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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: 9:00 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**

January 13, 2026

State Board of Nursing  
January 13, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair
- 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
- Laura Frank, PhD, RD, LDN
- Susan Hellier, PhD, DNP, FNP-BC
- Brandy Hershberger, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN
- Sue E. Hertzler, LPN
- 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
- Tiffanie Camarota, Esquire, Board Counsel
- Lindsay Szymanski, Esquire, Board Counsel
- David Schertz, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Codi Tucker, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor and Prosecution Co-Liaison
- T'rese Evancho, Esquire, Board Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Co-Liaison
- Kathryn Bellfy, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Garrett Rine, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Caitlin B. Everetts, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Matthew Sniscak, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Alex Capitello, Legal Analyst, Office of Prosecution
- Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel, Prosecution Division
- Ronald Rouse, Esquire, Senior Counsel in Charge

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BOARD STAFF:

- Wendy Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary
- Cynthia K. Miller, Board Administrator
- Kelly Hoffman, MSN, RN, Nursing Education Advisor
- Tracy Scheirer, PhD, MSN, RN, CMSRN, CNE, Nursing Education Advisor
- Susan Bolig, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor

State Board of Nursing  
January 13, 2026

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BOARD STAFF: (Cont.)

Linda Kmetz, PhD, RN, Nursing Education Advisor  
Dulcey Frantz, DNP, RN, RAC-C, Nursing Practice  
Advisor  
Leslie House, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor  
Sue Petula, PhD, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FRE, Nursing  
Education Advisor  
Koren Linn, Board of Nursing Operations Chief  
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State

ALSO PRESENT:

Nicole Campbell, Division Chief, Division of Law  
Enforcement Education and Trade Schools,  
Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Tiffany Booher, MA, LPC, CAADC, CIP, CCSM, Director,  
Peer Assistance Monitoring Programs, Foundation of  
the Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Katie Gruber, MSW, CADC, Case Manager, Nurses' Health  
Program, Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical  
Society  
Cori Nevil, Case Manager, Nurses' Health Program,  
Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Kathleen Rundquist, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing  
Program Director, Franklin County Career and  
Technology Center  
Elizabeth Menschner, DNP, MAS, MSN, RN, NEA-BC,  
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Organization of  
Nurse Leaders  
Lisa Urban, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program  
Director, Greater Altoona Career and Technology  
Center  
Bailey Shafer, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program  
Director, Erie County Community College  
P. Daniel Altland, Esquire, Pennsylvania Association  
of Nurse Anesthetists  
Misha Patel, Esquire, Assistant General Counsel,  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Heather Haines, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program  
Director, Mifflin County Academy of Science and  
Technology  
Larissa McDonnell, DNP, RN, CCRN, CCNS, NEA-BC, MSN,  
Director of Nursing Professional Development,  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

State Board of Nursing  
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ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

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6 Lisa May Norton, EdD, Dean of College of Health  
7 Sciences and Education, Misericordia University  
8 Annette Weiss, PhD, RN, Assistant Dean of Nursing,  
9 Misericordia University  
10 Melissa Weidner, PhD, CRNP, AGACNP-BC, ANP-BC,  
11 Graduate Nursing Department Chair and Program  
12 Director, Misericordia University  
13 Oradell Banker, MSN, CRNP, Graduate Program Clinical  
14 Placement Coordinator, Misericordia University  
15 Sharon Melincavage, DEd, CRNP, RN, Nursing Faculty,  
16 Slippery Rock University  
17 Christina Silva, PhD, RN, Nursing Faculty, Slippery  
18 Rock University  
19 Michele Crytzer, DEd, MSN, RN, Nursing Faculty,  
20 Slippery Rock University  
21 Carrie Birckbichler, Vice President Finance and  
22 Administration, Slippery Rock University  
23 Jessica Kamerer, EdD, MSN, Director of Nursing  
24 Programs, Slippery Rock University  
25 Christine Karshin, PhD, Dean, College of Health  
26 Professions, Slippery Rock University  
27 Michael May, Vice President Enrollment Management,  
28 Slippery Rock University  
29 Michael Zieg, PhD, Provost, Slippery Rock University  
30 Carrie Thompson, Director of Undergraduate  
31 Admissions, Slippery Rock University  
32 Preet Chanel, RN, MSN, CHE, Campus President, Falcon  
33 Institute of Health and Science  
34 Artoria Fox, NCLEX Coordinator, Falcon Institute of  
35 Health and Science  
36 Shahid Ahmed, PhD, President, PITC Institute  
37 Eric Maister, School Director, PITC Institute  
38 Felicia Hartman, Education Director, PITC Institute  
39 Suja Johnson, MSN, RN, Practical Nurse Program  
40 Director, PITC Institute  
41 Debbie Couturiaux, Practical Nursing Coordinator,  
42 Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and  
43 Technology  
44 Talonda Rogers, Practical Nursing Program Director,  
45 Chester County Intermediate Unit  
46 Raymond Romanski, Accounting Manager, Erie County  
47 Community College  
48 Jennifer Kline, MEd, Associate Dean of Academics,  
49 Erie County Community College  
50 Rachael Silveira, Nightingale College

State Board of Nursing  
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ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Guy Goodman, Executive Vice President, Erie County  
Community College  
Stuart Blacklaw, PhD, Dean of Academics, Erie County  
Community College  
Michelle Davis, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing, Lincoln  
Technical Institute  
Stephanie Hentz, MSN, RN, Clinical Instructor,  
Undergraduate Nursing Program Director, Saint  
Joseph's University  
Denise Vanacore, PhD, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, Vice  
Dean and Professor, Holy Family University School  
of Nursing & Health Sciences  
Melanie Rodriguez, MSN, RN, Nursing Program Director,  
Saint Joseph's University  
Janice Miller, DNP, CRNP, FAANP, President,  
Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners  
Diane Kondas, DNP, CRNP, RN, Nursing Program  
Director, Seton Hill University  
Amy Ricords, MEd, BSN, RN-BC, Director of Nursing  
Professional Advancement, Pennsylvania Nursing  
Workforce Coalition  
Laurie Badzek, LLM, JD, MS, RN, FNAP, FAAN,  
Pennsylvania State University College of Nursing  
Susan Leight, EdD, DNP Program Director, Ross and  
Carol Nese College of Nursing, Penn State  
University  
Riley P. Bauer, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Louise S. Frantz, RN, BSN, MHA, Ed, Practical Nursing  
Program Coordinator, Penn State University Berks  
Campus  
Will Anderson, Western Governors University  
Sharon Powell-Laney, EdD, MSN, RN, Director, The  
Rapha School  
Stacy Mumau, Faculty, The Rapha School  
Jordan Fuhrman, Government Relations Specialist,  
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association  
Wesley Rish, Esquire, Rish Law Firm  
Edie Brous, Esquire, RN, Law Offices of Edie Brous  
John Paul Jones, Esquire  
Call-In # 1-412-735-6560  
Call-In # 1-215-962-8750  
Jacob Hill, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,  
Inc.

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2 State Board of Nursing

3 January 13, 2026

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5 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State  
6 Board of Nursing was held on Tuesday, January 13,  
7 2026. Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair  
8 called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

9 \*\*\*

10 Introduction of Board Members

11 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,  
12 requested an introduction of Board members. A quorum  
13 was present. David Scher, MPH, MSN, RN, and Laura  
14 Frank, PhD, RD, LDN, were not present at the  
15 commencement of the meeting.]

16 \*\*\*

17 Introduction of Board Staff

18 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,  
19 requested an introduction of Board staff.]

20 \*\*\*

21 Introduction of Board Counsel

22 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,  
23 requested an introduction of Board Counsel.]

24 \*\*\*

25 Introduction of Board Prosecution

1 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,  
2 requested an introduction of Board Prosecutors.]

3 \*\*\*

4 Introduction of Attendees

5 [Cynthia K. Miller, Board Administrator, provided an  
6 introduction of virtual attendees. In-person  
7 attendees introduced themselves.]

8 \*\*\*

9 Adoption of Agenda

10 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

11 The Agenda for today's meeting is  
12 before you. Are there any additions or  
13 corrections?

14 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

15 There are additional recusals. For  
16 Number 14, Member Scher is also  
17 recused. For Number 60, Members  
18 Hershberger and Hellier are recused.  
19 And for Number 61, it's Hershberger.

20 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

21 All right. Thank you. Is there a  
22 motion to adopt the Agenda?

23 DR. BUCHER:

24 So moved, Bucher.

25 DR. HERSHBERGER:

1 Second, Hershberger.

2 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

3 All those in favor? Opposed?

4 Abstentions?

5 [The motion carried. Dr. Frank had camera issues and  
6 was unable to vote. Mr. Scher was not present for the  
7 vote.]

8 \*\*\*

9 Adoption of Minutes - October 27, 2025

10 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

11 All right. I think we are on to the  
12 minutes of the October 27, 2025  
13 meeting. Are there any additions or  
14 corrections?

15 Hearing none, can I have a motion  
16 to approve the Minutes?

17 MS. HERTZLER:

18 So moved, Hertzler.

19 DR. HERSHBERGER:

20 Second, Hershberger.

21 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

22 All those in favor? Opposed?

23 Abstentions?

24 [The motion carried. Dr. Frank had camera issues and  
25 was unable to vote. Mr. Scher was not present for the

1 vote.]

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3 Report of Prosecutorial Division

4 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, noted

5 Agenda Items 2 through 9, were VRP Consent

6 Agreements.]

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8 [Kathryn Bellfy, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented

9 Agenda Items 10, 11, and 12.]

10

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

12 Agenda Items 13, 14, and 15.]

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14 [Caitlin Everetts, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,

15 presented Agenda Item 16. Wesley Rish, Esquire, Rish

16 Law Firm, Respondents' Counsel, provided a brief

17 statement.]

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19 [Garrett Rine, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented

20 Agenda Items 17, 18, and 19. John Paul Jones,

21 Esquire, spoke on behalf of his client for Agenda

22 Item 17.]

23

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24 [David Scher, MPH, MSN, RN, CEN, entered the meeting

25 at 9:17 a.m.]

