

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

July 14, 2026

State Board of Nursing
July 14, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chairperson
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice
Chairperson
Kathryn L. Capiotis, MSN, BSN, RN
Laura Frank, PhD, RD, LDN - Absent
Brandy Hershberger, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN
Sue E. Hertzler, LPN
David Scher, MPH, MSN, RN, CEN
Tina D. Siegel, LPN
Barbara Sheaffer, Public Member - Absent

COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL OFFICE STAFF:

Megan E. Castor, Esquire, Board Counsel
Ashley Keefer Jones, Esquire, Board Counsel
Lindsay Szymanski, Esquire, Board Counsel
Codi Tucker, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor and
Prosecution Co-Liaison
T'rese Evancho, Esquire, Board Prosecutor and Board
Prosecution Co-Liaison
David Schertz, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Kathryn Bellfy, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Garrett Rine, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Caitlin B. Everetts, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Matthew Sniscak, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Jason C. Giurintano, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Counsel Division
Alex Widdall, Legal Analyst, 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
Tracy Scheirer, PhD, MSN, RN, CMSRN, CNE, Nursing
Education Advisor
Susan Bolig, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor
Leslie House, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor
Sue Petula, PhD, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FRE, Nursing
Education Advisor

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BOARD STAFF: (Cont.)

Dulcey Frantz, DNP, RN, RAC-C, Nursing Practice
Advisor

Koren Linn, Board of Nursing Operations Chief

Linda Kmetz, PhD, RN, Nursing Education Advisor

Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State

Julie Droddy, Program Co-Manager, Professional Health
Monitoring Programs

MaryAnne Harmon, Professional Health Monitoring
Programs Specialist

Robert Beecher, Policy Director, Office of Policy

Danie Bendesky, Special Assistant for Strategic
Initiatives

Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director, Office
of Policy

ALSO PRESENT:

Allison Felix, Education Administration Supervisor,
PA Department of Education

Alison Long, Education Administration Specialist,
PA Department of Education

Patricia Crow, Education Administration Associate, PA
Department of Education

Jessica Moyer, Private Licensed Schools Education
Administration Specialist, Pennsylvania Department
of Education

Michele Orner, Private Licensed Schools Education
Administration Specialist, Pennsylvania Department
of Education

P. Daniel Altland, Esquire, Pennsylvania Association
of Nurse Anesthetists

Katie Gruber, MSW, CADC, Billing, Data and Training
Manager, Peer Assistance Monitoring Program,
Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society

Denise Vanacore, PhD, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, Vice
Dean and Professor, Holy Family University School
of Nursing & Health Sciences

Misha Patel, Esquire, Assistant General Counsel,
Pennsylvania Medical Society

Kathleen Rundquist, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing
Program Director, Franklin County Career and
Technology Center

Matthew Jorden, Jorden Law Group

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ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Jordan Fuhrman, Government Relations Specialist,
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
Katie Gruber, MSW, CADC, Billing, Data and Training
Manager, Nurses Health Program, Foundation of the
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Larissa McDonnell, DNP, RN, CCRN, CCNS, NEA-BC, MSN,
Director of Nursing Professional Development,
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Carla Le'coin Jordan, RN, Pennsylvania Association of
Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals Executive
Board
Mary Marshall, Senior Director, Workforce and
Professional Development, The Hospital and
Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
Jenifer Stilgenbauer, MEd, BSN, Bethlehem Area
Vocational-Technical School
Judith Neubauer, DNP, MSN, BSN, Associate Dean,
Director of Graduate Nursing Programs, Neumann
University
Janet Yontas, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program
Director, Career Technology Center of Lackawanna
County
Stacy Delaney, MSN-Ed, RN, Practical Nursing Program
Director, Delaware County Technical Schools
Michelle Wallace, EdD, MSN, RN, Sales Nurse Educator,
ATI Nursing Education
Sandra Cohen, MSN, CRNP, CNE, Senior Associate Dean,
St. Luke's School of Nursing
Rachael Silveria, Nightingale College
Marcia Landman, MSN-FNP, BSN, RN, Practical Nursing
Program Director, United Career Institute
Sue Snyder, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program
Director, Westmoreland County Community College
Madeline Feliciano-Weiser, DNP, RN, Nurse Manager,
Penn State Health Lancaster Medical Center
Trysha Hopkins, DNP, CRNP, FNP-C, Director, Villa
Maria School of Nursing, Gannon University
Laurie Badzek, LLM, JD, MS, RN, FNAP, FAAN, Dean and
Professor, Ross and Carole Nese College of Nursing,
Penn State University
Cori Gombocz, RN, Assistant Director of Nursing,
Lincoln Technical Institute-Allentown
Colleen James, Nurse Manager, Main Line Health
Lankenau Medical Center

