's 29 boards.]

25 ***

1 Appointment - Messiah University's Proposal for a
2 Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP)
3 Education Program
4 [Kristen Slabaugh, DNP, CRNP, FNP-C, CNE, Chief
5 Nursing Administrator, Assistant Dean of Nursing,
6 Professor of Nursing, presented on behalf of Messiah
7 University.]

8 Dr. Slabaugh stated the institution sought
9 approval to add two new tracks to its existing Board-
10 approved programs: A Master of Science in Nursing
11 (MSN) and a certificate track within the Family Nurse
12 Practitioner (FNP) specialty. These additions would
13 supplement the current traditional BSN and post-BSN
14 to DNP programs. She explained that many students
15 expressed interest in an MSN option, either as an
16 initial goal or as a pathway after deciding the DNP
17 track did not suit their interests. The program
18 expansion responded to this market demand and the
19 lack of national consensus on requiring a DNP for
20 nurse practitioner practice. The new tracks would
21 use existing courses and clinical sites, with the
22 only new course being a theory, roles, and issues
23 class. Messiah's FNP program had a 100 percent board
24 certification pass rate, and the school planned to
25 admit five students per year into these new tracks.

1 Dr. Slabaugh confirmed that Messiah had
2 sufficient placements to accommodate the expansion
3 but would acquire additional ones if needed.
4 Community partners supported the initiative, and all
5 clinical placements would be managed by the Clinical
6 Placement Coordinator, including for out-of-state
7 online students. It was confirmed the program would
8 remain fully online.

9 Vice Chair Bucher questioned the rationale for
10 offering an MSN track, viewing it as a step backward
11 in nurse practitioner education. Dr. Slabaugh
12 responded that although the program initially focused
13 on a BSN to DNP pathway, lack of industry movement
14 toward mandatory DNP requirements and student
15 attrition from DNP coursework justified the addition.
16 She emphasized that some students who struggled in
17 the DNP portion were still strong clinicians, and the
18 demand for nurse practitioners remained high.
19 Despite the move, she acknowledged the importance of
20 translational research in practice and clarified that
21 the MSN curriculum included evidence-based practice,
22 quality improvement, and evidence appraisal, though
23 not the full data collection component of DNP-level
24 research.]

25 ***

1 Appointment - Credential Evaluation for Foreign
2 Education

3 [Stephen Gaus, Director of Business Development,
4 TruMerit; Hadley Munro, Escalation Specialist-
5 Credential Evaluation, TruMerit; Courtney Pham,
6 Program Learning Specialist, TruMerit; and Nadesha
7 Mercer, Manager of Credentials Evaluation Services
8 and Credentials Verification Service for NY State,
9 presented on behalf of TruMerit.]

10 Wendy Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary,
11 stated an increasing number of internationally
12 educated applicants were applying, raising questions
13 about the equivalency of their nursing education,
14 particularly when programs in some countries begin
15 before completion of high school, such as starting in
16 what would be the 10th grade in the U.S. She noted
17 that Pennsylvania regulations require high school
18 graduation prior to enrollment in RN and PN programs,
19 and while most international applicants are RNs,
20 questions had arisen about how to assess programs
21 that did not meet this prerequisite. Ms. Pachter
22 Schulder also asked how such credentials were
23 reviewed.

24 Ms. Mercer explained that evaluations were based
25 on the country's definition of high school

1 completion. For example, in Nepal, students may
2 complete either a 10th or 12th grade track.
3 Completion of only 10th grade with subsequent nursing
4 education would not be considered comparable, while
5 12th grade plus nursing training would be.

6 Ms. Munro provided formal introductions to her
7 colleagues and clarified that while the organization
8 was formerly known as CGFNS, it had since been
9 rebranded.

10 Ms. Munro confirmed that to qualify for
11 VisaScreen certification, applicants must meet a U.S.
12 high school equivalency, typically 12 years of
13 education. For countries like Nepal or Ethiopia,
14 where some pathways only include 10 years of
15 secondary education, applicants would need to
16 supplement with either a U.S. GED or further post-
17 secondary education such as a BSN to meet
18 requirements.

19 Ms. Pham provided details regarding nursing
20 credentials in Nepal and Ethiopia.

21 Ms. Pham noted, in Nepal, a Grade 10 certificate
22 represents completion of ten years of education and
23 allows entry into the Proficiency Certificate Level
24 (PCL) nursing program. Students typically begin this
25 program at age 15 to 16 and complete it by age 18 to

1 19. The first year is seen as a vocational program
2 due to its Grade 10 entry point, but the curriculum
3 aligns with a first-level general nursing program,
4 totaling thirteen years of formal education.
5 Graduates can pursue a two- to three-year post-basic
6 Bachelor of Nursing, a shortened degree for
7 experienced nurses.

8 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked whether the Grade 10
9 credential is considered comparable, noting apparent
10 contradictions in the material.

11 Ms. Pham clarified that while the content aligns
12 with a first-level nursing program, the issue is the
13 Grade 10 access requirement.

14 Ms. Pachter Schulder reiterated her confusion,
15 suggesting that she believed Grade 10 entry was not
16 comparable, while Grade 12 was. It was confirmed by
17 Ms. Mercer that the PCL program is vocational if
18 entered after Grade 10.

19 Ms. Pachter Schulder summarized Trumerit's
20 conclusion that such a program may be acceptable for
21 LPN licensure but not for RN licensure. A potential
22 contradiction was noted regarding content alignment.

23 Ms. Mercer explained that although the program
24 itself does not begin in high school, the Grade 10
25 entry makes it vocational; however, the curriculum

1 still matches RN-level training.

2 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked for confirmation on
3 whether Grade 10 entry automatically makes a program
4 non-comparable or only suitable for LPN equivalence.
5 It was clarified that comparability depends partly on
6 the entry qualification. A GED obtained after the
7 nursing program can make the education comparable to
8 RN level by fulfilling the high school graduation
9 requirement.

10 Vice Chair Bucher noted that obtaining a GED
11 changes only the regulatory aspect by fulfilling high
12 school completion not the nursing curriculum.

13 Ms. Miller expressed confusion in regard to how a
14 GED could elevate the comparability and questioned
15 what was missing in the original training.

16 Vice Chair Bucher clarified that the GED only
17 ensures the high school credential, not that it
18 alters the nursing education itself.