1 \*\*\*

2 [Matthew Sniscak, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,  
3 presented Agenda Item 20.]

4 \*\*\*

5 Regulation Update

6 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
7 reported the Boards regulations are moving and  
8 require no Board action. The Volunteer License  
9 Regulations, 16A-5139, are the last of the nursing  
10 regulations to be drafted. She continues to work on  
11 the preamble for Nursing Education Programs, 16A-  
12 5141.

13 Ms. Pachter Schulder added the Regulatory  
14 Analysis Form is being worked on for CRNA Licensure,  
15 16A-5145. Work will continue for CRNP Prescribing  
16 and Dispensing, 16A-5150, once 16A-5141 is complete.  
17 Regarding LPN Pronouncement of Death, 16A-5151, she  
18 reported the proposed regulation has been transmitted  
19 to Regulatory Counsel for review.]

20 \*\*\*

21 Pennsylvania Legislative Update

22 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
23 reported there had been no updates to Legislation  
24 Affecting Nursing due to recess periods. She  
25 anticipated updates soon.]

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Report of Chairperson - No Report.

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Report of Acting Commissioner - No report.

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6

Report of Committees - Probable Cause

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[Sue E. Hertzler, LPN, reported the Probable Cause

8

Committee moved on two Petitions for Appropriate

9

Relief, 17 Petitions for Mental and Physical

10

Examinations, and no Immediate Temporary

11

Suspensions.]

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Report of Committees - Application Review

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[Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, reported

15

the Committee met via email and moved applications

16

forward.]

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Report of Committees - Advanced Practice - No Report.

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Report of Committees - RN/PN Practice, Education and

21

Regulation - No Report.

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Report of Committees - Dietitian-Nutritionist - No

24

Report

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1 Report of Board Members Who Attended a Meeting on  
2 Behalf of the Board - No Report.

3 \*\*\*

4 Report of Executive Secretary

5 [Wendy Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary, stated  
6 the April 30 renewal would open 60 days prior, near  
7 the end of February. She reminded everyone to get  
8 their Child Abuse CE and other CE completed for the  
9 renewal.]

10 \*\*\*

11 Old Business - 2024-2025 NCLEX® Examination Year  
12 Results

13 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
14 explained that at the December meeting Ms. Hoffman  
15 presented a report on the NCLEX® results for 2024-  
16 2025. At that point, there was no identification of  
17 programs going on provisional status, as the Board  
18 had not issued letters to the programs. She stated  
19 the list of programs on provisional status are now  
20 posted on the Board's website along with what year of  
21 provisional status the program is on: Year one, year  
22 two, or year three, and the need to request an  
23 extension of provisional status.

24 Kelly Hoffman, MSN, RN, Nursing Education  
25 Advisor, corrected her report from December, noting

1 there were seven RN programs moving to provisional  
2 status instead of eight.

3 Ms. Pachter Schulder questioned whether the  
4 number had dropped due to a program identifying  
5 somebody who should have or should not have been on  
6 their list. Ms. Hoffman confirmed there was a group  
7 of candidates who took the NCLEX® and identified the  
8 incorrect program. The nursing education program  
9 notified the Board of the corrections.

10 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked for a reminder of the  
11 national and Pennsylvania pass rates for RN and PN  
12 programs. Ms. Hoffman reported that for RN programs,  
13 the national pass rate was 86.88 percent, and the  
14 Pennsylvania pass rate was 90.43 percent. For PN  
15 programs, the national pass rate was 86.46 percent,  
16 and the Pennsylvania pass rate was 83.17 percent.]

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18 Old Business - Programs on Provisional Status

19 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
20 explained the current circumstances in which a  
21 program on provisional status has to present to the  
22 Board. She stated programs entering into their third  
23 year on provisional are required to come before the  
24 Board to request approval to continue on provisional  
25 status. She added that the Board determined at the

1 last meeting that year two provisional programs and  
2 programs who had previously been on provisional  
3 status and then had a short gap off of provisional  
4 status, should present to the Board to hopefully stem  
5 off a third-year request. She added there were  
6 schools on provisional status for the first time and  
7 schools who were previously on provisional status  
8 that had a gap where they came off of provisional and  
9 were now back on provisional. She noted this was the  
10 first year the Board was having year two programs  
11 present.

12 Ms. Pachter Schulder questioned whether the Board  
13 might want to have year one programs meet with the  
14 Board to discuss their performance improvement plan  
15 (PIP). She suggested programs who have never been on  
16 provisional status may just need to submit their PIP,  
17 while programs with gap years may need to come before  
18 the Board.

19 Chair Hunsberger stated having programs who have  
20 short gaps come before the Board would be of great  
21 benefit to Pennsylvania and the programs, as it would  
22 give the Board the opportunity to discuss the planned  
23 changes to ensure the success of its students and the  
24 safety of the public.

25 Ms. Pachter Schulder confirmed Chair Hunsberger

1 agreed with brand new year one programs only  
2 providing a PIP and not coming before the Board.

3 Dr. Bucher stated that first time provisional  
4 programs who have quite low pass rates may benefit by  
5 presenting to the Board as a means of early  
6 intervention. He agreed off- and on-again programs  
7 would definitely benefit from visiting the Board.  
8 Dr. Hershberger and Dr. Hellier echoed Dr. Bucher and  
9 Chair Hunsberger.

10 Ms. Pachter Schulder questioned the parameters  
11 the Board would consider for the gap years. Dr.  
12 Hershberger suggested that within three years would  
13 be good but five years was too long of a period.  
14 Chair Hunsberger agreed.

15 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated that based on the  
16 discussion, year one provisional programs with  
17 provisional status within the last three years would  
18 need to meet with the Board. Second year programs  
19 would need to meet with the Board. Third year  
20 programs would need to meet with the Board to request  
21 an extension.]

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23 New Business - 2026 NLC Commission Midyear Meeting  
24 and 2026 NCSBN Midyear Meeting  
25 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,

1 introduced the topics of the 2026 NLC Commission  
2 Midyear Meeting and the 2026 NCSBN Midyear Meeting.

3 Ms. Wendy Miller expressed interest in attending  
4 the NLC Commission Midyear Meeting and the NCSBN  
5 Midyear Meeting. She noted Dr. Kmetz would need to  
6 attend the NCSBN Midyear Meeting as a member of the  
7 Leadership Succession Committee.

8 Chair Hunsberger and Dr. Hershberger asked to  
9 attend the NCSBN Midyear Meeting. Dr. Kmetz and Dr.  
10 Bucher confirmed their interest and added they would  
11 like to attend the NLC Commission Midyear Meeting as  
12 well.

13 Chair Hunsberger noted three Board Members had  
14 agreed to attend the NCSBN Midyear Meeting. He asked  
15 if the traditional fourth space for a Board Member  
16 could be left open in case another Board staff member  
17 wished to attend. Acting Commissioner Claggett  
18 confirmed it was an option.]

19 \*\*\*

20 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

21 Is there a motion to approve three  
22 Board Members and additional staff to  
23 attend the NCSBN Midyear Meeting?

24 DR. BUCHER:

25 So moved, Bucher.



1 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

2 All those in favor? Opposed?

3 Abstentions?

4 [The motion carried unanimously.]

5 \*\*\*

6 Appointment - Prosecution Data/Information for

7 FY 25-26

8 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,  
9 Prosecution Division, explained that the Bureau of  
10 Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) provides  
11 administrative and legal support to the 29  
12 professional and occupational licensing boards and  
13 commissions within the Department. The Office of  
14 Chief Counsel, Prosecution Division, works with its  
15 investigative arm, the Bureau of Enforcement and  
16 Investigation (BEI), and the compliance arm, the  
17 Professional Compliance Office (PCO), who receive  
18 complaints, investigate allegations, and enforce  
19 compliance with the acts and regulations that govern  
20 the boards and commissions.

21 Ms. Walter stated the Prosecution Division has  
22 numerous attorneys. In addition to herself as Deputy  
23 Chief Counsel, there are five Senior Prosecuting  
24 Attorneys and 34 Prosecuting Attorneys.

25 Ms. Walter stated the prosecution process always

1 begins with a complaint either from the public or by  
2 Board referral. She reported that in both 2024 and  
3 2025, the department received approximately 22,800  
4 total complaints for all boards.

5 Ms. Walter provided an overview of the  
6 investigative process in which the complaint moves  
7 through several levels of review. She added the  
8 Nurse Board is one of the BPOA boards which both  
9 conducts their own hearings and delegates hearings to  
10 the Hearing Examiner. She noted the primary role of  
11 Prosecution at Board meetings is to present Consent  
12 Agreements to the Board.

13 Ms. Walter explained that after the investigative  
14 process, the evidence is reviewed by the Prosecuting  
15 Attorney to determine if there have been any  
16 violations of the act or regulations, how sufficient  
17 the evidence is, and determine if additional files  
18 need to be opened.

19 Ms. Walter stated that if a violation is  
20 suspected, the available options include Immediate  
21 Temporary Suspension and filing of an Order to Show  
22 Cause, Automatic Suspension, an order for  
23 Mental/Physical Examination, and a Petition for  
24 Appropriate Relief if the case violates a previous  
25 Board order. Avenues for discipline are revocation,

1 suspension, probation, public reprimand, civil  
2 penalty, remedial education, and costs of  
3 investigation. She added that all investigations are  
4 confidential and are not subject to Right-to-Know Law  
5 requests.

6 Ms. Walter shared that in 2025, there were 17,354  
7 cases opened, slightly more than the calendar year  
8 2024. However, almost 2,000 more cases were closed  
9 in 2025 than in 2024. Specifically for the Nurse  
10 Board, she reported 3,153 were opened, with 2,898  
11 cases closed. The penalties included 44 monetary,  
12 370 sanctions affecting the ability to practice such  
13 as license suspensions or probations, and 705 warning  
14 letters. She added 107 licenses were reinstated.  
15 Ms. Walter shared the Nurse Board has 353,996 active  
16 licenses and 2,421 open cases.