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ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Julie Heaney, Coordinator, Outreach, Education & Communication, Nurses' Health Program, Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society
Deanna Wilk, MSN, BSN, Clinical Instructor, ASN Program Director and Course Coordinator, Saint Joseph's University
Louise S. Frantz, RN, BSN, MHA, Ed, Practical Nursing Program Coordinator, Penn State University Berks Campus
Shahid Ahmed, PhD, President, PITC Institute
Suja Johnson, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program Director, PITC Institute
Felicia Hartman, PITC Institute
Eric Maister, School Director, PITC Institute
Riley P. Bauer, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Elizabeth Menschner, DNP, MAS, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Organization of Nurse Leaders
Sheri Matter, PhD, MSN, MBA, MHA, BSN, NEA-BC, Assistant Dean of Graduate Nursing Professional Programs, Associate Teaching Professor, Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing, Penn State University
Jean Marie Truman, DNP, Director of Nursing, Division of Biological and Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
Veronica Lacambra, DNP, RN, Western Governors University
Talonda Rogers, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program Director, Chester County Intermediate Unit
Katrina Maurer, DNP, RN, Dean of Nursing, Fortis Institute
Sheila Nowinski, PhD, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean, Thiel College
Elizabeth Munkenbeck, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
Lisa Leitch, MSN, RN, Lansdale School of Business
Lisa Wagner, MSN, MBA, RNC-MNN, Regional Nursing Director, Western Governors University
Sharon Powell-Laney, EdD, MSN, RN, Director, The Rapha School
Stacy Mumau, Faculty, The Rapha School
Richard Terry, DO, MBA, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

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ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Octavia Flanagan, PhD, WHNP-BC, RN, Dean of the
School of Nursing, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic
Medicine

Shaquana Cox, Former PITC Student

Rayshana Wooten, Former PITC Student

Dawn McCray, Former PITC Student

Fatima Valladares

Anjalaya Simms

Jessica Brayboy

Sophie Gilbert

Robert Hancox

Joe Thomas

Prabhat Goswami

Zakiyyah Brown

Latora Cue

Rayshana Wooten

Former PITC Students (2)

Laurie Elliott, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

1 ***

2 State Board of Nursing

3 July 14, 2026

4 ***

5 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
6 Board of Nursing was held on Monday, July 14, 2026.
7 Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, called
8 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.]

14 ***

15 Introduction of Board Counsel

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

18 ***

19 Introduction of Board Staff

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

22 ***

23 Introduction of Board Prosecution

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

Introduction of Attendees

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

[Megan E. Castor, Esquire, Board Counsel noted the meeting was being recorded and voluntary participation constituted consent to be recorded.]

Adoption of Agenda

CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

The Agenda for today's meeting is before you. We have one correction at Item 56. Dr. Hershberger will be recused from that. Are there any other corrections?

May I have a motion to adopt the Agenda with that correction?

DR. BUCHER:

So moved, Bucher.

MS. HERTZLER:

Second, Hertzler.

CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

All those in favor? Opposed?

1 Abstentions?

2 [The motion carried unanimously.]

3 ***

4 Adoption of Minutes

5 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

6 The minutes of the June 2026 meeting
7 are before you. Are there any
8 additions or corrections?

9 Can I have a motion to approve the
10 minutes?

11 DR. BUCHER:

12 So moved, Bucher.

13 MS. HERTZLER:

14 Second, Hertzler.

15 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

16 All those in favor? Opposed?

17 Abstentions?

18 [The motion carried. Dr. Hershberger abstained from
19 voting on the motion.]

20 ***

21 Report of Prosecutorial Division

22 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, noted
23 Agenda Items 2 through 8 were VRP Consent
24 Agreements.]

25 ***

1 [Kathryn Bellfy, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
2 Agenda Item 9.]

3 ***

4 [Garrett Rine, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
5 Agenda Items 10, 11, and 61.]

6 ***

7 [David Schertz, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
8 Agenda Items 12 and 13.]

9 ***

10 [Caitlin Everetts, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
11 presented Agenda Item 58.]

12 ***

13 Regulation Update

14 [Megan E. Castor, Esquire, Board Counsel, reported
15 Judith Pachter Schulder returned as an annuitant and
16 planned to attend the September meeting. Ms. Pachter
17 Schulder would continue to assist the Board with
18 regulatory, education, and legislative policy
19 matters, and she had provided a report on open
20 regulatory packages.

21 Regarding 16A-5139, Volunteer License, and 16A-
22 5150, CRNP Prescribing and Dispensing, there were no
23 updates.

24 16A-5141, Nursing Education Programs, comments
25 had been received and were under review; however, no

1 substantial changes had been sought thus far. Ms.
2 Pachter Schulder met with the Governor's Policy
3 Office and Department representatives regarding the
4 package. Once revisions are submitted, the reviews
5 will continue.

6 With regard to 16A-5145, CRNA Licensure, the
7 regulations are being considered by the Independent
8 Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) on July 16, 2026.
9 If approved by IRRC, the package will be delivered to
10 the Office of Attorney General (OAG) for review.
11 After approval at OAG, the regulation will be
12 published as final in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Ms.
13 Castor noted information will be published on the
14 website after OAG approval.

15 Regarding 16A-5151, LPN Pronouncement of Death,
16 the Board received only one public comment in favor
17 of the package, and IRRC agreed with the regulation.
18 If no changes are made to the final package, it will
19 be deemed approved by IRRC. She added that the Board
20 can review the package at the September meeting.]

21 ***

22 Pennsylvania Legislative Update - No Report

23 ***

24 Report of Board Chairperson - No Report

25 ***

1 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

2 ***

3 Committee Meetings - Probable Cause

4 [Sue E. Hertzler, LPN, reported that the Committee
5 moved on two Petitions for Appropriate Relief, 23
6 Petitions for Mental and Physical Examinations, and
7 one Immediate Temporary Suspension.]

8 ***

9 Committee Meetings - Application Review

10 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, reported
11 the Committee met and moved applications forward.]

12 ***

13 Committee Meetings - Advanced Practice

14 [Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice
15 Chairperson reported the committee met virtually;
16 however, he had no formal report.]