19 Ms. Munro added that all scenarios in the
20 presentation ultimately lead to a BSN-equivalent
21 outcome.

22 Ms. Pham described four scenarios: entry with
23 Grade 10 plus the three-year PCL program (comparable
24 to vocational); entry with Grade 12 followed by PCL
25 (comparable to a first-level RN); obtaining Grade 12

1 after PCL (still comparable); and obtaining a GED
2 after PCL (also comparable).

3 Ms. Munro clarified that the first scenario
4 should reflect lower secondary Grade 10.

5 Ms. Munro summarized and agreed that the nursing
6 education aligns with RN-level training, but the
7 missing high school graduation requirement is the
8 issue.

9 Ms. Pham discussed the requirements in Ethiopia.
10 She noted that Grade 10 marks the completion of ten
11 years of education; thus, admission could be granted
12 into the Technical and Vocational Education and
13 Training (TVET) nursing program. This program is
14 lateralized across three years: nursing aide,
15 assistant clinical nurse, and clinical nurse. This
16 path is not directly comparable to U.S. RN programs
17 but can lead to comparability if followed by a post-
18 basic BSN. In contrast, the PCL program is general
19 and not lateralized. With a Grade 10 certificate
20 plus TVET and a post-basic BSN, the education is
21 comparable to a general RN diploma in the U.S.

22 Ms. Pham confirmed that the TVET program is
23 acceptable with a Grade 12 certificate. Students can
24 enter TVET or directly pursue a four-year BSN
25 program. She explained that a Grade 12 certificate

1 leads to comparability at the LPN level after 15
2 years of education. Ms. Pham also confirmed that
3 completion of Grade 12 would permit direct BSN entry.

4 Ms. Hertzler asked if students who begin with a
5 Grade 10 certificate and complete TVET finish at a
6 practical nursing level and need a post-basic program
7 to reach RN comparability.

8 Ms. Pham confirmed and added that such students
9 meet the minimum age requirement of 18 upon
10 completion.

11 Mr. Scher proposed attaching redacted reports to
12 a policy statement and noted that determining
13 educational tracks early is not uncommon globally.
14 It was suggested that a visual algorithm or crosswalk
15 might simplify the understanding of pathways and
16 their U.S. equivalencies. Mr. Gaus offered to
17 provide updated information for further
18 clarification.]

19 ***

20 Appointment - Juniata College's Proposal for a
21 Prelicensure Generic BSN Nursing Education Program
22 [Lauren Bowen, Provost; Dominic Peruso, Associate
23 Provost; and Jennifer DellAntonio, DEd, MSN, RN, CNE,
24 BSN, Director, presented on behalf of Juniata
25 College's tabled proposal for a prelicensure Generic

1 BSN Program.]

2 Dr. DellAntonio referenced feedback received in
3 April and provided a copy of the curriculum plan,
4 also available on page 90 of the proposal and page 4
5 of the May addendum. She explained that their
6 curriculum follows the AACN BSN Essentials and the
7 NCLEX blueprint to ensure graduates achieve the
8 competencies required for safe practice. She
9 outlined key revisions, including moving Fundamentals
10 from semester four to three, adding an Introduction
11 to Professional Nursing course in semester three,
12 moving Mental Health Nursing from semester three to
13 five, and expanding Adult Health content from one to
14 three courses. As a result, Adult Health credits
15 increased from 6 to 15, didactic hours from 42 to
16 112.5, and clinical hours were doubled.

17 She explained that the first year consists of
18 pre-nursing courses such as Anatomy and Physiology I
19 and II, Biology, and math, with students needing a
20 GPA of 3.0 or higher to progress. The first semester
21 of nursing begins in the third semester. In year
22 two, students take Introduction to Professional
23 Nursing, covering legal and collaborative aspects,
24 communication, the nursing process, and scope of
25 practice. They also complete Health Assessment and

1 Fundamentals, which include didactic and skills
2 training. Before beginning clinicals, faculty assess
3 students' clinical readiness.

4 In semester four, students begin Adult Health I
5 in a skilled nursing facility setting where they
6 apply knowledge of common health alterations. They
7 progress to Adult Health II which focuses on acute
8 and chronic conditions and develops clinical judgment
9 and critical thinking. The final Adult Health course
10 addresses complex, multi-system conditions across the
11 lifespan.

12 The last semester includes a Nursing Leadership
13 Immersion with 135 clinical hours where students work
14 alongside RNs, primarily in Med/Surg units. She
15 concluded that the curriculum sequencing, readiness,
16 and expanded Med/Surg content ensure students are
17 clinically prepared and practice ready.

18 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked whether pharmacology
19 was scheduled after a Med/Surg course and whether
20 medications were addressed earlier in the program.
21 Dr. DellAntonio confirmed pharmacology is integrated
22 into all courses, including mental health and family
23 health. She noted the dedicated pharmacology course
24 focuses on deeper physiological understanding beyond
25 memorization.

1 Vice Chair Bucher commented that the curriculum
2 changes reassured him about the program's structure
3 and student progression.

4 Ms. Hertzler questioned whether students
5 administer medications before taking the dedicated
6 pharmacology course. Dr. DellAntonio clarified that
7 medication basics are taught in Skills during the
8 first semester. In Adult Health I, students must
9 understand and safely administer medications. Adult
10 Health II provides a more immersive pharmacology
11 experience.

12 Dr. Hellier noted that in nurse practitioner
13 education, pharmacology precedes clinical practice,
14 and she did not understand the placement. Ms.
15 Hertzler stated she was not an educator but felt
16 strongly that understanding pharmacology is critical
17 to patient safety and should precede medication
18 administration. Dr. DellAntonio explained that the
19 pharmacology course placement was deliberate to move
20 beyond memorization toward application, in line with
21 their competency-based education model. She
22 expressed openness to feedback.

23 Mr. Scher recalled that in his experience, taking
24 pharmacology concurrently with clinical courses
25 helped make connections between medications and

1 patient conditions. He emphasized the importance of
2 understanding drug interactions in clinical context.

3 Ms. Wendy Miller clarified that regulations do
4 not require pharmacology to be a standalone course.
5 Many programs integrate pharmacology within disease-
6 specific instruction, with pathophysiology
7 connections made through prior anatomy and physiology
8 coursework. She added that medication safety and
9 calculations can be taught separately and need not
10 wait until the end of the program.