17 Dr. Hellier asked for an example of the need to  
18 send a warning letter. Codi Tucker, Esquire, Senior  
19 Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Co-Liaison, provided  
20 an example of a person with a lapsed license for  
21 under six months and it was their first offense. She  
22 also stated that if there is a clear violation of the  
23 Practice Acts or regulations, but no patient harm,  
24 and the person has been licensed for a substantial  
25 period of time, the penalty can be continuing

1 education with a warning letter if the person  
2 complies. She added the  
3 Prosecution Division looks at the totality of the  
4 circumstances in any given case. She confirmed there  
5 is always an investigation prior to a warning letter  
6 being issued.

7 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated, in addition to the  
8 reports from Prosecution, the Board previously  
9 received reports from the Professional Health  
10 Monitoring Program and the Pennsylvania Nurse Peer  
11 Assistance Program that provided the number of  
12 licensees in monitoring, the number of licensees who  
13 completed the program, and the number of licensees  
14 who failed to complete the program. The Board  
15 requested presentations from these groups at its  
16 March meeting.]

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18 [The Board recessed from 9:48 a.m. until 10:02 a.m.]

19

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20 Appointment - PITC Institute Practical Nursing  
21 Program - Discussion re Provisional Status  
22 [Suja Johnson, MSN, RN, Practical Nurse Program  
23 Director; Shahid Ahmed, PhD, President; Eric Maister,  
24 School Director; and Felicia Hartman, Education  
25 Director; presented on behalf of PITC Institute.]

1 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
2 explained PITC Institute's PN program was in their  
3 second year of provisional status. She noted there  
4 is a lengthy history of the program being on  
5 provisional status, which is why the Board wanted to  
6 review their plans for improvement and the difference  
7 from prior plans that did not work so that the  
8 program was not in a situation where it had to  
9 request an extension of the provisional status.

10 Ms. Pachter Schulder reviewed prior pass rates:  
11 65.17 percent in 2024-2025; 67.24 percent in 2023-  
12 2024; 80.77 percent in 2022-2023; 77.78 percent in  
13 2021-2022; 77.27 percent in 2020-2021; and 88.24  
14 percent in 2019-2020. She also noted that the first  
15 quarter test takers from October 1, 2025, through  
16 December 30, 2025, have a pass rate of 44.18 percent,  
17 with seven people passing and ten people failing.

18 Ms. Pachter Schulder requested Ms. Johnson  
19 introduce herself and her guests, as well as explain  
20 how long she had been with the program and who the  
21 program director was before her.

22 Ms. Johnson introduced the PITC representatives.  
23 She stated that she had been the program director for  
24 five months. Ms. Hartman explained that there had  
25 been several prior program directors, including

1 herself.

2 Ms. Pachter Schulder questioned what the program  
3 was doing differently to ensure it was not going to  
4 need an extension of provisional status next year.

5 Ms. Hartman shared the program has introduced a  
6 new resource for NCLEX® training from UWorld,  
7 replacing ATI. She explained that UWorld is exposing  
8 students to NCLEX® assignment questions during their  
9 coursework and assigning additional questions for  
10 homework assignments. She stated using UWorld  
11 started in May 2025.

12 Ms. Pachter Schulder pointed out ATI also used  
13 test questions similar to the NCLEX®. She asked how  
14 the UWorld questions differed from ATI and if an  
15 analysis had been done to see how the students did in  
16 the first semester of using UWorld.

17 Ms. Hartman stated not enough data had yet been  
18 received to determine if UWorld was making a  
19 difference, and an analysis of the students had not  
20 been completed. She stated the plan was to compare  
21 scores from ATI usage versus UWorld.

22 Ms. Pachter Schulder clarified that she was not  
23 endorsing either UWorld or ATI, but PITC should  
24 ensure that students are learning what is required to  
25 provide safe care to patients.

1           Chair Hunsberger asked if the program had been  
2 using the comprehensive predictor with ATI. Ms.  
3 Hartman confirmed it had. He then asked if PITC had  
4 compared the data from the comprehensive predictor to  
5 those who had been successful and unsuccessful to see  
6 if there were potential gaps in the knowledge being  
7 taught. He noted, with two years of pass rates at 65  
8 percent and 67 percent, there is likely a general gap  
9 of the education that will not be corrected by  
10 UWorld. He asked what Ms. Johnson's background was  
11 as a nurse.

12           Ms. Johnson explained she has a master's in  
13 nursing and has been in the school for 15 years as a  
14 clinical coordinator, didactic teacher, and clinical  
15 instructor. Ms. Johnson noted she had a med-surg  
16 background.

17           Chair Hunsberger explained the PIP from PITC  
18 stated one of the steps taken for improvement was  
19 exams created by the director. He noted, if he was  
20 the director of a program, he would not be qualified  
21 to write an exam on obstetrics as he does not have  
22 the background.

23           Ms. Johnson stated she was taking the exams from  
24 the publisher for each course and using NCLEX®-style  
25 tests. She also noted that each course has three

1 tests from the question banks.

2 Chair Hunsberger commented that the questions  
3 that banks presented by the publishers could be  
4 easily compromised because of their accessibility and  
5 questioned where using the question banks for tests  
6 could be part of the problem. He suggested it may be  
7 beneficial for Ms. Johnson to consider investing in  
8 education on how to write questions.

9 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted the PIP listed a goal  
10 to acquire testing skills for students. She asked  
11 what PITC thought was the problem with the testing  
12 skills of the students and how it was fixing the  
13 problem.

14 Ms. Hartman stated sometimes students have test  
15 anxiety, so they are being encouraged to be relaxed  
16 prior to a test. Students are also being encouraged  
17 to be prepared in advance. Regarding testing skills,  
18 she discussed promoting the process of elimination:  
19 to read the question twice before looking at the  
20 answers and then eliminate answers before choosing an  
21 answer. She noted advocating and encouraging students  
22 to pick the best answer and not second guess  
23 themselves.

24 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if PITC had evaluated  
25 entrance or admission requirements or evaluated

1 course grading.

2 Ms. Johnson stated it had looked at admission  
3 requirements and explained what PITC is looking for  
4 in students. She also stated that before the exit  
5 examination, there is a three-day live review with an  
6 outside NCLEX®-prepared person. Students are then  
7 given an additional week after the review to practice  
8 the questions and are given remediation if they do  
9 not score 90 percent. Only after scoring 90 percent  
10 are students allowed to sit for the exit exam. She  
11 added the requirement is new with the change to  
12 UWorld.

13 Ms. Johnson explained another change is for PITC  
14 to pay the NCLEX® examination fee upfront for eligible  
15 graduates to encourage them to take the NCLEX®  
16 earlier. She added PITC noted students are going to  
17 work under a temporary license prior to taking the  
18 NCLEX®. She stated students are required to score a  
19 70 percent on the school's exit examination to be  
20 allowed to sit for the NCLEX.

21 Chair Hunsberger expressed concerns that the  
22 methodology being used by PITC is considered high-  
23 stakes testing, which is not supported by research.  
24 He added PITC needs to consider going back to what  
25 students are being taught.

1 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if PITC had completed  
2 a recent analysis of their curriculum against the  
3 examination curriculum to determine if there are any  
4 areas which are not being taught. Ms. Johnson  
5 confirmed it had not.

6 Chair Hunsberger explained that he teaches an  
7 NCLEX® prep course in an ASN/RN program. Each year,  
8 he downloads the results from the comprehensive  
9 predictor and sends them out to the faculty, asking  
10 how the scores can be improved.

11 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked Dr. Ahmed to explain  
12 the turnover of program directors, which information  
13 from NCSBN indicates can lead to decreased production  
14 of programs.

15 Dr. Ahmed stated it is difficult to find highly  
16 qualified nurses to teach and particularly difficult  
17 to find a program director. He stated his goal is  
18 retention. He noted Ms. Johnson had been with PITC  
19 for 15 years in a different capacity, and he hoped  
20 she would be stable in the position. He also noted  
21 concerns over students getting temporary licenses  
22 immediately after graduation rather than taking the  
23 NCLEX®.

24 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated the law allows for  
25 temporary licenses. She asked how PITC is expressing

1 to students that the pass rates decrease the longer  
2 they are out of school.

3 Dr. Ahmed stated PITC continues to impress upon  
4 students that the best time to take the NCLEX® is  
5 immediately after graduation. He added PITC  
6 incentivizes by paying for the cost upfront.

7 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if the students  
8 understand why it is important to take the NCLEX® soon  
9 after graduation for the best results. She also  
10 asked what the average time frame was for students  
11 who delay the NCLEX®.

12 Dr. Ahmed stated it is explained to students that  
13 the chances of passing the NCLEX® decrease the longer  
14 they delay taking the exam. He stated that on  
15 average students who take a job with a temporary  
16 license tend to wait one year before taking the  
17 NCLEX®.

18 Ms. Pachter Schulder suggested that if students  
19 are waiting a year to take the NCLEX®, perhaps PITC  
20 should show their students statistics on the pass  
21 rates at various months. Dr. Ahmed stated that it  
22 was a great idea but expressed concerns over just  
23 using PITC's statistics. Ms. Pachter Schulder noted  
24 the negative implications, but there were also  
25 national statistics with regard to the amount of time

1 versus the likelihood of passing.

2 Chair Hunsberger encouraged PITC to look at and  
3 consider all of the available resources, including  
4 exit exams and Mountain Measurement's analysis of  
5 content areas. He stated placing all of the blame on  
6 the length of time before testing may be hurting the  
7 program. He added that with the current pass rates,  
8 PITC should be looking at the core curriculum in  
9 depth.

10 Dr. Hellier suggested PITC do their own research  
11 or review the literature on how to approach the  
12 problem. She noted that while the Board had given a  
13 lot of good advice, she recommended PITC also  
14 investigate on their own, as there is a lot of  
15 information on how to improve programs.

16 Dr. Hershberger commended PITC for its changes  
17 and dedication to putting financial backing to  
18 solving the problem. However, she asked PITC to  
19 consider how the faculty is teaching its students.