17 ***

18 Committee Meetings - RN/PN Practice, Education &
19 Regulation - No Report

20 ***

21 Committee Meetings - Dietitian-Nutritionist - No
22 Report

23 ***

24 Report of Board Members Who Attended a Meeting on
25 Behalf of the Board - No Report

Report of Executive Secretary

[Wendy Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary, reminded everyone license renewals for LDNs whose licenses expire September 30, 2026, will open 60 days prior to the expiration date. LDNs are also required to complete the mandatory child abuse education.]

Ms. Miller shared that Dr. Sue Petula provided her with an article published in *Becker's* which ranked states based on their first time NCLEX pass rates. Pennsylvania was tied at tenth place. She noted Pennsylvania is typically sixth in size amongst the states, and out of those six larger states, Pennsylvania ranked first.]

Old Business - None

New Business

[Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, noted the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) allows regulatory boards to review NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN items from current and previous quarters through a simulated computerized adaptive examination. The review would take place between October 27, 2026, and November 4, 2026, and everyone

1 would have to attend at the same time, as a Pearson
2 Vue testing center would be shut down for the review.
3 The opportunity is only open to Board Members and
4 Board staff. Anyone interested was instructed to
5 email Ms. Wendy Miller.]

6 ***

7 New Business - Application for a Board-Approved 45-
8 hour Advanced Pharmacology Course from
9 Pennsylvania Western (PennWest) University
10 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, noted he
11 was employed by PennWest and would recuse himself
12 from the conversation.]

13 ***

14 DR. BUCHER ASSUMED THE CHAIR.

15 ***

16 [Ms. Castor explained that the Board was considering
17 the application because it had been approximately
18 nine years since the Board had last seen an advanced
19 pharmacology course application. She stated
20 typically the nursing education advisors review and
21 approve courses. The advisors recommended the course
22 be approved. She stated the Board could vote to
23 allow the advisors to continue to review advanced
24 pharmacology courses on their own.]

25 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

1 Okay. Any discussion?

2 MS. CASTOR:

3 So you can call the vote on that right
4 now. That would be a vote to allow the
5 practice advisors to review advanced
6 pharmacology courses on their own—that
7 you're delegating that authority.

8 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

9 So do I have a motion to do that?

10 MR. SCHER:

11 So moved, Scher.

12 MS. HERTZLER:

13 Second, Hertzler.

14 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

15 All those in favor? Opposed?

16 Abstentions?

17 [The motion carried. Chair Hunsberger was recused
18 from deliberations and voting on the motion.]

19 ***

20 CHAIR HUNSBERGER RESUMED THE CHAIR

21 ***

22 Appointment - Princeton Information Technology Center

23 (PITC) - Discussion of Provisional Status

24 [Suja Johnson, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program

25 Director, PITC Institute, stated she would be

1 addressing three areas: Analysis of the elapsed time
2 between program completion and first NCLEX-PN
3 attempt, student performance data obtained through
4 UWorld, and examination development and faculty item
5 writing proficiency. Ms. Johnson read a prepared
6 letter included in the Board's packet. After reading
7 her letter, Ms. Johnson asked the Board if they had
8 any questions.

9 Chair Hunsberger noted Ms. Johnson stated
10 students develop a plan based off of their exit exam.
11 He asked if PITC reviewed the exam results to
12 identify weaknesses within their curriculum and if
13 any common factors like cardiology or pharmacology
14 had been identified.

15 Ms. Johnson replied everyone seemed to be
16 different, but she did notice some commonality with
17 pharmacology.

18 Chair Hunsberger asked what was being done to
19 strengthen the curriculum in regard to pharmacology.

20 Ms. Johnson shared that students are encouraged
21 with remediation. Additional tutoring and support
22 are provided to students with pharmacology
23 weaknesses.

24 Chair Hunsberger stated PITC might need to look
25 at their curriculum as a whole to determine

1 weaknesses and where changes are needed to strengthen
2 the program. He added curriculum changes may be more
3 beneficial than putting everything onto the students.

4 Ms. Castor noted if pass rates remain low, PITC
5 may be asked to return in December.]

6 ***

7 [Chair Hunsberger exited the meeting at 9:42 a.m. for
8 recusal purposes.]

9 ***

10 Appointment - The Rapha School Practical Nursing

11 Program - Extension of Provisional Status

12 [Sharon Powell-Laney, EdD, MSN, RN, Director, The
13 Rapha School, noted that she sent updated grades and
14 UWorld content to the Board. She reported that since
15 her last Board visit in April, only two students from
16 a previous class had taken the NCLEX, and the current
17 pass rate was 100 percent. She noted Rapha worked
18 diligently with the class that graduated June 30,
19 2026, including a stat nursing presentation. She
20 added that the presentation had been very helpful.
21 She also reported Rapha has been using Kaplan books
22 and UWorld to assist students.

23 Stacy Mumau, faculty, The Rapha School, shared
24 how UWorld was being utilized at the school. In
25 addition to using UWorld, students also must take six

1 self-assessments over their last five months. After
2 each test, Ms. Mumau reviews results with the
3 students to identify weaknesses and creates a study
4 plan for improvement.

5 Dr. Powell-Laney reported there were three
6 students from the June 30 graduation which have
7 consistently caused concern. She noted the students
8 were advised to wait to take the NCLEX while they
9 worked with a temporary practice permit and completed
10 intensive study.