11 Vice Chair Bucher stated he appreciated the
12 integrated pharmacology model, suggesting that
13 linking pharmacology directly to clinical experiences
14 such as mental health enhances understanding. He
15 supported the idea that seeing medications in context
16 before a formal pharmacology course reinforces deeper
17 learning.

18 Dr. DellAntonio explained that competencies were
19 embedded throughout the curriculum, and summative
20 content appears in specific courses. She
21 acknowledged that course titles may not fully reflect
22 embedded material but emphasized the progression from
23 simple to complex learning. Mr. Scher agreed and
24 stressed the importance of connecting pharmacological
25 learning to direct clinical practice and the

1 continuum of care.]

2 ***

3 Appointment (Cont.) - Credential Evaluation for
4 Foreign Education

5 [Upon resolution of technical difficulties, Mr.
6 Joseph Silny joined the meeting and returned to the
7 matter of educational equivalence.

8 Josef Silny, President, Josef Silny & Associates,
9 Inc., provided personal background information and
10 noted his agency conducts evaluations in line with
11 the National Council of State Boards of Nursing
12 (NCSBN) requirements, including verifying that
13 graduates of LPN and RN programs have the equivalent
14 of a U.S. high school diploma.

15 He emphasized that both the Board and NCSBN
16 require this equivalency as a baseline for post-
17 secondary education, and this is a fundamental
18 principle of comparative education. Without this
19 equivalency, the nursing education itself cannot be
20 deemed equivalent because the student lacks
21 foundational coursework such as four years of
22 science, math, and language. He illustrated this
23 with the analogy that studying Macbeth in middle
24 school is not equivalent to studying it at the
25 university or doctoral level.

1 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if evaluations from
2 his agency would show "not equivalent" when the
3 highest credential was Grade 10. Mr. Silny confirmed
4 this, stating that if the admission requirement was
5 completion of Grade 10, then the nursing education
6 would not be equivalent to a registered nursing
7 program in the U.S. He added that the same
8 evaluation standard applied to LPNs, referencing a
9 past case involving Lebanon. Mr. Silny reiterated
10 that U.S. admission to RN or LPN programs requires a
11 high school diploma or its equivalent. Earning a GED
12 later does not change the initial lack of
13 qualification, and passing a GED does not
14 retroactively fulfill high school entry requirements.

15 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked whether, based on his
16 evaluations, those individuals would need to repeat
17 their education. Ms. Miller suggested they might
18 need to earn a BSN instead. Mr. Silny agreed that
19 further education was necessary. He gave the example
20 of Nepal, where students may continue on to earn a
21 bachelor's degree and then meet higher education
22 requirements. He cited Pakistan's requirements,
23 where students also enter nursing programs after
24 Grade 10. Even if they become registered nurses, the
25 initial entry point means the education is not

1 equivalent. However, in Pakistan, students can earn
2 advanced standing and complete a two-year program to
3 receive a bachelor's degree. His agency would
4 evaluate that as equivalent to an associate's degree,
5 which in many states would qualify someone as a
6 registered nurse.

7 Mr. Silny advised that several countries,
8 including Pakistan, Germany, Nepal, and Myanmar,
9 still admit students into nursing programs without
10 high school completion, though many European
11 countries have transitioned to bachelor's-level
12 entry. He cited requirements in Russia, Czech
13 Republic, and Slovakia as examples where older
14 diplomas may show nursing admission after Grade 9.
15 In those cases, his evaluations would consistently
16 state the education is not equivalent. He reiterated
17 that the fundamental principle of comparative
18 education is that eligibility for university or
19 nursing education in the U.S. requires the equivalent
20 of a high school diploma. If the entry point does
21 not meet this standard, the nursing education cannot
22 be equivalent regardless of course titles or
23 content.]

24 ***

25 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,

1 at 11:39 a.m., the Board entered into Executive
2 Session for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
3 deliberations on the matters on the Agenda under the
4 Report of Board Counsel, the Report of the
5 Prosecutorial Division, and Appointments. The Board
6 returned to Open Session at 12:27 p.m.]

7 ***

8 MOTIONS

9 [Acting Commissioner Claggett assumed the Chair due
10 to Vice Chair Bucher's recusal.]

11 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

12 We'll start with the matters in which
13 your current Chair is recused. So, on
14 Item No. 26, for which the Commissioner
15 will serve as Chair, is there a motion
16 to adopt the Consent Agreement at Case
17 Nos. 24-51-003479 and 24-51-016534, for
18 which members Hertzler, Kerns, and
19 Bucher are recused?

20 DR. HERSHBERGER:

21 So moved.

22 MR. SCHER:

23 Second.

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 All those in favor? Any opposed?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 Any abstentions?

3 DR. HELLIER:

4 I'm abstaining from voting.

5 [The motion carried.

6 Vice Chair Bucher, Ms. Hertzler, and Ms. Kerns were
7 recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.

8 Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote. The

9 Respondent's name is Beth Ann Wetzel, RN.]

10 ***

11 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

12 Is there a motion to adopt the Hearing
13 Examiner's Proposal for Eileen M. Diaz,
14 RN, Case Nos. 24-51-000443 and 24-51-
15 001758, for which members Hertzler,
16 Kerns, and Bucher are recused?

17 Dr. HERSHBERGER:

18 So moved.

19 Mr. SCHER:

20 Second.

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22 All those in favor? Any opposed? Any
23 abstentions?

24 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Kerns, and

25 Vice Chair Bucher were recused from deliberations and

1 voting on the motion. Dr. Hellier abstained.]

2 ***

3 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

4 Is there a motion to adopt, and also
5 the Chair is still with the Acting
6 Commissioner, is there a motion to
7 adopt the Draft Adjudication and Order
8 in the matter of Robert Charles Long
9 III, RN, Case No. 23-51-014885, for
10 which members Hertzler, Kerns, and
11 Bucher are recused?

12 DR. HERSHBERGER:

13 So moved.

14 MR. SCHER:

15 Second.

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

17 All those in favor? Any opposed? Any
18 abstentions?

19 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Kerns, and
20 Vice Chair Bucher were recused from deliberations and
21 voting on the motion. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
22 vote.]

23 ***

24 [Dr. Bucher resumed the Chair.]

25 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

1 The Chair now swings back to the Vice
2 Chair. Is there a motion to adopt the
3 VRP Consent Agreements items 2 through
4 12?