20 Mr. Scher recognized the difficulties of  
21 teaching. He asked PITC if it had considered making  
22 sure their multi-pronged approaches such as early  
23 identification of at-risk students, curriculum  
24 alignment to the NCLEX®, and ensuring PN test plans  
25 are in line together to do more of an early

1 intervention instead of seeing the problem at the  
2 end. He suggested treating the problem similar to a  
3 patient with a chronic disease. He also suggested  
4 ensuring faculty is developing and working in tandem  
5 with leadership.

6 Ms. Pachter Schulder informed PITC that the Board  
7 would discuss if PITC should report on their  
8 improvements at another meeting.]

9

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10 [The Board recessed from 10:45 until 10:58 due to  
11 technical issues.]

12

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13 Appointment - Falcon Institute of Health and Science  
14 Practical Nursing Program - Discussion re  
15 Provisional Status

16 [Preet Chanel, RN, MSN, CHE, Campus President; and  
17 Artoria Fox, NCLEX® Coordinator; presented on behalf  
18 of Falcon Institute of Health and Science.

19 Ms. Chanel noted that she represented the  
20 ownership and executive leadership teams. She  
21 introduced Ms. Fox who had been in the position since  
22 August 2024. She stated the program director,  
23 Maureen Brown, had been in her position since 2023.  
24 She noted Falcon's NCLEX® pass rate for 2024-2025 was  
25 70.77 percent. She expressed appreciation for the

1 Board's continued engagement with their program. She  
2 explained that the program conducted an internal  
3 review that identified root causes for the outcomes  
4 and based upon the review implemented a comprehensive  
5 system redesign, implemented an accountability  
6 structure, and a method to identify early indicators  
7 for when students are struggling.

8 Ms. Chahal explained the history of Falcon  
9 Institute, noting it was founded to address a  
10 workforce need in the Lehigh Valley and has graduated  
11 hundreds of PNs in the last ten years. She added  
12 Falcon was granted Title 4 status in 2018, a  
13 reflection of the maturation of the institution. Ms.  
14 Chahal noted Falcon exceeded the pass rate in  
15 Pennsylvania in 2023 with a rate of 82.5 percent.  
16 She added Falcon was formally notified of failing the  
17 2024 examination year in October 2024 with a second  
18 notice in October 2025. She stated the academic  
19 redesign being presented to the Board was developed  
20 in the 15-month timeline since first notification  
21 alongside a change of ownership and institutional  
22 capacity in August 2025.

23 Ms. Chahal stated the two provisional years  
24 involve overlapping measurement methods and not two  
25 full cycles of inaction. She added that when Falcon

1 first entered provisional status in November 2024,  
2 Falcon identified areas of weakness and implemented  
3 target interventions which were layered into an  
4 existing framework late in the program cycle.

5 Ms. Chahal stated the internal review showed  
6 prior responses were incremental and reactive rather  
7 than systemic, which did not produce stable outcomes  
8 under the Next Generation NCLEX® environment. The  
9 review also showed the cohort that tested during the  
10 2024-2025 examination year completed most coursework  
11 before interventions were fully implemented. The  
12 review also showed students demonstrated appropriate  
13 nursing knowledge but struggled with application of  
14 knowledge, prioritization, and clinical decision-  
15 making. She acknowledged those skills are what the  
16 Next Generation NCLEX® is designed to measure and must  
17 be built intentionally and continuously from the  
18 first day of the program. She stated the review  
19 findings led to a clear conclusion that the program  
20 itself needed to be rebuilt, noting that in December  
21 2025, Falcon made a deliberate decision to not  
22 continue adding incremental intervention to an  
23 underperforming framework. Instead, Falcon committed  
24 to a complete redesign of the program, requiring a  
25 complete reevaluation of every course and clinical

1 rotation; retraining faculty; adopting a new  
2 assessment and remediation structure; and engaging  
3 external expertise.

4 Ms. Chahal explained that implementation of the  
5 redesigned PN program was starting in January 2026  
6 and included five core elements which she explained.  
7 Element one is "Clinical Reasoning from Day One,"  
8 which embeds clinical reasoning in every course,  
9 classroom, lab, and clinical through case-based  
10 instruction, NCLEX®-style questioning, and  
11 application-level decision making. Element two is  
12 "Clinical Judgment Measurement Model Integration" in  
13 which the NCSBN model will be integrated into daily  
14 clinical instruction for every assigned patient.  
15 Element three is "Full Kaplan Integration" in which  
16 Kaplan is now the framework for instruction,  
17 assessment, and remediation.

18 Element four is an "Elevated and Reinforced  
19 Benchmark Each Semester" in which progression through  
20 the program is contingent on demonstrated competency,  
21 ensuring academic advancement is tied directly to the  
22 mastery of nursing knowledge. She noted students who  
23 did not meet identified academic and clinical  
24 benchmarks would be provided with intense faculty-  
25 guided remediation and would not be allowed to

1 advance unless they demonstrate required competency.

2 Element five is to "Rebuild NCLEX® Preparation  
3 and Logistics" in which Falcon replaced a workshop  
4 with a structured transition to the licensure process  
5 designed to confirm readiness from entry level  
6 practice.

7 Ms. Chahal stated the full, redesigned curriculum  
8 officially begins for new students in January 2026,  
9 but Falcon expects currently enrolled students would  
10 also benefit from the new program. She added Falcon  
11 expects the immediate intervention to improve the  
12 outcome of existing students. She reported Falcon  
13 had engaged with external experts to validate the  
14 redesign and provide guidance on faculty development  
15 and testing integrity.

16 Ms. Chahal shared that on August 1, 2025, Falcon  
17 expanded its ownership and executive leadership team  
18 by adding people who have extensive experience in  
19 educational technology along with the resources to  
20 support sustained academic quality. She added the  
21 redesigned academic framework was designed under the  
22 expanded leadership.

23 Ms. Chahal stated NCLEX® outcomes will be treated  
24 as a core institutional responsibility with active  
25 oversight, explicit expectations, and corrective

1 authority will be exercised when benchmarks are not  
2 met. She noted Falcon leadership had authorized a  
3 direct capital commitment of up to \$2 million for  
4 faculty development, enhancements to simulation and  
5 lab technology, and for the expansion of academic  
6 support services. She explained NCLEX® outcomes and  
7 leading indicators would be reviewed at the ownership  
8 level. She added Falcon will track assessment  
9 performance, clinical judgment, evaluations, semester  
10 benchmarks, remediation completion and progression  
11 trends.

12 Ms. Chahal noted the first cohort to completely  
13 be under the new redesigned program will test during  
14 the 2026-2027 examination year. She noted Falcon is  
15 prepared to provide the Board with periodic updates  
16 on leading indicators as deemed appropriate by the  
17 Board. She explained the main difference from  
18 previous efforts was the rebuild of the framework  
19 instead of adding interventions to existing  
20 framework. She noted Falcon took full responsibility  
21 for its licensure outcome and believed Falcon is  
22 demonstrating to the Board that it has built a  
23 fundamentally different resource and accountable  
24 institution.

25 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked what Falcon was doing

1 to specifically ensure the class who was about to  
2 graduate would not fall in with the 2024-2025  
3 cohort's pass rates and would be able to take  
4 advantage of the new changes.

5 Ms. Fox explained that 25 members of the January  
6 2026 graduating class were taking a 10-day NCLEX® prep  
7 workshop to intensely review areas for enhancement.

8 Ms. Pachter Schulder clarified her question,  
9 noting Ms. Chahal's explanation that the clinical  
10 judgement model showed it was not effectively  
11 implemented in prior curriculum and that Ms. Chahal  
12 had also stated a short remediation at the end was  
13 not enough.

14 Ms. Chahal stated Falcon is giving the January  
15 graduates a readiness test for the first time to see  
16 where each student is. In addition, the past two-day  
17 remediation workshop was extended to a ten-day  
18 workshop. She noted Falcon is also concerned about  
19 the graduates.

20 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted the group who takes  
21 the test in the next quarter may need additional help  
22 beyond the workshop.

23 Dr. Hershberger asked if the group had taken a  
24 predictor.

25 Ms. Chahal stated the group had just taken the

1 predictor readiness exam with results mostly in the  
2 50s or 60s.

3 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated Falcon needs to  
4 determine a way to get them into the 80s. She added  
5 the Board applauds the additional and new steps  
6 Falcon is taking, and Falcon seems to be moving in  
7 the right direction. However, the 25 students  
8 graduating are also looking at Falcon to ensure they  
9 received proper education and can pass the NCLEX®.

10 Ms. Hertzler asked how many cohorts Falcon takes  
11 in each year. Ms. Chahal stated three full-time and  
12 two part-time. Ms. Hertzler asked for clarification  
13 on why there were six graduation dates for five  
14 cohorts. Ms. Fox explained how the start dates work,  
15 which could lend to an additional graduation date due  
16 to September starts sometimes going into October.

17 Ms. Hertzler asked how many outliers were left,  
18 noting recent test takers included one graduate from  
19 January 2018 and one from January 2019. Ms. Chahal  
20 stated there were 13 outliers from 2024 and 2025,  
21 which the program has reached out to in an effort to  
22 have them come in for the remediation workshop.

23 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked how many outliers  
24 there were from prior to 2024. Ms. Chahal was unable  
25 to provide an answer. Ms. Pachter Schulder expressed

1 concern that the program does not track this  
2 information. She also expressed concern that the  
3 program may not see improvement for at least a couple  
4 of years. She noted it would be difficult to show  
5 rationale for an extension if needed in the future if  
6 Falcon does not bolster graduates who have not tested  
7 and people who have not yet graduated.

8 Ms. Chahal stated Falcon is encouraging graduates  
9 to test earlier for better results but have also  
10 recognized that previous students may have been  
11 pushed to test before they were ready. She noted  
12 Falcon staff would be sitting down with recent and  
13 future graduates to assist them in picking a test  
14 date to ensure they are ready.

15 Chair Hunsberger asked for clarification on the  
16 change in ownership. Ms. Chahal stated she was still  
17 part of the ownership, but additional partners had  
18 joined in August 2025. She noted the new partners  
19 were chosen based on their experience in education  
20 and technology.