11 Dr. Bucher commented on previous discussions,
12 including that students who wait to test have a
13 higher risk of not passing. He asked if Dr. Powell-
14 Laney had stressed the importance of testing early to
15 students. He also noted sometimes there are concerns
16 when students get a practice permit that they may
17 focus on their job and not on studying.

18 Dr. Powell-Laney explained Rapha's work with the
19 three students. She noted that the class in general
20 has access to UWorld until August 8, 2026, and
21 advised them to take the NCLEX by August 8. She is
22 continuing to engage with students about whom she has
23 concerns.

24 Dr. Hershberger asked about an Excel spreadsheet
25 which was sent to the Board. Dr. Powell-Laney

1 explained that the spreadsheet was to show how Rapha
2 is tracking trends related to TEAS scores, NCLEX,
3 grades, and UWorld.

4 Ms. Castor noted there were 13 NEVs received,
5 with only two of the students having tested. She
6 asked if there was any indication of when the other
7 students might test. Dr. Powell-Laney stated the two
8 students who tested were from the August 2025 class,
9 and none of the June 2026 graduates had tested. She
10 also noted there were three outliers from previous
11 years whom she contacted. She believed they were no
12 longer pursuing licensure.

13 Ms. Wendy Miller asked if any correlation was
14 being drawn between students who did not do well on
15 their predictor exam while also passing their
16 courses. Dr. Powell-Laney stated there was no
17 correlation found. She explained Rapha considered
18 more stringent grading, but that would exclude
19 students in the past who went on to be licensed. She
20 stated Rapha is collecting data to determine the best
21 course of action. She noted they changed their TEAS
22 admittance scores and were no longer accepting
23 students who scored less than 50 percent on their
24 TEAS.

25 Ms. Miller offered that there were other actions

1 that could be done within a program other than
2 raising the minimum pass rate, such as weighing
3 appropriately rigor of exams and item analysis on
4 exams. Ms. Powell-Laney shared she had reviewed the
5 entirety of pharmacology when UWorld targeted
6 pharmacology as a low area. She believed Rapha's
7 content to be solid.

8 Ms. Mumau commented that test questions were also
9 being expanded to include broader topics, bow tie
10 questions, and case studies.

11 Ms. Castor noted that even if Rapha is no longer
12 on provisional status, the school may be requested to
13 present again in December if there are still a large
14 number of students who had not yet tested.]

15 ***

16 [Chair Hunsberger reentered the meeting at 10:00
17 a.m.]

18 ***

19 [The Board recessed from 10:00 a.m. until 10:10 a.m.]

20 ***

21 [Dr. Hershberger exited the meeting at 10:10 a.m. for
22 recusal purposes.]

23 ***

24 Appointment - Lake Erie College of Osteopathic
25 Medicine (LECOM) Proposal for a New Associate

1 Degree in Nursing Program

2 [Octavia Flanagan, PhD, WHNP-BC, RN, Dean of the
3 School of Nursing, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic
4 Medicine, presented a slideshow of LECOM's Proposal,
5 noting there was a severe nurse shortage in the
6 Commonwealth, especially in the Erie area. The
7 slideshow was also included in the Board's packet.
8 She explained the importance of excellence in nursing
9 education and how LECOM was well suited to face the
10 need for quality nurses. She reviewed LECOM's system
11 of clinical affiliates and noted LECOM is unique in
12 being a college of osteopathic medicine with a number
13 of health care schools.

14 Dr. Flanagan presented information regarding
15 campus facilities, including renovations to create a
16 new low-fidelity skills lab. Regarding curriculum,
17 she noted an articulation agreement with Thiel
18 College for prerequisite classes for students who
19 need their sciences and general education courses.
20 The nursing courses would start in the third semester
21 for students with Fundamentals.

22 Regarding budget, Dr. Flanagan noted there would
23 be many startup costs associated with renovations and
24 the lab; however, there would be a positive margin
25 after the first year. There were 32 students planned

1 for each cohort, and there would be two cohorts
2 starting in year two.

3 Ms. Castor thanked Dr. Flanagan for quickly
4 responding to questions sent the previous week. She
5 stated the Board still had questions.

6 Chair Hunsberger noted the ASN program would be
7 unique in having six semesters and asked how they
8 would compete with other programs for gaining
9 students. Dr. Flanagan stated there had already been
10 a lot of interest within the LECOM system among LPNs
11 and CNAs who want to become RNs. She noted there is
12 demand for another educational program close by, and
13 the tuition would be competitive.

14 Chair Hunsberger commented on clinical sites,
15 noting they had secured UPMC Hamot; however, he asked
16 what would happen if students did not witness a live
17 birth on the day they were at UPMC Hamot. Dr.
18 Flanagan responded that she would have to speak with
19 UPMC Hamot to potentially get students back for
20 another day. Ms. Castor commented students could go
21 to UPMC Hamot multiple days and still not witness a
22 live birth. She asked if simulation had been
23 considered.

24 Richard Terry, DO, MBA, Associate Dean of
25 Academic Affairs, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic

1 Medicine, shared that LECOM has a full simulation lab
2 used for their medical schools which would be
3 available for the nursing program. He also commented
4 on the great need for nurses in Erie and the LECOM
5 health system in general.

6 Ms. Hertzler noted there was outpatient but asked
7 if there would be acute care and inpatient pediatric.
8 Dr. Flanagan replied she did not have acute care and
9 inpatient sites secured yet but anticipated she would
10 be able to secure them at UPMC Hamot.