5 DR. HERSHBERGER

6 So moved.

7 MR. SCHER:

8 Second.

9 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

10 All those in favor? Opposed?

11 Abstentions?

12 [The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Hellier
13 abstained from the vote.]

14 ***

15 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

16 Is there a motion to deny the following
17 Consent Agreements on the grounds that
18 they are too lenient, and that's 24-51-
19 017074, 24-51-012269, 24-51-010654, and
20 24-51-016549?

21 MS. HERTZLER:

22 So moved.

23 MS. SIEGEL:

24 Second.

25 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

1 All those in favor? Any opposed?

2 Abstentions?

3 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
4 vote.]

5 ***

6 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

7 Is there a motion to adopt the
8 following Consent Agreements. for which
9 there are no recusals: 23-51-008337,
10 23-51-011848, 24-51-000086, 25-51-
11 001858, 21-51-016925, 23-51-006824, 24-
12 51-002136, 22-51-001152, 25-51-003095,
13 and 25-51-005345?

14 MS. SIEGEL:

15 So moved.

16 MS. HERTZLER:

17 Second.

18 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

19 All those in favor? Opposed?

20 Abstentions?

21 [voting motion. At Case No. 23-51-008337, the
22 Respondent's name is Souleymane Wane, LPN. Case No.
23 23-51-011848 is Camille Ava Loanzon Canlas, CRNP, RN.
24 Case No. 24-51-000086 is Shawn Michael Spithaler, RN,
25 LPN. Case No. 25-51-001858 is Amy Marie Kitsko, RN.

1 Case No. 21-51-016925 is Menda A. Stewart, RN, LPN.
2 Case No. 23-51-006824 is Jolette Pasteur, LPN. Case
3 No. 24-51-002136 is Teri Kay Brady, RN, LPN. Case
4 No. 22-51-001152 is Beatrice Leste, LPN. Case No.
5 25-51-003095 is Margaret Anne Seltzer, RN. Case No.
6 25-51-005345 is Aderemi Osinubi, RN, LPN.]

7 ***

8 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

9 Is there a motion to adopt the
10 following Consent Agreement for which
11 members Hertzler and Kerns are recused,
12 and that's 21-51-014621?

13 DR. HERSHBERGER:

14 So moved.

15 MR. SCHER:

16 Second.

17 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

18 All those in favor? Opposed?

19 Abstentions?

20 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Ms. Kerns were
21 recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.

22 Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote. The
23 Respondent's name is Janelle Blount, LPN.]

24 ***

25 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

1 Is there a motion to adopt the
2 following Consent Agreements for which
3 members Hertzler, Kerns, and Scher are
4 recused: 24-51-016829, 25-51-003496,
5 and 24-51-014238?

6 DR. HERSHBERGER:

7 So moved.

8 MS. SIEGEL:

9 Second.

10 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

11 All those in favor? Opposed?

12 Abstentions?

13 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Kerns, and
14 Mr. Scher were recused from deliberations and voting
15 on the motion. Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote.
16 The Respondent's name at Case No. 24-51-016829 is
17 Tracey Deegan, LPN. Case No. 25-51-003496 is Leslie
18 Marie Callahan, LPN. Case No. 24-51-014238 is Kaylee
19 M. Donas, LDN.]

20 ***

21 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

22 Is there a motion to adopt the Consent
23 Agreement in 24-51-000034 and 24-51-
24 003411 for which members Hertzler and
25 Scher are recused?

1 MS. SIEGEL:

2 So moved.

3 DR. HERSHBERGER:

4 Second.

5 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

6 All in favor? Any opposed? Any
7 abstentions?

8 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Mr. Scher were
9 recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.
10 Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote. The
11 Respondent's name at Case No. 24-51-000034 is Dana A.
12 Reed, LPN. Case No. 24-51-003411 is Ricardo F.
13 Espinoza, RN.]

14 ***

15 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

16 Is there a motion to authorize Counsel
17 to prepare an Adjudication and Order in
18 the matter of Nataly Babas, LPN, Case
19 No. 24-51-007086?

20 MS. HERTZLER:

21 So moved.

22 MS. SIEGEL:

23 Second.

24 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

25 All those in favor? Any opposed?

1 Abstentions?

2 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
3 vote.]

4 ***

5 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

6 Is there a motion to grant
7 reconsideration and rescind the
8 adoption of the Consent Agreement in
9 the matter of Ruth Marie Crosdale, RN,
10 LPN, Case No. 21-51-015867?

11 DR. HERSHBERGER:

12 So moved.

13 MR. SCHER:

14 Second.

15 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

16 All those in favor? Any opposed?

17 Abstentions?

18 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
19 vote.]

20 ***

21 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
22 noted that Agenda items 50 and 59 were deliberated on
23 and no motion was required as Counsel had previously
24 been authorized to prepare an Adjudication and Order
25 on the matters discussed.]

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MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

Is there a motion in Item No. 51, and that's Christy
Reyes, to deny the Waiver of Verification?

MR. SCHER:

So moved.

DR. HERSHBERGER:

Second.

VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

All those in favor? Opposed?

Abstentions?

[The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
vote.]

MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

Is there a motion in Item No. 53, which
is a VRP Consent Agreement, 21-51-
013271, to consolidate the motion for
early release with the formal hearings
scheduled on the PAR?

MR. SCHER:

So moved.

MS. SIEGEL:

Second.

VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

1 All those in favor? Opposed?

2 Abstentions?

3 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
4 vote.]

5 ***

6 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

7 Is there a motion to authorize Counsel
8 to prepare an Adjudication and Order
9 and deny the motion for immediate stay
10 in the matter of David Christopher
11 Racemus, Jr, LPN, 24-51-018582 and 24-
12 51-018278, for which members Hertzler,
13 Kerns, and Scher are recused?

14 MS. SIEGEL: So moved.

15 DR. HERSHBERGER:

16 Second.

17 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

18 All those in favor? Opposed?

19 Abstentions?

20 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Kerns, and
21 Mr. Scher were recused from deliberations and voting
22 on the motion. Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote.]

23 ***

24 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

25 Is there a motion to deem the facts

1 admitted, to authorize Counsel to
2 prepare Adjudications and Orders and to
3 enter defaults in the matters of Misty
4 Renee Basham, LPN, 21-51-017044;
5 Crystal R. Hicks, LPN, 24-51-000280;
6 and Kevin William Thomer, RN, 24-51-
7 006229?