21 Chair Hunsberger asked if all of the instruction  
22 was delivered in a traditional classroom style. Ms.  
23 Chahal stated Falcon had started a hybrid program  
24 where students were coming to the school for lab and  
25 clinicals. She stated none of the hybrid students

1 had graduated yet, but comprehensive predictors  
2 showed they were doing better than traditional  
3 students.

4       When asked again about outliers, Ms. Chahal  
5 stated Falcon could go back to its database to  
6 determine how many there were total.

7       Ms. Pachter Schulder noted Falcon had stated  
8 there was a lag time before the Board notified them  
9 of provisional status. She recommended Falcon  
10 consider looking at every quarterly pass of the  
11 program and doing the math to see where it is. She  
12 also recommended Falcon mention to outliers that if  
13 someone takes the NCLEX® and fails, their temporary  
14 permit is inactivated.]

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16 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, exited  
17 the meeting at 11:27 a.m. for recusal purposes.]

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19

VICE CHAIR BUCHER ASSUMED THE CHAIR

20

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21 Appointment - The Rapha School Practical Nursing

22       Program - Extension of Provisional Status

23 [Sharon Powell-Laney, RN, MSN, EdD, Director and

24 Instructor, and Stacy Mumau, faculty, presented on

25 behalf of The Rapha School.

1 Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
2 explained The Rapha School had requested  
3 reconsideration of the Board's decision from the  
4 December meeting, that the program's provisional  
5 status would be extended until April 2026, and that  
6 the program was not permitted to advertise or admit  
7 new students until after the April Board meeting. In  
8 addition to seeking reconsideration of the December  
9 decision, Rapha requested an extension of its  
10 provisional status until 2027. She noted the Board  
11 had a copy of the PIP, all documentation provided by  
12 Rapha, and the letter Dr. Powell-Laney sent to the  
13 Governor's Office requesting Governor Shapiro  
14 consider the issue. She explained that the national  
15 NCLEX® pass rate for PNs is 86.46 percent, and  
16 Pennsylvania's pass rate is 83.17 percent for the  
17 recent exam year. Dr. Powell-Laney stated her  
18 research showed the national pass rate was 78.3  
19 percent. Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if Ms. Kelly  
20 Hoffman could verify the information from NCSEB. Ms.  
21 Hoffman confirmed nationally the NCLEX® pass rate for  
22 PN programs had not dipped below 80 percent since  
23 2020. She added that Pennsylvania's scores rose the  
24 same year and have remained above 80 percent every  
25 year since then.

1 Dr. Powell-Laney stated overall scores had  
2 dropped for PNs and RNs since the new Next Gen NCLEX®  
3 started. She had only been able to find two students  
4 from Rapha which had not tested yet: one from 2020  
5 and one from 2024. She stated the curriculum used at  
6 Rapha is valid. She noted that after reviewing all  
7 of the data, she was unable to find a definitive root  
8 cause for Rapha's pass rate issue. She added that  
9 after putting all of the data through an AI program,  
10 the closest correlations she could find are the  
11 UWorld practice test, the last practice test, and the  
12 grades in level three.

13 Dr. Powell-Laney explained she was asking for an  
14 extension, as she believed Rapha had found a pattern  
15 of success for the students in the 2025 class. She  
16 stated there were three students who were advised not  
17 to take the NCLEX® right away and to wait for a  
18 remediation plan. One student did not wait, took the  
19 NCLEX®, and failed. After failing, she asked for the  
20 remediation plan, followed the plan, and passed the  
21 NCLEX®. The other two students followed their  
22 remediation plans and passed the NCLEX®.

23 Ms. Mumau explained Rapha uses the UWorld  
24 predictors to set up a study plan for each student.  
25 She noted UWorld has changed, and with the upcoming

1 class, faculty will be able to monitor the self-study  
2 plan devised for each student.

3 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted Rapha had partial  
4 success with their plan.

5 Dr. Powell-Laney stated Rapha now has a proven  
6 plan to help students succeed. She also explained  
7 the data showed some people had below their  
8 recommended TEAS score. She stated that as a faith-  
9 based program, she interviews every applicant and can  
10 sometimes be swayed by the interview to take students  
11 who scored under a 50 percent on TEAS.

12 Dr. Bucher noted it was great Rapha is a small  
13 school but also noted a small school can be a  
14 detriment. He applauded Dr. Powell-Laney for doing  
15 interviews, but asked if, by giving lower scoring  
16 students a chance, it might be costing the school at  
17 the end of the day.

18 Dr. Powell-Laney acknowledged it may be hurting  
19 the program and stated a commitment had been made to  
20 go by the cut scores for this admission year.

21 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked how, as a science-  
22 based profession, Rapha would consider the TEAS score  
23 without having taken science coursework.

24 Dr. Powell-Laney stated research had shown  
25 students would not get good science TEAS scores if

1 they had not taken all the academic sciences in high  
2 school. She considers the reading TEAS score for  
3 making determinations on whether a student should be  
4 accepted.

5 Dr. Bucher asked if there was a way for Rapha to  
6 help students strengthen their science before  
7 entering the program. Dr. Powell-Laney explained  
8 there is a local TEAS prep course; however, students  
9 have to meet certain income requirements to qualify.

10 Dr. Hershberger asked if Rapha was offering  
11 students resources within the community as well as  
12 giving them a packet to explain additional resources  
13 which could help with success. She noted the updated  
14 PIP stated it was difficult to change policies  
15 without a clear metric. She asked if Dr. Powell-  
16 Laney still believed it was difficult after  
17 successfully remediating two students and whether her  
18 plan was to continue an overall remediation program  
19 for those who are lower on the predictor score.

20 Dr. Powell-Laney replied that Rapha has started  
21 recognizing low scores in Medicine Administration/IV  
22 and Level 1, and students are being started in  
23 remediation at that point. She noted two evening  
24 students have been started in remediation, as well as  
25 three students from the class which started in August

1 2025. She noted she has more content to use with  
2 UWorld allowing Rapha to see what the students are  
3 not getting from their homework.

4 Dr. Bucher noted Rapha was changing their  
5 pharmacology course and asked if Rapha had determined  
6 a deficit or if it was global.

7 Dr. Powell-Laney explained the overhaul on  
8 pharmacology was due to her finding certain anti-  
9 infectives were no longer relevant. She noted there  
10 were also newer things which were not yet considered  
11 relevant. She stated Rapha was targeting  
12 pharmacology and fundamentals as they were identified  
13 by NCSBN program reports as areas where students did  
14 a bit worse.

15 Ms. Pachter Schulder questioned what was being  
16 done to remediate current students now that Rapha was  
17 using UWorld differently or evaluating what their  
18 TEAS score was or their level of preparation.

19 Dr. Powell-Laney stated that when looking at the  
20 level of preparation, no one in the last class scored  
21 below 50 percent. She stated Rapha is paying  
22 attention to students and talking to them if the  
23 students are scoring below average on exams. The  
24 students are also being given work to make up. She  
25 noted the students are still passing the course.

1 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated Dr. Powell-Laney's  
2 reply goes back to a question from December in which  
3 the Board asked if there was an issue with pass rates  
4 on a course or level and performance on the NCLEX®.

5 Ms. Mumau replied Rapha looked at the grading  
6 system and how homework was weighted versus exams.  
7 None of the students who failed the NCLEX® dropped  
8 below the passing average to where they would have  
9 been excused from the program.

10 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if there was a happy  
11 medium, such as telling the students they would not  
12 be excused from the program, but they also may not  
13 pass the NCLEX®.

14 Dr. Powell-Laney stated students are told they  
15 may not pass the NCLEX® as part of the remediation  
16 program. She added that students sign contracts  
17 committing to remediation, but Rapha cannot force a  
18 student to do things.

19 Ms. Pachter Schulder explained Rapha could choose  
20 to have a standard that states if a student does not  
21 do X, Y, and Z, they could be dismissed from the  
22 program. She acknowledged Dr. Powell-Laney's desire  
23 to give all students grace but questioned how that  
24 impacted the end result as there has to be a minimum  
25 amount of education that students must receive to be

1 able to practice appropriately.

2 Dr. Powell-Laney questioned changes in how the  
3 NCLEX® is scored.

4 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if Dr. Sue Petula  
5 could comment on changes in scores between the Next  
6 Gen NCLEX® and the former exam.

7 Dr. Petula stated the passing standard has not  
8 been raised. She noted there were test plan changes  
9 in 2020 and 2023, with a planned change in 2026 based  
10 on a survey in terms of the environments of care  
11 which have become increasingly complex. She referred  
12 to a recent research study published in the *Journal*  
13 *of Nursing Regulation* that noted no difference in  
14 outcomes when looking at preclinical judgement  
15 implementation versus post clinical judgement  
16 implementation in RNs.

17 Dr. Powell-Laney stated there is an issue. She  
18 added Rapha is giving students the information they  
19 need, but they are not getting the information needed  
20 to pass the NCLEX®. She noted teaching to the test is  
21 a different issue.

22 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated schools need to both  
23 teach to be a good nurse and practice appropriately  
24 while also meeting standards as a program.

25 Dr. Powell-Laney argued that students should not

1 be taught to test but should be taught what they need  
2 to know. She stated Rapha would be implementing STAT  
3 nursing despite not personally liking STAT nursing.  
4 She added all current students will be required to  
5 attend, and Rapha would be inviting anyone who failed  
6 the NCLEX®.

7 Ms. Hertzler asked why Rapha waits until after a  
8 student has failed three exams before talking to the  
9 student. Dr. Powell-Laney stated every student needs  
10 a period of grace for the first exam in each course  
11 as they do not know what to expect. She added Rapha  
12 does inform the students about how to take notes as  
13 well as what is being entered into Quizlet.

14 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if students are made  
15 to retake the content if they fail. Dr. Powell-Laney  
16 stated retakes are not permitted. Ms. Pachter  
17 Schulder pointed out retakes could be required  
18 without awarding credit to assure mastery of the  
19 material. She asked how Rapha ensures the student is  
20 not missing key pieces if they do not retake the  
21 exam.

22 Dr. Powell-Laney stated all of the key pieces are  
23 in the final exam. In addition, tests are given on a  
24 daily basis, and students are tested on important  
25 information between five and ten times. When asked,

1 she stated a student who failed the first test  
2 generally scores in the mid-80s to low 90s on the  
3 daily tests.