11 Chair Hunsberger asked if students would receive
12 a letter grade or a pass/fail for clinical
13 evaluation, as it was described in two different ways
14 in the handbook. Dr. Flanagan explained the rubrics
15 during the class would be met, unmet, and developing;
16 however, the final would be met or unmet.

17 Dr. Bucher noted the Thiel College campus was
18 geographically a little bit far from LECOM. He asked
19 if students would be going to the main campus or if
20 courses would be offered at LECOM. Dr. Flanagan
21 replied that courses would definitely be offered at
22 Thiel with the agreement that the 32 LECOM students
23 would be registered in Thiel classes while being
24 enrolled at LECOM. She noted if there was a
25 transition for Thiel professors to come to Erie, it

1 would be ideal.

2 Chair Hunsberger asked what experience Dr.
3 Flanagan had with item development for examination.
4 Dr. Flanagan explained she has worked on item
5 development at the medical school as well as at
6 nursing schools. She also has experience in
7 directing programs. Regarding training new faculty
8 on item development, she noted there was an
9 orientation process, as well as being included in the
10 faculty handbook and hiring standards. She has also
11 identified potential faculty members.

12 When asked, Dr. Flanagan explained how courses
13 would work with only two full-time faculty members
14 and four part-time faculty. Chair Hunsberger
15 questioned how expertise would be shown in all areas
16 with only two full-time faculty. Dr. Flanagan
17 explained how the part-time faculty would help with
18 specialized areas. She noted more full-time faculty
19 would be hired if needed.

20 Chair Hunsberger noted Fundamentals in Nursing
21 Assessment had been put into one course and would be
22 over two weeks. He asked if two weeks was sufficient
23 time to cover the assessment of all organ systems,
24 health history, and everything else involved with
25 health assessment. Dr. Flanagan shared that with her

1 prior experience, she believed all the content could
2 be covered in the two weeks.

3 Chair Hunsberger asked about the rationale behind
4 the grading structure, noting that 35 to 46 percent
5 of each core class is discussion boards and written
6 assignments. He asked how the program would evaluate
7 the weight of the written assignments versus
8 objective testing to measure student competency,
9 preparedness for safe entry-level nursing practice,
10 and readiness for the NCLEX, while ensuring grading
11 practices accurately reflect student performances and
12 minimize the potential for grade inflation. Dr.
13 Flanagan noted she did not mention anything regarding
14 ATI or preps within the Proposal but hoped to
15 incorporate preps into written assignments,
16 discussion boards, and examinations. She noted
17 written assignments would be geared towards
18 particular specialties and would be decided upon by
19 faculty. She also recognized the highest indicators
20 of program success would be with passing the boards.

21 Chair Hunsberger asked how LECOM having a nursing
22 program would impact other nursing programs within
23 the area who currently use LECOM as clinical sites.
24 Dr. Terry explained the LECOM system has plenty of
25 capacity to accommodate all of the students. Dr.

1 Flanagan noted she had personally visited all of the
2 sites, and they had all expressed excitement for a
3 LECOM nursing program.

4 Ms. Castor noted the budget did not include
5 information on how payments would be sent to Thiel
6 College for the first two semesters of the program.
7 Sheila Nowinski, PhD, Vice President for Academic
8 Affairs, Dean, Thiel College, explained how the
9 consortium with Thiel College would work. She stated
10 that after the drop deadline, Thiel would invoice
11 LECOM for the students at the agreed upon tuition and
12 fees rate for which time LECOM would send Thiel
13 payment. Dr. Terry noted the payment to Thiel was
14 not included in the budget because while
15 prerequisites are offered through Thiel, the courses
16 may not all be taken there. He hoped students would
17 take advantage of Thiel but recognized students could
18 take courses elsewhere if they chose to.

19 Ms. Castor requested clarification regarding the
20 refund policy, noting the handbook referred to
21 academic years while the budget referred to
22 semesters. Dr. Terry explained how refunds would
23 work and agreed to provide written clarification as
24 well as additional clarity in the handbook.

25 Ms. Wendy Miller noted the faculty handbook did

1 not include any information regarding rank and
2 promotion. Dr. Flanagan stated the information was in
3 the institutional handbook, and she would ensure it
4 was included in the faculty handbook.

5 Ms. Miller questioned the program's minimum
6 qualifications for faculty. Dr. Flanagan replied
7 that faculty must hold a BSN and agree to be in the
8 process of getting their master's degree to become
9 faculty appointments rather than faculty assistants.
10 In addition, if they have a BSN, they will only teach
11 clinical and not didactic until they obtain their
12 master's. It was noted faculty would also need
13 either a full Pennsylvania unencumbered license or be
14 licensed through the Nurse Licensure Compact.

15 Dr. Flanagan thanked the Board for reviewing the
16 program. She extended appreciation to the nursing
17 education advisors for their assistance in the
18 process.

19 Ms. Castor shared the Board would deliberate on
20 the Proposal during Executive Session, and Dr.
21 Flanagan would be informed of the Board's decision.]
22

23 ***

24 [Dr. Hershberger reentered the meeting at 10:45 a.m.]

25 ***

1 Miscellaneous

2 [Megan E. Castor, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted
3 Agenda Item 57 was an FYI that the Board was
4 following a lawsuit regarding professional licensure
5 degrees and student loans.