8 DR. HERSHBERGER:

9 So moved.

10 MS. SIEGEL:

11 Second.

12 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

13 All those in favor? Opposed?

14 Abstentions?

15 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
16 vote.]

17 ***

18 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

19 Is there a motion to authorize Counsel
20 to prepare an Adjudication and Order in
21 the matter of Nydesha Tyshea Brown,
22 LPN, 19-51-012887?

23 DR. HERSHBERGER:

24 So moved.

25 MS. HERTZLER:

1 Second.

2 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

3 All those in favor? Opposed?

4 Abstentions?

5 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
6 vote.]

7 ***

8 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

9 Is there a motion to authorize Counsel
10 to prepare an Adjudication and Order in
11 the matter of Lauren Kusy, RN, 24-51-
12 015717, for which members Hertzler,
13 Kerns, and Scher, are recused?

14 MS. SIEGEL: So moved.

15 DR. HERSHBERGER:

16 Second.

17 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

18 All those in favor? Opposed?

19 Abstentions?

20 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Kerns, and
21 Mr. Scher were recused from deliberations and voting
22 on the motion. Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote.]

23 ***

24 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

25 Is there a motion to adopt the Proposed

1 Adjudication and substitute an Order in
2 the matter of Richard Dale Goetz, LPN,
3 23-51-000545, for which there are no
4 recusals?

5 MS. HERTZLER:

6 So moved.

7 MS. SIEGEL:

8 Second.

9 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

10 All those in favor? Opposed?

11 Abstentions?

12 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
13 vote.]

14 ***

15 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

16 Is there a motion to adopt the Proposed
17 Adjudication and substitute an Order in
18 the matter of Anthony J. Patterson,
19 LPN, 24-51-006654, for which members
20 Hertzler and Kerns are recused?

21 MR. SCHER:

22 So moved.

23 MS. SIEGEL:

24 Second.

25 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

1 All those in favor? Opposed?

2 Abstentions?

3 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Ms. Kerns were
4 recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.
5 Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote.]

6 ***

7 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

8 Is there a motion to adopt the Hearing
9 Examiner's proposal in the matter of
10 Megan Lynn Small, RN, 24-51-007937, for
11 which members Hertzler and Kerns are
12 recused?

13 DR. HERSHBERGER:

14 So moved.

15 MS. SIEGEL:

16 Second.

17 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

18 All those in favor? Opposed?

19 Abstentions?

20 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Ms. Kerns were
21 recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.
22 Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote.]

23 ***

24 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

25 Is there a motion to adopt the Draft

1 Adjudications and Orders for which
2 there are no recusals for Gary
3 Dormevil, RN, 21-51-020242; Cynthia
4 Dawn Johnson, RN, 24-51-012988; David
5 Kerzner, RN, 24-51-017321; Della Ann
6 Orsmond, RN, 23-51-013317; Brittany
7 Victoria Poplin, LPN, 22-51-013209; and
8 Robert Piazza, LPN, 22-51-015208?

9 MS. SIEGEL:

10 So moved.

11 MS. HERTZLER:

12 Second.

13 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

14 All those in favor? Opposed?

15 Abstentions?

16 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
17 vote.]

18 ***

19 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

20 Is there a motion to adopt the Draft
21 Adjudication and Orders for which
22 members Hertzler and Kerns are recused
23 in the matters of Brittney Hughes
24 Dearmitt, LPN, 24-51-003026, and
25 Alexander Robert Lamay, RN, 21-51-

1 017774?

2 DR. HERSHBERGER:

3 So moved.

4 MS. SIEGEL:

5 Second.

6 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

7 All those in favor? Opposed?

8 Abstentions?

9 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Ms. Kerns were
10 recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.
11 Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote.]

12 ***

13 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

14 Is there a motion to adopt the Draft
15 Adjudication and Order in the matter of
16 Lindsay Nicole Yingling, LPN, 23-51-
17 012135, for which members Hertzler,
18 Kerns, and Scher are recused?

19 MS. SIEGEL:

20 So moved.

21 DR. HERSHBERGER:

22 Second.

23 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

24 All those in favor? Opposed?

25 Abstentions?

1 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Kerns, and
2 Mr. Scher were recused from deliberations and voting
3 on the motion. Dr. Hellier abstained from the vote.]

4 ***

5 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

6 Is there a motion to approve South
7 College Practical Nursing Program's
8 request for a change from a day program
9 to an evening/weekend option and also
10 to approve Juniata College's Proposal
11 for a Prelicensure BSN Education
12 Program? Both of which, member
13 Hershberger is recused.

14 MS. SIEGEL:

15 So moved.

16 MR. SCHER:

17 Second.

18 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

19 All those in favor? Opposed?

20 Abstentions?

21 [The motion carried. Dr. Hershberger was recused
22 from deliberations and voting on the motion. Dr.
23 Hellier abstained from the vote.]

24 ***

25 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

1 Is there a motion to approve Messiah
2 University's Proposal for a Family
3 Health Certified Registered Nurse
4 Practitioner Program, and there are no
5 recusals?

6 MS. SIEGEL:

7 So moved.

8 MR. SCHER:

9 Second.

10 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

11 All those in favor? Opposed?

12 Abstentions?

13 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier abstained from the
14 vote.]

15 ***

16 Committee Meetings - RN/PN Practice, Education &
17 Regulation/Advanced Practice

18 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
19 outlined that discussions on 16A-5141 Nursing
20 Education Programs comments received about
21 provisional status and accreditation. She clarified
22 that public comments had been provided to the Board
23 and have been reviewed, but that following the
24 Board's discussion, the public could summarize or add
25 new points without the need for repeating written

1 submissions.

2 She explained the current regulation under
3 §21.33a(g), programs may be placed on provisional
4 status for two years, and the proposed regulation at
5 §21.912 enables the provisional status period to
6 match the program's length. This change aimed to
7 support longer programs such as bachelor's degrees,
8 while shorter programs would not have their timelines
9 reduced. Commenters, including the Independent
10 Regulatory Review Council (IRRC), questioned whether
11 the minimum two-year standard was being removed; she
12 confirmed it would be retained, with extensions for
13 longer programs. Vice Chair Bucher supported a
14 minimum of two years with longer periods allowed for
15 extended programs.