4 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked what Dr. Powell-Laney  
5 had deduced to be the student's problem that caused  
6 them to fail the first test if they were passing  
7 daily ones.

8 Dr. Powell-Laney explained sometimes the student  
9 does not want to use memorization techniques like  
10 flashcards. She said that by the current time of the  
11 year, students have memorization-type issues  
12 resolved, and if a student fails an exam, it tends to  
13 be due to life issues outside of school.

14 Dr. Bucher stated that as Rapha continues to get  
15 UWorld data, perhaps Rapha should look at testing to  
16 see if they need to raise their testing level.

17 Dr. Powell-Laney stated that based on what she is  
18 told, the school already tests at a high level  
19 compared to other schools. She added that the goal  
20 is to have both a high retention rate and a high pass  
21 rate. She stated Rapha has found the way to do both.

22 Dr. Hershberger advised taking a proactive  
23 approach to sharing knowledge rather than a reactive  
24 approach after a student is in trouble.

25 Dr. Powell-Laney stated the first course for

1 students is called "Christian Nurse in a Secular  
2 World" and teaches note taking, test taking, and  
3 anxiety. She added it was important information for  
4 students to receive prior to taking any exams.

5 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated the Board understands  
6 the conundrum for programs and for students who  
7 cannot pass but have expended money for their  
8 education. She noted a conundrum also exists when  
9 there are many programs who can meet standards, and  
10 then there are programs who cannot meet standards.  
11 She added the Board gives grace by permitting the two  
12 years of provisional status with the potential  
13 extension of a third year.

14 Dr. Powell-Laney explained if a school gets a  
15 reputation for letting people go from their program,  
16 then the school will not have full classes and will  
17 not be fiscally solvent.

18 Ms. Pachter Schulder pointed out that if programs  
19 take students who are already below standard, the  
20 potential for failure is higher than the potential to  
21 pass.

22 Dr. Powell-Laney argued there was no correlation  
23 statistically, so Rapha had to do what it thought was  
24 best for the student. She added the school only has  
25 two outliers that could impact their data. She noted

1 that the school is small and only does nursing. She  
2 stated Rapha has to figure out how to get the  
3 students to apply the knowledge they are given to  
4 passing the NCLEX®. She understood the NCLEX® was  
5 going to be allowed to be taken from home, which  
6 would help with anxiety.

7 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated psychometrics of  
8 exams are left up to exam vendors to determine. She  
9 stated the Board had already given an extension of  
10 provisional status until April; however, Dr. Powell-  
11 Laney was requesting an extension through 2027. She  
12 asked if there was anything further Dr. Powell-Laney  
13 thought the Board should know.

14 Dr. Powell-Laney stated there is only one class  
15 per year and one evening class every other year. She  
16 stated all of the students in the current programs  
17 are graduating in June and July, so new data would  
18 not be available until after June or July. She  
19 stated that if Rapha was not permitted to enroll a  
20 new class, Rapha would never know if the changes it  
21 made would work. She recognized the Board has  
22 regulations, which Rapha has in their program.

23 Dr. Bucher brought up Dr. Powell-Laney's letter  
24 to the Governor. She apologized for the letter. He  
25 stated the Board is not willing to compromise on the

1 80 percent pass rate standard because a student who  
2 goes through a program should have the ability to  
3 pass the NCLEX®. He noted the Board never wants to be  
4 in a position where it has to tell a program it can  
5 no longer be in existence.

6 Ms. Pachter Schulder and Dr. Powell-Laney  
7 discussed pass rates dating back into the 1990s. Ms.  
8 Pachter Schulder noted the passing standard has  
9 changed from 60 percent to 80 percent over the years  
10 as outlined in Section 21.33b and 21.162b of the  
11 Board's regulations.

12 Ms. Pachter Schulder questioned Ms. Powell-Laney  
13 about her use of Gemini AI to prepare the statistical  
14 information for the Board. She commented that in law  
15 school, they teach that if a person wants to use AI,  
16 they still need to verify all of the information.  
17 Since Dr. Powell-Laney noted that the report prepared  
18 for the Board was done using Gemini AI, Ms. Pachter  
19 Schulder asked what validations were made to make  
20 sure the assumptions the report was based upon were  
21 accurate.

22 Dr. Powell-Laney stated all of the data was  
23 verified by staff, including Ms. Mumau. Ms. Pachter  
24 Schulder sought clarification about the assumptions,  
25 not the data. Dr. Powell-Laney stated she compared

1 the assumptions to the assumptions made for year one  
2 and year two when she devised the PIP.

3 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated the Board would  
4 deliberate during Executive Session on both the  
5 requests to allow students to be admitted and the  
6 request for an automatic extension of provisional  
7 status through 2027.]

8

\*\*\*

9 [Brandy Hershberger, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN, and Susan  
10 Hellier, PhD, DNP, FNP-BC, exited the meeting at  
11 12:13 for recusal purposes. Colby P. Hunsberger,  
12 DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, reentered the meeting at 12:13  
13 p.m.]

14

\*\*\*

15 CHAIR HUNSBERGER RESUMED THE CHAIR.

16

\*\*\*

17 Appointment - Slippery Rock University Proposal for a  
18 Prelicensure Baccalaureate of Science Degree in  
19 Nursing (BSN)

20 [Jessica Kamerer, EdD, Director of Nursing Programs  
21 and Chief Nurse Administrator; Christine Karshin,  
22 PhD, Dean, College of Health Professions; and Michael  
23 Zieg, PhD, Provost, presented on behalf of Slippery  
24 Rock University.

25

Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,

1 stated the Board reviewed Slippery Rock's proposal.  
2 She requested Slippery Rock take the Board through  
3 the proposal in terms of clinical sites, faculty  
4 ratios, and prerequisites, along with anything else  
5 the presenters wanted to tell the Board.

6 Dr. Kamerer thanked the Board for allowing their  
7 proposal and thanked Board staff, particularly Dr.  
8 Kmetz, for assistance in navigating the new program  
9 creation process.

10 Dr. Kamerer shared Slippery Rock has a long-  
11 standing history of quality nursing programs dating  
12 back over 50 years. She stated that over the years,  
13 Slippery Rock has received requests for the need for  
14 a prelicensure BSN program. In 2021, the University  
15 recognized an opportunity to create and enhance the  
16 current health professional programs but unifying  
17 them under one College of Health Professions, which  
18 hosts the nursing program, physician assistants,  
19 physical therapists and occupational therapists, and  
20 other health programs. In creating the College of  
21 Health Professions, it brought to light the  
22 opportunity for prelicensure programs as well as the  
23 opportunity for collaboration, interprofessional, and  
24 interdisciplinary educational offerings to students.

25 Dr. Kamerer stated Slippery Rock is seeking to

1 offer a four-year, generic BSN program with students  
2 admitted in fall terms. There would be 120 credits  
3 offered in fall and spring semesters, 62 of which  
4 would be allocated to the nursing prefix and  
5 professional coursework. She noted clinical  
6 experiences across the lifespan would be hosted  
7 through clinical affiliated partners, including UPMC,  
8 Allegheny Health Network, and Independence Health  
9 System, in addition to others around the region. The  
10 program plan includes 1,425 hours of didactic  
11 experience, 730 clinical hours, 188 lab hours, and 82  
12 simulation-based learning hours. Prerequisites will  
13 be built into the first year. She noted students  
14 admitted to the program will be required to have Bs  
15 or better in their high school science courses, or if  
16 transferring from another university, an overall 3.0  
17 GPA and a C or better in science courses.

18 Dr. Kamerer explained students will take  
19 foundational science courses in their first year to  
20 give them a scientific background to be able to  
21 advance through the nursing courses that are built  
22 starting in year two. Students will also develop the  
23 knowledge, skills, attitudes, clinical judgment, and  
24 critical thinking needed for licensure and successful  
25 transition to practice.

1 Dr. Bucher asked where Slippery Rock anticipated  
2 students going for their clinicals as some of the  
3 listed affiliations are fairly far from the school.  
4 Dr. Kamerer stated that with Slippery Rock being in a  
5 more rural part of the region, some commuting time is  
6 expected for students to get to clinicals.

7 Chair Hunsberger stated Clarion Hospital from the  
8 prepared list had closed most of the units listed.  
9 Dr. Kamerer stated Slippery Rock would review the  
10 list, as Independence Health had provided the list of  
11 their available units. When asked, she stated  
12 obstetrics clinical experiences would be available at  
13 Butler, Wexford, and Erie.

14 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked how much simulation  
15 would be done by semester. Dr. Kamerer stated each  
16 clinical course had a planned eight hours of  
17 simulation with a total of 82 hours over the program.

18 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted the program was set up  
19 to share the simulation with the physician assistant  
20 program. She asked if Slippery Rock would still be  
21 sharing in the new facility or if there would be  
22 separate simulation units.

23 Dr. Kamerer stated there are plans to do facility  
24 renovations. The simulation center that is projected  
25 to be built is intended to be an interprofessional

1 education center for a variety of purposes and  
2 reasons across the programs. She noted nursing is  
3 slated to have a dedicated instructional skills lab  
4 for foundations and the assessment course.

5 Chair Hunsberger asked if Slippery Rock would be  
6 utilizing the PA program to do joint simulations.

7 Dr. Kamerer stated the goal is to have  
8 interprofessional education simulations in addition  
9 to nursing curriculum specific simulation  
10 experiences.

11 Dr. Bucher asked if a student does not pass  
12 either the clinical or the didactic, would they  
13 repeat both. Dr. Kamerer stated that if a student  
14 does not pass the clinical component, due to  
15 regulation, they would have to repeat both.

16 Chair Hunsberger asked if Slippery Rock  
17 anticipated students struggling with multiple online  
18 access requirements due to the use of multiple  
19 publishers.

20 Dr. Kamerer stated Slippery Rock plans to use ATI  
21 integrated across the curriculum as well as a  
22 comprehensive predictor. She noted, for textbooks,  
23 Slippery Rock chose the highest levels available for  
24 different areas and does anticipate some will require  
25 online access to be purchased. She added materials

1 will be integrated by the instructors based on  
2 recommendations and best practice standards.