6 The Board next discussed Agenda Item 59, the 2026
7 NCSBN Leadership and Public Policy Conference,
8 October 7-9, 2026, in Philadelphia. Ms. Wendy Miller
9 stated the number of people sent varies depending on
10 conference topics and interest.]

11 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

12 So I'm hearing that we make a motion
13 for three staff and Board Members to
14 go.

15 [Acting Commissioner Claggett confirmed three
16 attendees would be acceptable.]

17 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

18 Do we have a motion?

19 DR. HERSHBERGER:

20 So moved, Hershberger.

21 DR. BUCHER:

22 Second, Bucher.

23 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

24 All those in favor? Opposed?

25 Abstentions?

1 [The motion carried unanimously.]

2 ***

3 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
4 at 10:49 a.m., the Board entered into Executive
5 Session for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
6 deliberations on the matters on the Agenda under the
7 Report of Board Counsel, Report of the Prosecutorial
8 Division, and the educational programs. The Board
9 returned to Open Session at 11:52 a.m.]

10 ***

11 Public Comment

12 [Shaquana Cox, former PITC student, requested
13 stricter oversight of testing practices for nursing
14 programs on provisional status. She shared her
15 experience at PITC Institute. particularly related to
16 school exit exams.

17 Ms. Castor noted Ms. Cox's issue seemed to be
18 with PITC, and Ms. Cox could file a complaint against
19 the school. She noted the Board does ask questions
20 of schools with low pass rates in an attempt to get
21 their pass rates up and would take Ms. Cox's concerns
22 into consideration. In addition, the new draft of
23 the Nursing Education Programs regulation should give
24 the Board the opportunity to deal with schools that
25 have low pass rates. Regarding Ms. Cox's concern

1 that PITC implemented a paper exit exam a month
2 before graduation, Ms. Castor stated Ms. Cox would
3 have to take the issue up with the school via an
4 attorney due to the contract between the school and
5 the students. She noted if the school violates
6 something in their handbook or in their rules, a
7 complaint can be filed.

8 Ms. Cox stated a complaint was filed against
9 PITC. Ms. Castor replied she could not comment on
10 any complaints as they are investigations and not
11 public actions. She noted Ms. Cox would likely need
12 to hire an attorney to take action against the
13 school, as the school sets the parameters for
14 graduation.

15 When asked if the test was added at the end of
16 the program without informing students it was
17 required to finish the program, Ms. Cox confirmed
18 students were told at the beginning of the program
19 they would retake ATI as an exit. However, ATI was
20 not incorporated into Med Surg 2. Once the school
21 was put on provisional status, they took out ATI and
22 implemented the paper exam with errors and
23 misspellings.

24 Ms. Castor reiterated the Board could not comment
25 on any ongoing complaints until the complaint was

1 resolved. She explained the investigative process is
2 handled in a separate department, and the Board is
3 not involved until public action is filed against a
4 licensee or school. She also noted she could not
5 provide legal advice to Ms. Cox.

6 Ms. Cox stated PITC was also not accurate when
7 answering questions from the Board. She was advised
8 to add any additional information to her complaint
9 already filed.

10 Another former student asked if schools were
11 permitted to change curriculum. Ms. Keefer Jones
12 stated that under the regulations, a school can
13 change curriculum subject to Board approval dependent
14 on the nature of the changes.

15 Zakiyyah Brown requested to make a comment;
16 however, she was unable to due to technological
17 issues. Acting Commissioner Claggett stated the Board
18 would return to public comment if anything was stated
19 in the chat.]

20 ***

21 Report of Prosecution

22 MS. CASTOR:

23 Is there a motion to adopt the Consent
24 Agreements for Items 2 through 8?

25 Those are the VRP agreements.

1 DR. BUCHER:

2 So moved, Bucher.

3 DR. FRANK:

4 Second, Frank.

5 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

6 All those in favor? Opposed?

7 Abstentions?

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9 ***

10 MS. CASTOR:

11 Is there a motion to adopt the
12 following Consent Agreements for which
13 there are no recusals, No. 10, 25-51-
14 016302, and No. 58, 25-51-010858?

15 DR. BUCHER:

16 So moved, Bucher.

17 DR. FRANK:

18 Second, Frank.

19 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

20 All those in favor? Opposed?

21 Abstentions?

22 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondents are
23 as follows: Item No. 10, Case 25-51-016302, Karen
24 Lukovich Mignella, RN; and Item No. 58, Case No. 25-
25 51-010858, Felecie Mary Landry, RN.]

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MS. CASTOR:

Is there a motion to adopt the
following Consent Agreements for which
Hertzler, Capiotis, and Scher are
recused? That's No. 11, 26-51-006711;
No. 13, 25-51-013506; and No. 61, 26-
51-007957.

DR. BUCHER:

So moved, Bucher.

DR. FRANK:

Second, Frank.

CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

All those in favor? Opposed?

Abstentions?

[The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Capiotis, and
Mr. Scher were recused from deliberations and voting
on the motions. The Respondents are as follows:
Item No. 11, Case No. 26-51-006711, Cindy Lou Desser,
RN; Item No. 13, Case No. 25-51-013506, Dusti Lynn
Berninger, RN; and Item No. 61, Case No. 26-51-
007957, Rhonda Lee Talbot, LPN.]

MS. CASTOR:

Is there a motion to adopt the

1 following Consent Agreement for which
2 Hertzler and Scher are recused, Item
3 No. 9, 24-51-018346?