16 Ms. Pachter Schulder then discussed §21.915
17 regarding how programs enter provisional status,
18 affirming that failure to meet the 80 percent minimum
19 pass rate on the NCLEX® or certification specialty
20 examination would trigger automatic provisional
21 status without a hearing. Additional standards
22 proposed by the Board would require an Order to Show
23 Cause and a hearing. These standards included having
24 a systematic evaluation plan, ensuring faculty
25 expertise, maintaining accreditation, and securing

1 sufficient clinical experiences. Other criteria
2 added included monitoring pass rates, timely
3 reporting, and a limit of two administrators per year
4 without pre-approval, unless emergencies exist.

5 Dr. Hellier asked how these additional standards
6 would be monitored.

7 Ms. Pachter Schulder explained that monitoring
8 would occur through Annual Reports and complaints,
9 with clinical site data and faculty numbers disclosed
10 by the programs. Orders to Show Cause could be filed
11 based on this data, and disciplinary action would
12 only follow adjudication. She reiterated that
13 multiple standards were necessary to account for
14 various program deficiencies, which a single minimum
15 pass-rate criterion could not fully address.

16 Some members of the Board discussed confusion
17 regarding identifying first-time test takers. To
18 this, it was confirmed that the 80 percent pass rate
19 applies to first-time examinees only, as defined in
20 both current and proposed regulations. Programs
21 often attempted to remove repeaters from
22 calculations, but the Board relies on specific data
23 from NCLEX®.

24 Dr. Hellier expressed concern about the lack of a
25 publicly acknowledged pass rate for CRNP (nurse

1 practitioner) programs. Ms. Pachter Schulder
2 explained that as proposed, CRNP programs would also
3 be subject to the 80 percent minimum pass rate, and
4 while no central body like the National Council
5 tracks these, the Board can request annual pass rates
6 from certification bodies. Though schools self-
7 report, the Board can require documentation and
8 impose penalties for inaccurate reporting; the Board
9 can also decide to make CRNP pass rates public,
10 similar to RN and PN programs.

11 Dr. Hellier advocated for publishing NP program
12 pass rates to ensure accountability, citing concerns
13 about the proliferation of low-quality NP programs.

14 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted that publishing the
15 annual pass rates would not require a change to the
16 proposed regulations, and Ms. Wendy Miller added that
17 schools already provide relevant data in their Annual
18 Reports. They clarified that while detailed pass
19 rate documentation is not currently required, it
20 could be incorporated into future reports under the
21 new regulations.

22 Vice Chair Bucher returned to the discussion on
23 provisional status, supporting multiple criteria
24 beyond just exam pass rates to better protect the
25 public and students. He emphasized that issues like

1 inconsistent faculty or weak clinical experiences
2 warranted intervention.

3 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted that these concerns
4 often surface before poor pass rates emerge,
5 validating the need for a broader regulatory
6 approach.

7 Dr. Hershberger, referring to proposed
8 21.915(b)(2), raised concerns about the two-
9 administrator limit, citing situations such as family
10 emergencies. Ms. Pachter Schulder clarified, that as
11 drafted, emergency exceptions are permitted, and
12 programs must still seek Board approval for each
13 administrator, maintaining oversight without shutting
14 programs down. She acknowledged some comments against
15 limiting administrators but expressed the Board's
16 intent to promote continuity and quality in
17 leadership. Mr. Scher agreed, noting that leadership
18 stability is critical for program consistency.]

19 ***

20 [Ms. Pachter Schulder directed the topic to
21 programmatic accreditation in proposed 21.916. She
22 stated while current regulations require
23 institutional accreditation for nursing programs, the
24 proposed regulations add a requirement for
25 programmatic accreditation. She noted seven

1 justifications listed in the Preamble, including
2 improved program quality, peer review, alignment with
3 Model Rules, and increased eligibility for Title IV
4 funding. According to the 2022 NCSBN Board Member
5 Profile, 35% of nurse boards required programmatic
6 accreditation, and the LPN White Paper emphasized
7 programmatic accreditation's role in ensuring
8 standards and enhancing NCLEX® pass rates.

9 In Pennsylvania, 100 percent of RN programs and
10 46 percent of LPN programs have programmatic
11 accreditation. Commenters raised opposition to the
12 requirement, citing cost, lack of proven outcomes
13 from a 2015 US DOE study, and the belief that it
14 should remain an institutional decision.

15 Ms. Wendy Miller highlighted two main advantages
16 of programmatic accreditation: eligibility for
17 licensure in other states and acceptance of
18 coursework by other academic institutions. She added
19 that accreditation visits involved in-depth
20 evaluations such as verifying classroom capacity,
21 which ensured higher scrutiny.

22 Vice Chair Bucher acknowledged the financial
23 burden of accreditation but emphasized benefits such
24 as standardization, data-driven improvement, and
25 program accountability. He supported it as a

1 worthwhile investment given continued nursing
2 enrollment growth.

3 Dr. Hellier shared that accreditation fostered
4 faculty collaboration and curriculum understanding
5 and helped ensure consistent educational quality
6 across institutions. She supported the initiative as
7 a means to uphold standards and outcomes like NCLEX
8 pass rates.

9 Mr. Scher described accreditation as a safeguard
10 to ensure top-quality education, especially important
11 in a field with high job security and responsibility.
12 He also acknowledged concerns about educational costs
13 but supported accreditation as necessary.

14 Ms. Wendy Miller added that in the wake of
15 Operation Nightingale, states were increasing
16 scrutiny of out-of-state applicants. Programmatic
17 accreditation helped establish legitimacy and
18 facilitated licensure by endorsement, even in states
19 where it was not legally required.

20 Education Advisor Dr. Linda Kmetz confirmed that
21 accreditation could simplify equivalency
22 determinations across states.

23 Dr. Hershberger pointed out that accredited
24 programs would likely already meet the proposed
25 additional provisional standards, making compliance

1 easier and more seamless.

2 Ms. Pachter Schulder clarified that the new
3 accreditation requirement would apply five years
4 after publication of the final regulation, giving
5 existing and new programs time to comply.

6 Dr. Hellier added that accreditation also
7 benefited faculty by connecting them to broader
8 higher education structures and justifying
9 investments in program quality, especially at private
10 institutions with tight budgets.

