

VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING  
COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT BOARD OF NURSING AND MEDICINE  
BOARD OF NURSING  
MINUTES  
June 10, 2015

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine and the Board of Nursing was convened at 10:40 A.M., in Board Room 4, Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING: Louise Hershkowitz, CRNA, MSHA, Board of Nursing, Joint Board Member

COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT BOARDS OF NURSING AND MEDICINE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Guia Caliwagan, RN, MAN, Board of Nursing  
Lori D. Conklin, MD, Board of Medicine, Joint Board Member  
Marie Gerardo, MS, RN, ANP-BC; Joint Board Member, Board of Nursing  
Louise Hershkowitz, CRNA, MSHA, Board of Nursing, Joint Board Member  
Evelyn Lindsay, LPN, Board of Nursing  
Kelly McDonough, DNP, RN; Joint Board Member, Board of Nursing  
Stuart Mackler, MD, FACS, Board of Medicine, Joint Board Member  
Wayne Reynolds, DO; Joint Board Member, Board of Medicine

STAFF PRESENT: Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE; Executive Director, Board of Nursing  
Gloria D. Mitchell-Lively, RN, MSN, MBA; Deputy Executive Director, Board of Nursing  
Amy Davis, Executive Assistant, Board of Nursing

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Barrett, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel

FORMAL HEARING: **Mary Ellen Cotellese, RN 0001-090106; LNP 0024-090106**  
Ms. Cotellese appeared.

Tammie Jones, Adjudication Specialist, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Mitchell was legal counsel for the Board. Mary Treta, court reporter from Crane-Snead and Associates recorded the proceedings.

Denise Sexton, Senior Investigator, Department of Health Professions and Cathy Ward, Case Manager, Health Practitioners Monitoring Program were present and testified.

CLOSED MEETING: Dr. McDonough moved that the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine and the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 12:03 P.M. for the purpose to reach a decision in the matter of Ms. Cotellese. Additionally, Dr. McDonough moved that Ms. Douglas, Ms. Mitchell-Lively, Ms. Davis and Ms.

Barrett attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Committee reconvened in open session at 12:40 P.M.

Dr. McDonough moved that the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine and the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Ms. Caliwagan moved that the Board of Nursing accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law as presented by Ms. Jones and amended by the Board. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Dr. Mackler moved that the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law as presented by Ms. Jones and amended by the Committee. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Lindsay moved that the Board of Nursing issue an order of reprimand to Mary Ellen Cotellese, continue her registered nursing license on indefinite suspension, but stay the suspension contingent upon re-entry into the Health Practitioners Monitoring Program and remaining in compliance with the Program and to complete a Board approved refresher course prior to returning to practice as a registered nurse. The motion was seconded and carried. Ms. Caliwagan, Ms. Hershkowitz, Ms. Lindsay and Dr. McDonough were in favor of the motion. Ms. Gerardo opposed the motion.

Dr. Mackler moved that the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine issue an order of reprimand to Mary Ellen Cotellese, continue her nurse practitioner license on indefinite suspension, but stay the suspension contingent upon re-entry into the Health Practitioners Monitoring Program and remaining in compliance with the Program and that Ms. Cotellese provide evidence of continued competence and national certification. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 P.M.

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Gloria D. Mitchell-Lively, RN, MSN, MBA  
Deputy Executive Director