3 Chair Hunsberger asked what the plan was to  
4 ensure that faculty are prepared to write NCLEX®  
5 questions.

6 Dr. Kamerer stated a number of faculty already  
7 have significant experience, but Slippery Rock was  
8 also projecting to hire additional faculty members.  
9 She noted the current team has a variety of expertise  
10 across different disciplines including previous item  
11 writing development. She added that faculty  
12 development will be planned.

13 Dr. Kamerer shared Slippery Rock has partnered  
14 with the Center for Student Success, which offers a  
15 variety of services to help students such as  
16 tutoring, test anxiety workshops, and test taking  
17 strategies. In addition, the program intends to  
18 investigate student needs during the first year of  
19 the program and during the Introduction to Nursing  
20 course in an effort to normalize the use of support  
21 services to ensure successful students.

22 Dr. Karshin shared that there are 11 different  
23 academic programs within the College of Health  
24 Professions. She noted Slippery Rock is focused on  
25 interprofessional collaboration within the space they

1 are planning. She added the master plan is to  
2 prepare students to be not just good in their  
3 professions and not just pass the critical  
4 examinations but to be a strong member of a  
5 healthcare team to lead to good patient outcomes.

6 Dr. Zieg shared that when the College of Health  
7 Professions was created, it was a strategic direction  
8 to recognize healthcare was a big part of who the  
9 University is as a whole. He added an entire campus  
10 building will be dedicated to integrative healthcare  
11 training. He added the prelicensure program is a  
12 piece that has been missing, which Slippery Rock  
13 would like to rectify and move forward with as part  
14 of their strategic mission.

15 Ms. Pachter Schulder thanked Slippery Rock for  
16 their presentation. She noted the Board's decision  
17 will be announced following the Executive Session.]

18 \*\*\*

19 [The Board recessed from 12:31 p.m. until 12:39 p.m.]

20 \*\*\*

21 [Susan Hellier, PhD, DNP, FNP-BC reentered the  
22 meeting at 12:39 p.m.]

23 \*\*\*

24 Appointment - Misericordia University Proposal for a  
25 CRNP Program - Adult Gerontology Acute Care

1 Nurse Practitioner MSN, Post-Master's  
2 Certificate and BSN-DNP  
3 [Melissa Weidner, PhD, CRNP, AGACNP-BC, ANP-BC,  
4 Graduate Nursing Department Chair and Program  
5 Director; Annette Weiss, PhD, RN, Assistant Dean of  
6 Nursing; and Lisa Norton, EdD, Dean of College of  
7 Health Sciences and Education; presented its proposal  
8 on behalf of Misericordia University.

9 Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
10 explained Misericordia University was presenting  
11 their proposal for an Adult Gerontology Acute Care  
12 Nurse Practitioner program with MSN, post-master's  
13 certificate, and BSN-DNP options. She asked Dr.  
14 Weidner to introduce herself and her colleagues,  
15 explain the program, clinical sites, and how it  
16 differs from the other programs offered at  
17 Misericordia.

18 Dr. Weidner introduced herself and noted she was  
19 the proposed program director for the Acute Care NP  
20 program, along with Dr. Weiss, and Dr. Norton. She  
21 stated Misericordia has a long-standing tradition of  
22 quality nurse practitioner programs, including the  
23 Family Nurse Practitioner that started in 1993 and  
24 Adult Gerontology Primary Care program that started  
25 in 2019. She explained that based on growth of the

1 University and department growth, Misericordia felt  
2 it had the appropriate resources to start an Acute  
3 Care Nurse Practitioner program.

4 Dr. Weidner stated the program would continue to  
5 use existing sites from partners, including Geisinger  
6 who also encouraged Misericordia to start the program  
7 and would be assisting with hospital-based sites.  
8 She noted the closest acute care program to  
9 Misericordia is in Allentown. She added Misericordia  
10 anticipates the largest draw to the program will be  
11 people aligning their certifications.

12 Dr. Weidner explained faculty for the program  
13 would consist of herself and an adjunct professor who  
14 is acute care certified to specifically teach acute  
15 care courses. In addition, core courses would be  
16 taught by existing supportive faculty. When asked,  
17 she further explained that she is dual certified as  
18 an adult acute care nurse practitioner and as an  
19 adult nurse practitioner. She noted her  
20 certifications cover adult gerontology, so she will  
21 not need any additional certifications to teach.

22 Regarding facilities, she explained the program  
23 will primarily be taught online with one on-campus  
24 colloquium where students would come to campus for  
25 two days for hands-on skills. She pointed out there

1 is a graduate lab in the Erwine building where there  
2 is accessibility for exam rooms to practice skills.  
3 In addition, Passan Hall was recently renovated and  
4 includes a hospital-based experience for students.  
5 She noted Misericordia recently received a grant,  
6 which was used to purchase butterfly ultrasound  
7 probes for acute care students.

8 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked how much of the  
9 program would be simulation. Dr. Weidner replied  
10 there would be simulation done online through  
11 different clinical experiences; however, most  
12 learning would be hands-on within the clinical sites.

13 Dr. Bucher requested an explanation of what would  
14 be involved with the two-day on-campus colloquium.  
15 Dr. Weidner explained that the students would learn  
16 skills like insertion of chest tubes and central  
17 lines, lumbar punctures, how to use an ultrasound  
18 probe, asking patients questions, and making sure  
19 they can function in an acute care setting.

20 Dr. Bucher asked if history and physical would be  
21 taught online. Dr. Weidner stated the health  
22 assessment course is currently taught online with  
23 virtual labs through Zoom sessions. The acute care  
24 students would be incorporated into the current  
25 course.

1           Dr. Bucher asked whether there would be  
2 standardized patients. Dr. Weidner stated  
3 standardized patients would be a part of the  
4 colloquium similar to existing programs. She noted  
5 students practice on the patient virtually, do it on  
6 a patient at home during class, and then do it again  
7 when they come to campus.

8           Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if the BSN students  
9 already have their RN or if they obtain their RN  
10 while in the program. Dr. Weidner stated the  
11 students would be BSN-DNP students, so they would  
12 already have their RN.

13           Dr. Bucher inquired about how much experience the  
14 students would need. Dr. Weidner noted there is  
15 debate over experience. She stated the current  
16 programs do not require experience. However, she  
17 explained that as of October 2024, students without  
18 experience are given a full year of clinical at the  
19 bedside as an RN before getting nurse practitioner  
20 clinical. The first clinical experience was shifted  
21 to ensure they have two semesters of full didactic  
22 with additional didactic over the summer. Acute care  
23 students would follow the same pattern. She added  
24 post-master's students would complete a gap analysis  
25 to determine their needs.



1 at 12:53 p.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 and the Report of the  
5 Prosecutorial Division. The Board returned to Open  
6 Session at 2:12 p.m.

7 Ms. Pachter Schulder advised that Board members  
8 who recused themselves will be noted in the motions.  
9 It was noted Dr. Frank was having technical issues  
10 and would be listening via phone and watching via  
11 video. Dr. Frank would indicate her vote by raising  
12 her hand on camera and voting by voice on the phone.]

13

\*\*\*

14 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of  
15 Professional and Occupational Affairs exited the  
16 meeting at 2:10 p.m.]

17

\*\*\*

18 Report of Prosecutorial Division Motions

19 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

20 Is there a motion to adopt the VRP  
21 Consent Agreements for Items 2 through  
22 9?

23 DR. BUCHER:

24 So moved, Bucher.

25 MS. HERTZLER:

1 Second, Hertzler.

2 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

3 All those in favor? Opposed?

4 Abstentions?

5 [The motion carried unanimously.]

6 \*\*\*

7 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

8 Item Nos. 10 through 12 and Item No.  
9 20, that's Case No. 22-51-004590, Case  
10 No. 22-51-004595, Case No. 22-51-  
11 004757, and Case No. 24-51-018355, for  
12 which there are no recusals.

13 Is there a motion to approve?

14 DR. BUCHER:

15 So moved, Bucher.

16 DR. HERSHBERGER:

17 Second, Hershberger.

18 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

19 All those in favor? Opposed?

20 Abstentions?

21 [The motion carried. Dr. Hellier opposed the motion.

22 The Respondents are as follows: Case No. 22-51-  
23 004590, Athena M. Donoghue, LPN; Case No. 22-51-  
24 004595, Angela Sue Crosby, LPN; Case No. 22-51-  
25 004757, Tammy Sue Hazeltine, LPN; and Case No. 24-51-

1 018355, Ann H. Feeney, RN.]

2 \*\*\*

3 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

4 Is there a motion to adopt the Consent  
5 Agreement in Item No. 13, Case No. 25-  
6 51-009698, for which Members Hertzler  
7 and Capiotis are recused?

8 DR. HERSHBERGER:

9 So moved, Hershberger.

10 DR. BUCHER:

11 Second, Bucher.

12 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

13 All those in favor? Opposed?

14 Abstentions?

15 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Ms. Capiotis  
16 were recused from deliberations and voting on the  
17 matter. The Respondent in Case No. 25-51-00969 is  
18 David Podstawski, RN.]

19 \*\*\*

20 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

21 Is there a motion to adopt the  
22 following Consent Agreements for which  
23 Members Scher and Hertzler are recused,  
24 Case 25-51-010596, Case No. 25-51-  
25 001697, and Case No. 24-51-003072?

1 DR. BUCHER:

2 So moved, Bucher.

3 DR. HERSHBERGER:

4 Second, Hershberger.

5 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

6 All those in favor? Opposed?

7 Abstentions?

8 [The motion carried. Mr. Scher and Ms. Hertzler were  
9 recused from deliberations and voting on the matter.

10 The Respondents are as follows: Case 25-51-010596,  
11 Janelle M. Gan, CRNP, RN; Case No. 25-51-001697,  
12 Robert Sokolowski, RN; and Case No. 24-51-003072,  
13 Marybeth Pavlic, RN.]