11 Ms. Pachter Schulder mentioned that nursing was
12 not unique in requiring national programmatic
13 accreditation, and other professions within the
14 Bureau already had similar standards. The discussion
15 reflected unanimous support for the accreditation
16 requirement.

17 Ms. Pachter Schulder directed the Board to
18 proposed section §21.918 required nursing programs to
19 meet both program-specific requirements and those of
20 their controlling institution. She noted that some
21 commentators opposed this, arguing that it reduced
22 program flexibility and hindered innovation by
23 requiring alignment with broader institutional
24 policies.

25 Dr. Hellier responded that she could not envision

1 a nursing program operating with fewer requirements
2 than its parent university, emphasizing that the
3 university, as the degree-granting entity, inherently
4 set the foundational standards. The Board concurred.

5 Next, the Board discussed proposed §21.917 which
6 addresses which institutions could offer RN
7 education. Current regulations under §21.51 required
8 RN programs to be "developed under the authority of a
9 regionally accredited college or university." The
10 proposed regulations maintain that standard. The
11 Board emphasized that RN programs must offer academic
12 credit.

13 Private licensed schools submitted comments
14 arguing that prohibiting them from being controlling
15 institutions violated legal provisions allowing them
16 to confer associate degrees in specialized technology
17 (AST).

18 Ms. Pachter Schulder explained that AST degrees
19 are not equivalent to academic associate degrees in
20 nursing, such as ADN, ASN, or AAS, due to differences
21 in the type of credits awarded and the
22 transferability of those credits. Academic credits
23 are universally accepted, while credits from AST
24 programs were transferable at the discretion of the
25 receiving institution. She noted that 70-80 percent

1 of AST education is in specialized instruction,
2 whereas academic programs limited specialized content
3 to 66.6 percent.

4 Board Counsel Ashley Keefer confirmed these
5 distinctions, stating that academic associate degrees
6 required general education courses, while AST
7 programs did not. She emphasized that AST programs
8 were shorter and structured differently than academic
9 programs, and, therefore, did not align with
10 requirements for RN education. She added that
11 private licensed schools in Pennsylvania were limited
12 to offering specialized degrees, unlike those in West
13 Virginia, where private schools could offer a broader
14 range of degrees.

15 Dr. Hellier asked about the structure of diploma
16 schools, to which Ms. Pachter Schulder responded that
17 diploma schools operated under separate provisions,
18 specifically under hospital authority and Joint
19 Commission accreditation.

20 Ms. Keefer elaborated that academic programs were
21 required to allocate credits between nursing and
22 general education in accordance with institutional
23 policies—something AST programs did not do.

24 Vice Chair Bucher remarked that students likely
25 do not understand the distinctions between AST and

1 academic degrees.

2 Ms. Keefer agreed and noted that AST program
3 websites marketed their programs effectively by
4 promoting shorter timeframes to completion rather
5 than explaining regulatory or academic differences.

6 Ms. Pachter Schulder reiterated that AST programs
7 were composed of 70-80 percent specialized
8 instruction, while academic programs were capped at
9 66.6 percent.

10 Education Advisor Kelly Hoffman added that clock
11 hour-to-credit-hour conversions in AST programs were
12 lower than in academic programs, impacting their
13 comparability and alignment with accreditation and
14 other quality indicators supported by NCSBN research.
15 She also noted that occupational credit programs had
16 different academic structures, which tied into
17 broader regulatory issues including accreditation.

18 Mr. Scher stated the debate about appropriate RN
19 educational pathways had persisted for decades. He
20 explained that hospitals in urban areas like
21 Philadelphia often required BSNs due to the abundance
22 of local nursing colleges, while rural areas had
23 fewer options and might rely on alternative pathways.
24 He emphasized the importance of standardization to
25 ensure consistency in educational quality.

1 Dr. Hershberger expressed uncertainty,
2 acknowledging the need for RNs from all educational
3 backgrounds due to workforce demands. She noted that
4 while BSN programs demonstrated better outcomes,
5 employers now often supported nurses in pursuing
6 further education, balancing workforce needs with
7 quality care.

8 Ms. Wendy Miller contributed that quality varied
9 at each step of the educational pathway. She
10 explained that in AST programs, general education
11 courses such as English composition were often highly
12 profession-specific (e.g., English for nurses),
13 rather than general academic courses. This contrasted
14 with academic programs where general education
15 courses were standardized and taken alongside
16 students from other majors.

17 Ms. Keefer added that in academic associate
18 degree programs, students in general education
19 courses such as English composition could be from
20 various disciplines, reinforcing the
21 multidisciplinary academic environment. Dr. Hellier
22 agreed, noting that general education courses were
23 not profession-specific and were sometimes taken
24 online.

25 Ms. Miller pointed out that the regulations

1 referenced the importance of multidisciplinary or
2 shared courses in the context of academic education,
3 underscoring the difference from AST program models.

4 Ms. Pachter Schulder summarized that the
5 discussion so far supported continuing the
6 requirement that RN programs be offered by
7 institutions granting academic associate degrees or
8 higher. The Board also supported maintaining the
9 requirement that nursing program admissions standards
10 match those of the controlling institution and
11 restoring the two-year limit on provisional program
12 status. She noted these points would be reflected in
13 the next meeting's materials.

14 Dr. Hershberger asked a clarifying question
15 regarding earlier discussions on §21.918,
16 specifically relating to LPN program qualifications
17 and related provisions, indicating ongoing interest
18 in aligning RN and LPN educational standards.

19 ***

20 [David Scher, MPH, MSN, RN, CEN, exited the meeting
21 at 1:53 p.m.]

22 ***

23 [Ms. Pachter Schulder directed the discussion to
24 proposed §21.918(a)(1) which includes admission
25 requirements for RN programs. The admission

1 requirements for RNs include successful completion of
2 two math courses, one of which must be algebra, and a
3 physical science course with a lab or its equivalent.
4 Dr. Hershberger asked whether updates to the LPN
5 program were still on track. Ms. Pachter Schulder
6 confirmed that the revisions requested at the April
7 meeting, removing this pre-admission requirement for
8 LPNs and inserting the content in the curriculum are
9 part of the revisions being made to the package. She
10 directed the Board to those revisions.

