

VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING
FORMAL HEARINGS
September 11, 2025

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Virginia Board of Nursing was called to order at 12:17 P.M., on September 11, 2025, in Board Room 4, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

BOARD MEMBERS
PRESENT: Carol Cartte, RN, BSN; **President**
Delia Acuna, FNP-C
Ann Tucker Gleason, PhD; Citizen Member
Catherine Paler, RN
Shawnte Peterson, LMT, MTH
Dolores Valenta, LPN
Jeanell Webb-Jones, MSN, RN
Jodi Zehr, RN

STAFF PRESENT: Claire Morris, RN, LNHA; Executive Director
Christina Bargdill, BSN, MHS, RN; Deputy Executive Director
Tamika Claiborne, Senior Discipline Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Sara Blose, Senior Assistant Attorney General

ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PANEL: With eight members of the Board present, a panel was established.

FORMAL HEARINGS: **Steven D. Johnson, LMT** **0019-019401**

Mr. Johnson appeared.

Piero Mannino, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Blose was legal counsel for the Board. Keyona Taylor, court reporter with County Court Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Julia Turner, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division, Zephyr Shinoda, and Detective Matthew Dobson were present and testified.

CLOSED MEETING: Ms. Zehr moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia at 1:10 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Steven D. Johnson**. Additionally, Ms. Zehr moved that Ms. Morris, Ms. Bargdill, Ms. Claiborne, and Ms. Blose, Board Counsel, 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 Ms. Peterson and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 2:00 P.M.

Ms. Zehr 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 Ms. Webb-Jones and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Acuna moved that the Board of Nursing revoke the license of **Steven D. Johnson** to practice massage therapy in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peterson and carried with 7 votes in favor. Ms. Webb-Jones opposed the motion.

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

RECESS: The Board recessed at 2:02 P.M.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened at 2:12 P.M.

FORMAL HEARINGS: **Melvin Leon Peyton, III, LMT** **0019-018590**

Mr. Peyton did not appear.

Grace Stewart, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Blose was legal counsel for the Board. Keyona Taylor, court reporter with County Court Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Shawn Ledger, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division, and Leah Casuccio were present and testified.

CLOSED MEETING: Ms. Zehr moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia at 3:15 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Melvin Leon Peyton, III**. Additionally, Ms. Zehr moved that Ms. Morris, Ms. Bargdill, Ms. Claiborne, and Ms. Blose, Board Counsel, 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 Ms. Webb-Jones and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 3:39 P.M.

Ms. Zehr 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 Ms. Webb-Jones and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Acuna moved that the Board of Nursing revoke the license of **Melvin Leon Peyton, III** to practice massage therapy in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peterson and passed unanimously in favor of the motion.

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

RECESS: The Board recessed at 3:40 P.M.

Ms. Cartte left the meeting at 3:40 P.M.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened at 3:48 P.M.

Dr. Gleason presided over the formal hearing of Shou Yang at 3:48 P.M.

FORMAL HEARINGS: **Shou Yang, LMT** **0019-018129**

Mr. Yang did not appear.

Aaron Timberlake, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Blose was legal counsel for the Board. Keyona Taylor, court reporter with County Court Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Toscha Fischetti, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division, was present and testified.

Ms. Bargdill left the meeting at 4:10 P.M.

CLOSED MEETING: Ms. Zehr moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia at 4:10 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Shou Yang**. Additionally, Ms. Zehr moved that Ms. Morris, Ms. Claiborne, and Ms. Blose, Board Counsel, 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 Ms. Webb-Jones and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 4:21 P.M.

Ms. Paler moved that the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed and 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 Ms. Webb-Jones and carried unanimously.

Ms. Acuna moved that the Board of Nursing revoke the right of **Shou Yang** to renew his license to practice massage therapy in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peterson and carried unanimously.

RECESS: The Board recessed at 4:22 P.M.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened at 4:34 P.M.

Ms. Cartte and Ms. Bargdill rejoined the meeting at 4:34 P.M.

FORMAL HEARING: **Deserie Howard, CNA Reinstatement Applicant** **1401-077919**

Ms. Howard appeared.

Grace Stewart, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Blose was legal counsel for the Board. Keyona Taylor, court reporter with County Court Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Cassandra Gaines, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division, was present and testified.

RECESS: The Board recessed at 4:56 P.M.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened at 5:13 P.M.

CLOSED MEETING: Ms. Zehr moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia at 5:51 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Deserie Howard**. Additionally, Ms. Zehr moved that Ms. Morris, Ms. Bargdill, Ms. Claiborne, and Ms. Blose, Board Counsel, 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 Ms. Webb-Jones and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 6:36 P.M.

Ms. Zehr moved that the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed and 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. Cox and carried unanimously.

Ms. Acuna moved that the Board of Nursing deny the application for reinstatement of **Deserie Howard** registration to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to dismiss case #232078. The motion was seconded by Ms. Webb-Jones and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

Christina Bargdill, BSN, MHS, RN
Deputy Executive Director