4 DR. BUCHER:

5 So moved, Bucher.

6 DR. FRANK:

7 Second, Frank.

8 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

9 All those in favor? Opposed?

10 Abstentions?

11 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Mr. Scher were
12 recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.
13 The Respondent at Item No. 9, Case No. 24-51-018346,
14 is Heather Marie Herzog, RN.]

15 ***

16 MS. CASTOR:

17 Is there a motion to deny the following
18 Consent Agreement as too lenient, No.
19 12, Case No. 24-51-016914?

20 DR. BUCHER:

21 So moved, Bucher.

22 DR. FRANK:

23 Second, Frank.

24 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

25 All those in favor? Opposed?

1 Abstentions?

2 [The motion carried unanimously.]

3 ***

4 Report of Board Counsel

5 MS. CASTOR:

6 On No. 28, is there a motion to ratify
7 the Stipulated Adjudication and Order
8 in the matter of Dafnee Gilles, RN,
9 LPN, CRNP, Case No. 22-51-004144, for
10 which there are no recusals?

11 DR. BUCHER:

12 So moved, Bucher.

13 DR. FRANK:

14 Second, Frank.

15 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

16 All those in favor? Opposed?

17 Abstentions?

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19 ***

20 MS. CASTOR:

21 No. 29, is there a motion to authorize
22 Counsel to deny the request, to waive
23 the requirement for continued
24 competency, and to deny the refund of
25 the application fee in the matter of

1 Shannon McGrath, RN, Case No. 18-51-
2 011391, for which there are no
3 recusals?

4 DR. BUCHER:

5 So moved, Bucher.

6 DR. FRANK:

7 Second, Frank.

8 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

9 All those in favor? Opposed?

10 Abstentions?

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12 ***

13 MS. CASTOR:

14 No. 30, is there a motion to authorize
15 Counsel to draft an Adjudication and
16 Order consistent with deliberations
17 conducted in Executive Session in the
18 matter of Terryl Lashekia Rena
19 Underwood, Applicant, Case No. 25-51-
20 007555, for which there are no
21 recusals?

22 DR. BUCHER:

23 So moved, Bucher.

24 DR. FRANK:

25 Second, Frank.

1 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

2 All those in favor? Opposed?

3 Abstentions?

4 [The motion carried unanimously.]

5 ***

6 MS. CASTOR:

7 No. 31, is there a motion to deem the
8 facts admitted and authorize Counsel to
9 prepare an Adjudication and Order in
10 the matter of Melanie Dawn Hamilton,
11 RN, Case No. 25-51-005415, for which
12 there are no recusals?

13 DR. BUCHER:

14 So moved, Bucher.

15 DR. FRANK:

16 Second, Frank.

17 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

18 All those in favor? Opposed?

19 Abstentions?

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 ***

22 MS. CASTOR:

23 No. 38, is there a motion to adopt the
24 Hearing Examiner Proposal for which
25 there are no recusals for Jamie L.

1 Suwalski, RN, Case No. 25-51-010674?

2 DR. BUCHER:

3 So moved, Bucher.

4 DR. FRANK:

5 Second, Frank.

6 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

7 All those in favor? Opposed?

8 Abstentions?

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10 ***

11 MS. CASTOR:

12 Is there a motion to authorize Counsel
13 to prepare a final order consistent
14 with the discussion held in Executive
15 Session for the following cases for
16 which there are no recusals? That's
17 No. 32, Delleathea Carstarphen,
18 Applicant, 25-51-014749; No. 33, Cyrus
19 Brown, LPN, 23-51-006812; No. 34, Stefi
20 Dorvil, LPN, 23-51-006844; No. 35,
21 Odessa Gnell White, LPN, 23-51-011628;
22 No. 36, Margaret Wangeci Mungai, RN,
23 CRNP, 21-51-005365; No. 37, Andrew
24 Joseph Markiewicz, RN, 22-51-019006;
25 No. 39, Felicia Guy, LPN, 23-51-006819;

1 No. 40, Olive K. Henry, LPN, 23-51-
2 006836; No. 41, Gerlande Paul, RN, LPN,
3 23-51-003540; No. 42, Jocelande Paul,
4 LPN, 22-51-001144; and No. 43,
5 Catherine Chidiebere Ukaegbu, LPN, 22-
6 51-001146.

7 DR. BUCHER:

8 So moved, Bucher.

9 DR. FRANK:

10 Second, Frank.

11 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

12 All those in favor? Opposed?

13 Abstentions?

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 ***

16 MS. CASTOR:

17 Is there a motion for Counsel to
18 prepare an order consistent with the
19 discussions in Executive Session for
20 which Hertzler, Capiotis, and Scher are
21 recused? That's No. 44, Laverne
22 Garretson, LPN, 26-51-000273.

23 DR. BUCHER:

24 So moved, Bucher.

25 DR. FRANK:

1 Second, Frank.

2 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

3 All those in favor? Opposed?

4 Abstentions?

5 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Capiotis, and
6 Mr. Scher were recused from deliberations and voting
7 on the motion.]