11 Dr. Hershberger questioned the distinction
12 between student institutional requirements and
13 program-specific requirements. Ms. Pachter Schulder
14 explained that the regulations would require
15 graduates to fulfill the institutional requirements,
16 as the institution confers the degree/diploma, and
17 the nursing school-specific requirements. When asked
18 whether those requirements would be retained, she
19 confirmed that they would be based upon the Board's
20 discussions, but the entire Annex will be voted on by
21 the Board in final form at a future meeting.

22 Ms. Pachter Schulder further explained that
23 amendments discussed, including those related to
24 §21.912(e) concerning the length of provisional
25 status, would be included in the revisions for the

1 final regulation package. The goal was to have all
2 changes compiled and presented for adoption, possibly
3 at the September meeting, as comments regarding
4 qualification-related matters will be discussed at
5 the July meeting.]

6 ***

7 Public Comments

8 [Chad T. Callen, Chief Executive Officer, West
9 Virginia Junior College, noted that his institution's
10 RN programs have averaged NCLEX first-time pass rates
11 in the 90s over the past three years. He also served
12 on the West Virginia RN Board since 2021, currently
13 as Secretary, and on the Discipline Review Committee,
14 although he clarified he was not speaking in that
15 capacity. He urged the Board to modernize its
16 regulations under §21.917, specifically removing
17 barriers that prevent private licensed schools (PLS)
18 from offering RN programs due to degree
19 classification.

20 Mr. Callen argued that while the proposed
21 revisions allow any U.S. Department of Education-
22 approved accreditor, they still exclude Associate in
23 Specialized Technology (AST) degrees, which he
24 claimed unjustly limits access.

25 He disagreed with the Board's rationale that AST

1 degrees are terminal and hinder transfer, explaining
2 that graduates from his AST-based RN programs
3 regularly transfer to institutions such as West
4 Virginia University, Marshall University, Ohio
5 University of Charleston, Capella, and Chamberlain.
6 These institutions assess credit transfers based on
7 accreditation and course equivalency rather than the
8 classification of the associate degree. He
9 emphasized that RN licensure, a universally
10 recognized credential, often facilitates block
11 transfer credit, and students frequently pursue
12 further education outside Pennsylvania. Mr. Callen
13 highlighted that restricting access to RN education
14 based on speculative concerns about transferability
15 could worsen Pennsylvania's already critical nursing
16 shortage, referencing a 2024 HAP workforce study
17 predicting the worst shortage in the country by 2026.
18 He urged the Board to focus on expanding access to
19 high-quality, outcomes-driven RN education rather
20 than maintaining rigid degree classifications.

21 Mr. Callen also responded to points raised during
22 the meeting. He clarified that West Virginia has
23 only one specialized associate degree classification,
24 and his AST programs in both nursing and non-nursing
25 fields include general education courses that are not

1 occupation specific. He stated he was unaware of any
2 clock-to-credit hour conversion deviations for
3 associate degrees, noting Title IV funding
4 requirements ensure standardization. He found the
5 discussion comparing diploma, associate, and
6 bachelor's programs interesting, especially given
7 West Virginia's recent reintroduction of a diploma
8 program after decades. He concluded that if
9 programmatic accreditation is considered the gold
10 standard, then the classification of the associate
11 degree should not matter, as programs either meet the
12 standards for safe entry to practice or they do not.]

13 ***

14 [Aaron Shenck, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic
15 Association of Career Schools, respectfully requested
16 that the Board reconsider its position in §21.917.
17 He echoed Mr. Callen's point that Associate in
18 Specialized Technology degrees are not terminal and
19 stated institutions both in Pennsylvania and
20 neighboring states have various articulation
21 agreements and credit transfer policies. He noted
22 that most border states allow private licensed
23 schools to offer RN programs, making Pennsylvania an
24 outlier in this regard.

25 Mr. Shenck emphasized that excluding private

1 licensed schools from offering RN programs not only
2 fails to alleviate Pennsylvania's nursing shortage
3 but could worsen it by prompting Pennsylvania
4 residents to attend out-of-state institutions and
5 potentially remain in those states. He also pointed
6 out a regulatory inconsistency, noting that under the
7 current proposal, diploma programs—which confer a
8 lesser academic credential—would be permitted to
9 offer RN programs, while some associate degree
10 programs, which offer a higher credential, would
11 not.]

12 ***

13 Adjournment

14 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

15 Okay any other business? We're good.

16 Okay. Motion to adjourn?

17 MS. HERTZLER:

18 So moved.

19 DR. HERSHBERGER:

20 Second.

21 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

22 All in favor? Opposed? Any

23 abstentions?

24 ***

25 [There being no further business, the State Board of

1 Nursing Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.]

2 ***

3
4 CERTIFICATE

5
6 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary
7 minutes of the State Board of Nursing meeting, was
8 reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and
9 that the minutes accurately summarize the substance
10 of the State Board of Nursing meeting.

11
12
13 

14 Allison Walker,

15 Minute Clerk

16 Sargent's Court Reporting
17 Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF NURSING
REFERENCE INDEX
June 05, 2025

TIME	AGENDA
9:00	Public Session
9:04	Official Call to Order
9:04	Introduction of Board Members
9:06	Introduction of Attendees
9:08	Adoption of Agenda
9:09	Report of Prosecutorial Division
9:20	Appointment - PA Kids Need Complex Care Now Presentation
9:31	Regulation Update
9:38	Pennsylvania Legislative Update
9:40	Report of Committees
9:43	Report of Executive Secretary
9:45	Old Business
9:48	New Business
9:50	Appointment - South College Practical Nursing Program's Request to Change the Day Program to Evening/Weekend Option
10:07	Appointment - Department of Health's Licensure Survey for Healthcare Providers
10:19	For the Board's Information
10:37	Messiah University's Proposal for a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) Education Program

STATE BOARD OF NURSING
REFERENCE INDEX
(Cont.)
June 05, 2025

TIME	AGENDA
10:44	Appointment - Credential Evaluation for Foreign Education
11:16	Appointment - Juniata College's Proposal for a Prelicensure Generic BSN Nursing Education Program
11:29	Appointment - Credential Evaluation for Foreign Education (Cont.)
11:39	Executive Session
12:27	Return to Open Session
12:27	Motions
12:51	Committee Meetings - RN/PN Practice, Education & Regulation/Advanced Practice
1:55	Public Comments
2:05	Adjournment