14 \*\*\*

15 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

16 Is there a motion to adopt the Consent  
17 Agreement in Case No. 25-51-016914 for  
18 which Members Hertzler, Capiotis, and  
19 Scher are recused?

20 DR. BUCHER:

21 So moved, Bucher.

22 DR. HERSHBERGER:

23 Second, Hertzler.

24 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

25 All those in favor? Opposed?

1 Abstentions?

2 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Capiotis, and  
3 Mr. Scher were recused from deliberations and voting  
4 on the matter. The Respondent for Case No. 25-51-  
5 016914 is Shannon Marie Kerrigan, LPN.]

6 \*\*\*

7 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

8 Is there a motion to reject as too  
9 lenient the Consent Agreements in Case  
10 No. 24-51-014395 and Case No. 23-51-  
11 009991?

12 DR. BUCHER:

13 So moved, Bucher.

14 DR. HERSHBERGER:

15 Second, Hershberger.

16 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

17 All those in favor? Opposed?

18 Abstentions?

19 [The motion carried unanimously.]

20 \*\*\*

21 Report of Board Counsel

22 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

23 Is there a motion to grant  
24 reinstatement in the matter of Tiffane  
25 Anne Corwin, LPN, Case No. 19-51-

1 010891?

2 DR. HERSHBERGER:

3 So moved, Hershberger.

4 MS. HERTZLER:

5 Second, Hertzler.

6 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

7 All those in favor? Opposed?

8 Abstentions?

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10 \*\*\*

11 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

12 Is there a motion to approve the  
13 application of Jennifer Miers subject  
14 to her enrollment in the Disciplinary  
15 Monitoring Unit with the opportunity to  
16 appeal?

17 DR. BUCHER:

18 So moved, Bucher.

19 MS. HERTZLER:

20 Second, Hertzler.

21 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

22 All those in favor? Opposed?

23 Abstentions?

24 [The motion carried unanimously.]

25 \*\*\*

1 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

2                   Is there a motion to grant the Motion  
3                   to Enter Default, to deem the facts  
4                   admitted, and to authorize Counsel to  
5                   prepare Adjudications and Orders in the  
6                   matters of Mark Niel Bomban, RN, Case  
7                   No. 24-51-017007; Berrell Isreal  
8                   Hughes, Jr., LPN, Case Nos. 23-51-  
9                   002768 and 24-51-007480; and Tom Magutu  
10                  Nyakeriga, LPN, Case No. 25-51-002269?

11 DR. BUCHER:

12                   So moved, Bucher.

13 DR. HERSHBERGER:

14                   Second, Hershberger.

15 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

16                   All those in favor?   Opposed?

17                   Abstentions?

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19                                           \*\*\*

20 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

21                   Is there a motion to enter a default,  
22                   to deem the facts admitted, and to  
23                   authorize Counsel to prepare an  
24                   Adjudication and Order in the matter of  
25                   Amy Lee Patterson, LPN, Case No. 23-51-

1 013749, for which Members Hertzler and  
2 Bucher are recused?

3 DR. HERSHBERGER:

4 So moved, Hershberger.

5 MS. SIEGEL:

6 Second, Siegel.

7 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

8 All those in favor? Opposed?

9 Abstentions?

10 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Dr. Bucher  
11 were recused from deliberations and voting on the  
12 matter.]

13 \*\*\*

14 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

15 Is there a motion to authorize Counsel  
16 to prepare Adjudications and Orders in  
17 the following matters: Cynthia Janos,  
18 LPN, Case No. 24-51-013646; Ronnesha A.  
19 Walston, LPN, Case No. 23-51-018332;  
20 Shavon N. Parker, LPN, Case No. 22-51-  
21 013522; Michelle Lizette (Miranda)  
22 Villa, LPN, Case No. 25-51-014014; and  
23 Jill Christine VanHoose, LPN, Case No.  
24 24-51-005767?

25 DR. BUCHER:

1                   So moved, Bucher.

2 DR. HERSHBERGER:

3                   Second, Hershberger.

4 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

5                   All those in favor?   Opposed?

6                   Abstentions?

7 [The motion carried unanimously.]

8                                   \*\*\*

9                   DR. BUCHER ASSUMED THE CHAIR.

10                                   \*\*\*

11 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

12                   Is there a motion to authorize Counsel  
13                   to prepare an Adjudication and Order in  
14                   the matter of Jennifer Lyn Meyers, LPN,  
15                   Case No. 23-51-006210, for which  
16                   Members Hertzler and Hunsberger are  
17                   recused, so, therefore, Dr. Bucher is  
18                   the Chair?

19 DR. HERSHBERGER:

20                   So moved, Hershberger.

21 MS. SIEGEL:

22                   Second, Siegel.

23 ACTING CHAIR BUCHER:

24                   All those in favor?   Opposed?

25                   Abstentions?

1 [The motion carried. Dr. Hunsberger and Ms. Hertzler  
2 were recused from deliberations and voting on the  
3 matter.]

4 \*\*\*

5 CHAIR HUNSBERGER RESUMED THE CHAIR.

6 \*\*\*

7 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

8 Is there a motion to adopt the proposed  
9 report of the Hearing Examiner but  
10 correct the Order in the matter of  
11 Kayla Renae Shultz, LPN, Case No. 23-  
12 51-017285, for which Members Hertzler  
13 and Scher are recused?

14 DR. BUCHER:

15 So moved, Bucher.

16 DR. HERSHBERGER:

17 Second, Hershberger.

18 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

19 All those in favor? Opposed?

20 Abstentions?

21 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Mr. Scher were  
22 recused from deliberations and voting on the matter.]

23 \*\*\*

24 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

25 Is there a motion to adopt the Draft

1 Adjudications and Orders in the matters  
2 of Terrell Quentin Byrd, RN, Case No.  
3 24-51-014021; Dafnee Gilles, RN, Case  
4 No. 22-51-004144; and Kylie Hoyt  
5 Roberts, LPN, Case No. 23-51-010769?

6 DR. BUCHER:

7 So moved, Bucher.

8 DR. HERSHBERGER:

9 Second, Hershberger.

10 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

11 All those in favor? Opposed?

12 Abstentions?

13 [The motion carried unanimously.]

14 \*\*\*

15 VICE CHAIR BUCHER ASSUMED THE CHAIR.

16 \*\*\*

17 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

18 And then in the matter of Erin Rachel  
19 Ryan, RN, Case No. 22-51-016368 for  
20 which Members Hertzler and Hunsberger  
21 are recused, and, therefore, the Chair  
22 swings back to Dr. Bucher.

23 Is there a motion to adopt the  
24 Draft Adjudication and Order?

25 MS. SIEGEL:



1 DR. HERSHBERGER:

2                   So moved, Hershberger.

3 MS. SIEGEL:

4                   Second, Siegel.

5 ACTING CHAIR BUCHER:

6                   All those in favor? Opposed?

7                   Abstentions?

8 [The motion carried. Dr. Hunsberger was recused from  
9 deliberations and voting on the matter.]

10                                   \*\*\*

11                   CHAIR HUNSBERGER RESUMED THE CHAIR.

12                                   \*\*\*

13 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

14                   Is there a motion to approve Slippery  
15                   Rock University's Proposal for a Pre-  
16                   licensure Baccalaureate of Science  
17                   Degree in Nursing for which Members  
18                   Hershberger and Hellier are recused?

19 DR. BUCHER:

20                   So moved, Bucher.

21 MS. HERTZLER:

22                   Second, Hertzler.

23 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

24                   All those in favor? Opposed?

25                   Abstentions?

1 [The motion carried. Dr. Hershberger and Dr. Hellier  
2 were recused from deliberations and voting on the  
3 matter.]

4 \*\*\*

5 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

6 Is there a motion to approve  
7 Misericordia University's Proposal for  
8 a CRNP Program in the specialty of  
9 Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse  
10 Practitioner for options of MSN, Post-  
11 Master's Certificate, and BSN-DNP for  
12 which Member Hershberger is recused?

13 DR. BUCHER:

14 So moved, Bucher.

15 MS. HERTZLER:

16 Second, Hertzler.

17 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

18 All those in favor? Opposed?

19 Abstentions?

20 [The motion carried. Dr. Hershberger was recused  
21 from deliberations and voting on the matter.]

22 \*\*\*

23 [Ms. Pachter Schulder noted the Board would be  
24 inviting PITC Institute to appear before the Board  
25 again at the July 2026 meeting.]

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Adjournment

CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

Hearing no other business, can I have a  
motion for adjournment?

DR. BUCHER:

So moved, Bucher.

DR. HERSHBERGER:

Second, Hershberger.

CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

All those in favor?

\*\*\*

[There being no further business, the State Board of  
Nursing Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.]

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## CERTIFICATE

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



Jacob Hill,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF NURSING  
REFERENCE INDEX

January 13, 2026

	TIME	AGENDA
1		
2		
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4		
5		
6		
7	TIME	AGENDA
8		
9	9:00	Public Session
10		
11	9:00	Official Call to Order
12		
13	9:01	Introduction of Board Members
14		
15	9:02	Introduction of Attendees
16		
17	9:08	Adoption of Agenda
18		
19	9:10	Adoption of Minutes
20		
21	9:10	Report of Prosecutorial Division
22		
23	9:18	Regulation Update
24		
25	9:19	Pennsylvania Legislative Update
26		
27	9:19	Report of Committees
28		
29	9:21	Report of Executive Secretary
30		
31	9:21	Old Business
32		
33	9:32	New Business
34		
35	9:37	Appointment - Prosecution
36		Data/Information for FY 25-26
37		
38	9:48	Recess
39		
40	10:03	Appointment - PITC Institute
41		
42	10:45	Recess
43		
44	10:58	Appointment - Falcon Institute
45		
46	11:27	Appointment - The Rapha School
47		
48	12:13	Appointment - Slippery Rock University
49		
50		

STATE BOARD OF NURSING  
REFERENCE INDEX

January 13, 2026

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TIME	AGENDA
12:31	Recess
12:39	Appointment - Misericordia University
12:53	Executive Session
2:12	Return to Open Session
2:20	Motions - Prosecution
2:24	Report of Board Counsel
2:29	Motions - Appointments
2:31	Adjournment