8 ***

9 MS. CASTOR:

10 On to the Draft Adjudications and
11 Orders Nos. 47 through 53 on the
12 Agenda.

13 Is there a motion to adopt the
14 Draft Adjudications and Orders for
15 which there are no recusals: Tarah
16 Garcia Legitime, LPN, 24-51-010654;
17 Ronnesha A. Walston, LPN, 23-51-018332;
18 Savannah Leann Martin, LPN, 23-51-
19 011071; Ramon Garcia, 24-51-004371;
20 Nancy Jabati, LPN, 22-51-001141; Sean
21 Abiola Obi, RN, LPN, 22-51-011833; and
22 Louella Ann Thompson, RN, 24-51-006681?

23 DR. BUCHER:

24 So moved, Bucher.

25 DR. FRANK:

1 Second, Frank.

2 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

3 All those in favor? Opposed?

4 Abstentions?

5 [The motion carried unanimously.]

6 ***

7 MS. CASTOR:

8 Is there a motion to adopt the Draft

9 Adjudication and Order for which

10 Hertzler and Scher are recused, No. 45,

11 Beth Ann Fleeson, RN, 24-51-009594?

12 DR. BUCHER:

13 So moved, Bucher.

14 DR. FRANK:

15 Second, Frank.

16 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

17 All those in favor? Opposed?

18 Abstentions?

19 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Mr. Scher were
20 recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.]

21 ***

22 MS. CASTOR:

23 Is there a motion to adopt the Draft

24 Adjudication and Order for which

25 Hertzler, Capiotis, and Scher are

1 recused, No. 60, Tricia Marie Folino,
2 RN, 25-51-000011?

3 DR. BUCHER:

4 So moved, Bucher.

5 DR. FRANK:

6 Second, Frank.

7 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

8 All those in favor? Opposed?

9 Abstentions?

10 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler, Ms. Capiotis, and
11 Mr. Scher were recused from deliberations and voting
12 on the motion.]

13 ***

14 MS. CASTOR:

15 Is there a motion to adopt the Draft
16 Adjudication and Order for which
17 Hertzler, Capiotis, and Scher are
18 recused, No. 46, Jaclyn Lauren Jemison,
19 LPN, 25-51-006530?

20 DR. BUCHER:

21 So moved, Bucher.

22 DR. FRANK:

23 Second, Frank.

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 motion.]

5 ***

6 MS. CASTOR:

7 On to the schools—let's do PITC first
8 since there are no recusals.

9 Is there a motion to extend PITC's
10 provisional status until the end of the
11 exam year?

12 DR. BUCHER:

13 So moved, Bucher.

14 DR. FRANK:

15 Second, Frank.

16 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

17 All those in favor? Opposed?

18 Abstentions?

19 [The motion carried unanimously.]

20 ***

21 VICE CHAIR BUCHER ASSUMED THE CHAIR

22 ***

23 MS. CASTOR:

24 So now Dr. Hunsberger is recused on The
25 Rapha School, so the Chair swings to

1 Dr. Bucher.

2 With regard to The Rapha School,
3 is there a motion to extend The Rapha
4 School's provisional status until the
5 end of the exam year?

6 DR. HERSHBERGER:

7 So moved, Hershberger.

8 DR. FRANK:

9 Second, Frank.

10 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

11 All those in favor? Opposed?

12 Abstentions?

13 [The motion carried. Dr. Hunsberger was recused from
14 deliberations and voting on the motion.]

15 ***

16 CHAIR HUNSBERGER RESUMED THE CHAIR

17 ***

18 MS. CASTOR:

19 With regard to Lake Erie College of
20 Osteopathic Medicine's Proposal for an
21 Associate Degree in Nursing Program, is
22 there a motion to approve that subject
23 to the receipt of the following items
24 and for which Dr. Hershberger is
25 recused: a letter of intent for acute

1 inpatient pediatric experience care or
2 simulation, acceptable syllabi for the
3 courses of Sociology 121 and History
4 102, and a line item in the budget for
5 the reimbursement from LECOM to Thiel?

6 DR. BUCHER:

7 So moved, Bucher.

8 DR. FRANK:

9 Second, Frank.

10 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

11 All those in favor? Opposed?

12 Abstentions?

13 [The motion carried unanimously.]

14 ***

15 Adjournment

16 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

17 Is there anything from the general
18 public that they would like to bring
19 before the Board?

20 Hearing none, can I have a motion
21 for adjournment?

22 DR. BUCHER:

23 So moved, Bucher.

24 DR. HERSHBERGER:

25 Second, Hershberger.

1 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

2 All those in favor? Opposed?

3 Abstentions?

4 ***

5 [There being no further business, the State Board of
6 Nursing Meeting adjourned at 12:15 a.m.]

7 ***

8

9 CERTIFICATE

10

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

16

17

18

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Elliott", is written over a horizontal line.

19

Minute Clerk

20

Sargent's Court Reporting

21

Service, Inc.

22

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24

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26

STATE BOARD OF NURSING
REFERENCE INDEX

July 14, 2026

TIME	AGENDA
9:00	Public Session
9:00	Official Call to Order
9:01	Introduction of Board Members
9:02	Introduction of Attendees
9:05	Adoption of Agenda
9:05	Adoption of Minutes
9:06	Report of Prosecutorial Division
9:16	Regulation Update
9:18	Report of Committees
9:19	Report of Executive Secretary
9:21	New Business
9:26	Appointment - PITC
9:42	Appointment - The Rapha School
10:00	Recess
10:10	Appointment - LECOM
10:46	Miscellaneous
10:49	Executive Session
11:52	Return to Open Session
11:52	Public Session
11:53	Motions - Prosecution
12:04	Report of Board Counsel
12:15	Adjournment