

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**  
**FORMAL HEARINGS**  
**November 21, 2024**

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Virginia Board of Nursing was called to order at 2:04 P.M., on November 21, 2024, in Board Room 2, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

BOARD MEMBERS  
PRESENT:

Cynthia M. Swineford, MSN, RN, CNE; **President**  
Delia Acuna, FNP-C  
Pamela Davis, LPN  
Cleopatra Kitt, PhD, Citizen Member  
Lila Peak, RN  
Jodi Zehr, RN

STAFF PRESENT:

Lelia Claire Morris, RN, LNHA; Executive Director  
Ann Hardy, MSN, RN; Deputy Executive Director  
Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk, Senior Nursing Discipline Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General

ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A PANEL:

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

FORMAL HEARINGS:

**Olachi Doris Ekeocha, RN**

**0001-309435**

Ms. Ekeocha appeared, accompanied by Nwanneka Amadi, her sister in-law.

Avi Efreom, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Mr. Rutkowski was legal counsel for the Board. Faye LaVoy, court reporter with County Court Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Dr. Sarah Rogers, Enforcement Director, was 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 3:13 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Olachi Doris Ekeocha**. Additionally, Ms. Zehr moved that Ms. Morris, Ms. Hardy, Ms. Tamayo-Suijk and Mr. Rutkowski, 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. Davis and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 3:46 P.M.

Ms. Peake 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. Davis and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Acuna moved that the Board revoke and invalidate the license of **Olachi Doris Ekeocha** to practice as a professional nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Ms. Davis 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 3:47 P.M.

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Ann Hardy, MSN, RN  
Deputy Executive Director