

VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING
FORMAL HEARINGS
PANEL A
May 21, 2025

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Virginia Board of Nursing was called to order at 9:22 A.M., on May 21, 2025, in Board Room 2, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

BOARD MEMBERS
PRESENT:

Cynthia Swineford, MSN, RN, CNE; **President**
Margaret J. Friedenberg, Citizen Member
Cleopatra Kitt, Citizen Member
Helen Parke, DNP, FNP-BC
Jodi Zehr, RN

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Bargdill, BSN, MHS, RN; Deputy Executive Director
Robin Hills, DNP, RN, WHNP; Deputy Executive Director for
Advanced Practice
Randall Mangrum, DNP, RN; Incoming Deputy Executive Director for
Advanced Practice
Ann Hardy, MSN, RN; Deputy Executive Director
Tamika Claiborne, Senior Licensing/Discipline Specialist
Cheryl Giles, Administrative Support Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

M. Brent Saunders, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Helen Yorke, Senior Assistant Attorney General
RN students from Glen College of Nursing, Roanoke

ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PANEL:

With five members of the Board present, a panel was established.

FORMAL HEARING:

Mercedes Rena Fitzgerald, RN Reinstatement
Applicant **0001-115462**

Ms. Fitzgerald appeared.

Aaron Timberlake, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Mr. Saunders and Ms. Yorke were legal counsels for the Board. Kandi Oliver, court reporter with County Court Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Katie Land, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division was present and testified.

CLOSED MEETING: Dr. Kitt moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia at 10:00 A.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Mercedes Rena Fitzgerald**. Additionally, Dr. Kitt moved that Ms. Bargdill, Dr. Hills, Dr. Mangrum, Ms. Claiborne, Ms. Giles and Mr. Saunders and Ms. Yorke, Board Counsels, attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Parke and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 10:10 A.M.

Ms. Friedenbergh moved that 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 by Dr. Parke and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Dr. Kitt moved that the Board approve the reinstatement application of **Mercedes Rena Fitzgerald** to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Dr. Parke and carried unanimously.

This decision shall be effective upon entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusion, and decision of this formal hearing panel.

FORMAL HEARING: **Mariam Isatu Kamara, RN** **0001-293868**

Ms. Kamara appeared.

Piero Mannino, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Mr. Saunders and Ms. Yorke were legal counsels for the Board. Kandi Oliver, court reporter with County Court Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Katie Land, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division was present and testified.

CLOSED MEETING: Dr. Kitt moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(16) of the Code of Virginia at 12:03 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation of the medical records of **Mariam Isatu**

Kamara. Additionally, Dr. Kitt moved that Ms. Bargdill, Dr. Hills, Dr. Mangrum, Ms. Claiborne, Ms. Giles and Mr. Saunders and Ms. Yorke, Board Counsels, attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Parke and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 12:19 P.M.

Ms. Friedenberg moved that 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 by Dr. Kitt and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Dr. Parke moved that the Board of Nursing revoke the right of **Mariam Isatu Kamara** to renew her license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zehr and carried unanimously.

This decision shall be effective upon entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusion, and decision of this formal hearing panel.

RECESS: The Board recessed at 12:20 P.M.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened at 2:13 P.M.

FORMAL HEARINGS: **Elizabeth Nicolas, RN** **0001-298497**

Ms. Nicolas appeared and was accompanied by Gordon Nicolas and Dave Nicolas.

Jovonni Armstead, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings, represented the Commonwealth. Mr. Saunders and Ms. Yorke were legal counsels for the Board. Kandi Oliver, court reporter with County Court Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Kimberly Hyler, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division, Gordon Nicolas and Dave Nicolas were present and testified.

- CLOSED MEETING: Dr. Kitt moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia at 3:38 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Elizabeth Nicolas**. Additionally, Dr. Kitt moved that Dr. Hills, Ms. Hardy, Dr. Mangrum, Ms. Claiborne, Ms. Giles and Mr. Saunders and Ms. Yorke, Board Counsels, attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Parke and carried unanimously.
- RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 4:06 P.M.
- Ms. Friedenberg moved that 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 by Dr. Parke and carried unanimously.
- ACTION: Ms. Zehr moved that the Board of Nursing revoke the right of **Elizabeth Nicolas** to renew her license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Dr. Parke and carried unanimously.
- This decision shall be effective upon entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusion, and decision of this formal hearing panel.
- ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned at 4:07 P.M.

Randall Mangrum, DNP, RN
Incoming Deputy Executive Director