

**REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
MAY 14, 2020**

**An Emergency Board meeting was held by the West Virginia Board of Examiners
for Registered Professional Nurses by conference call, on May 14, 2020.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

TARA HULSEY, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN, PRESIDENT

TERESA RITCHIE, DNP, APRN FNP-BC

L. ANN BOSTIC, DNP, MSN APRN FNP-BC

NANCY V. ATKINS, MSN, APRN, WHNP-BC

DORIS F. BURKEY, DNP, MSN, APRN FNP-BC

JOHN MARTIN, PUBLIC MEMBER

THERESA L. DENNISON, PUBLIC MEMBER

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

DR. SUE PAINTER, DNP, RN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ALICE FAUCETT, JD, GENERAL COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLINE

MARGARET "MARTY" ALSTON, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

**ROBIN A. LEWIS, ED D, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, DIRECTOR OF PRACTICE AND
EDUCATION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 11:00.

2. QUORUM

2. A quorum was established.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION OR MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS

3. The Board President conducted a roll call of Board members and staff in attendance and recognized any visitors present on the call.

4. MISSION REVIEW

4. Tara Hulseley, Board President, provided a review of the Board's mission.

5. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

5. The Board reviewed the proposed agenda. A motion was made by Teresa Ritchie to amend the agenda by adding the following topic under Miscellaneous RENEWAL OF LICENSES FOR RN'S AND APRN'S. Ann Bostic offered the second. The motion carried.

6. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR NURSES NOT LICENSED IN WEST VIRGINIA TO PERMIT PRACTICE IN WEST VIRGINIA DURING THE GOVERNOR'S DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

6. Teresa Ritchie made a motion to approve:

Because the Board has implemented practices to allow for the quick licensing of applicants and in an effort to continue to promote public protection through the licensing of qualified practitioners, I move that the Board ask the Governor to lift the following suspended provisions contained in Executive Order 10-20 issued March 23, 2020:

1. Requirement that any person practicing or offering to practice as a registered nurse (RN) or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) have a license issued by the West Virginia Board of Registered Professional Nurses (W.Va. Code 30-7-2), with the exception of those pending complaints, investigations, consent orders, board orders, or pending disciplinary proceedings and provided the RN or APRN is licensed in another state;
2. Requirement that RN and APRN licenses have a renewal period requirement (W.Va. Code 90-7-8);

Nancy Atkins offered the second. The motion Carried.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.A. RENEWAL OF LICENSES FOR RN'S AND APRN'S

- 7.A.** A discussion ensued related to the Governor's Executive Order 10-20 regarding renewal of license for RN's and APRN's. Teresa Ritchie made a motion to request that the Governor lift the suspension of the following statutory requirements:

Requirement that any person practicing or offering to practice as a registered nurse (RN) or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) have a license issued by the West Virginia Board of Registered Professional Nurses (W. Va. Code 30-7-2), with the exception of those with pending complaints, investigations, consent orders, board orders, or pending disciplinary proceedings and provided the RN or APRN is licensed in another state;

-Requirement that RN and APRN licenses have a renewal period requirement (W. Va. Code 90-7-8)

To support this request, the Board offers the following information:

*The Board has processed 270+ registered nurses (RN's) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN's) to work in WV on another state license. There are approximately 200 nurses pending to be processed.

*The Board has received numerous from large companies (for example: Signify Health from Texas and Cornell Health in New York) which may not have patients located in WV.

*There are some APRNs and RNs licensed in West Virginia furloughed. However, these individuals are returning to work as restrictions are rescinded.

*The surge timeframe has passed.

*Endorsement applications can be processed very quickly by the Board, often within a day.

*The licensure process allows for the proper vetting of applicants.

*The Board approved guidelines to be implemented by staff that would allow individuals who have suffered a hardship due to COVID-19 to receive a waiver of the licensing fees.

*Board rules already have a waiver for low income individuals.

*APRN's do not renew until the spring of 2021.

And to additionally, inform the Governor that the Executive Director has contacted Signify Health and asked if there were patients in West Virginia being provided services from nurses employed with their company and I have not received a response. Also, Cornell Health is a company that provides student health services. At this time, it is not clear why these companies are requesting that their employed nurses be permitted the opportunity to practice in West Virginia without being licensed. The second was offered by Ann Bostic. The motion carried.

7.B. REVIEW OF DATES FOR JUNE MEETING

- 7.B.** The Executive Director reminded the Board of the regularly scheduled Board Meeting set for June 12, 2020 and the Board Committee meetings and Joint LPN/RN meeting previously scheduled for June 11, 2020. A brief discussion ensued. The Board directed staff to research ways to accomplish these meeting if possible due to the restrictions related to the Government shut down caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

8. ADJOURN

With no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doris Burkey. The motion was seconded by Theresa Dennison. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:25p.m.



**Minutes taken and prepared by
Margaret E. Alston
Director of Finance and Operations**



**Respectfully submitted by
Teresa Ritchie, DNP, APRN FNP-BC
Board Secretary**