

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING  
FORMAL HEARINGS  
Panel B  
September 14, 2021**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The meeting of the Virginia Board of Nursing was called to order at 11:08 A.M., on September 14, 2021 in Training Room 1, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:**

Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, DNP, MSN, RN, BC; Second Vice-President  
Ann T. Gleason, PhD, Citizen Member  
Louise Hershkowitz, CRNA, MSHA  
Brandon A. Jones, MSN, RN, CEN, NEA-BC  
Felisa A. Smith, RN, MSA, MSN/Ed, CNE, PhD  
Cynthia M. Swineford, MSN, RN, CNE

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE; Executive Director  
Robin L Hills, DNP, RN, WHNP; Deputy Executive Director for  
Advanced Practice  
Huong Vu, Executive Assistant  
Breana Renick, Administrative Support Specialist

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Erin Barrett, Assistant Attorney General  
Renee Larkin, Court Reporter, Veteran Reporters  
Nina Taylor, Administrator, Hilton Plaza Inc (**Goldstone case only**)

**ESTABLISHMENT OF  
A PANEL:**

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

**FORMAL HEARINGS:**

**Sonja Peeples Goldstone, CNA (1401-109384) RMA (0031-000963)**

Ms. Goldstone appeared.

Rebecca Ripley, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Barrett was legal counsel for the Board. Renee Larkin, court reporter with Veteran Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Maria Josen, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division, and Jason Curtz, RMA, Shift Supervisor, HR Director at Hilton Plaza Incorporated in Newport News, VA were present and testified.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

Ms. Gleason moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia at 12:45 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Sonja Peeples Goldstone**. Additionally, Dr. Gleason moved that Ms. Douglas, Dr. Hills, Ms. Vu, Ms. Renick and Ms. Barrett, 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. Hershkowitz and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 1:26 P.M.

Dr. Gleason 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. Hershkowitz and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Mr. Jones moved that the Board of Nursing dismiss the case against **Sonja Peoples Goldstone**. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gleason and carried unanimously.

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

RECESS: The board recessed at 1:28 P.M.

RECONVENED: The board reconvened at 2:09 P.M.

FORMAL HEARINGS: **Sandy Annette Vincent Varzmanesh, LPN Reinstatement Applicant 0002-066466**

Ms. Varzmanesh appeared.

Emily Tatum, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Barrett was legal counsel for the Board. Renee Larkin court reporter with Veteran Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Joyce Johnson, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division, was present and testified.

CLOSED MEETING: Dr. Gleason moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia at 2:49 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Sandy Annette Vincent Varzmanesh**. Additionally, Dr. Gleason moved that Ms. Douglas, Dr. Hills, Ms. Vu, Ms. Renick and Ms. Barrett, 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. Hershkowitz and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 3:19 P.M.

Dr. Gleason 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. Hershkowitz and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Dr. Smith moved that the Board of Nursing reprimand **Sandy Annette Vincent Varzmanesh** and approve her application for reinstatement of her practical nurse license, valid in Virginia only. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hershkowitz 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 HEARINGS: **Elise Conforte, RN Reinstatement Applicant** **0001-198005**

Ms. Conforte did not appear.

Grace Stewart, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Barrett was legal counsel for the Board. Renee Larkin, court reporter with Veteran Reporters, recorded the proceedings.

Me-Lien Chung, Senior Investigator, Enforcement Division, testified via phone.

CLOSED MEETING: Dr. Gleason moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia at 3:51 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Elsie Conforte** Additionally, Dr. Gleason moved that Ms. Douglas, Dr. Hills, Ms. Vu, Ms. Renick and Ms. Barrett, 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. Swineford and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 4:02 P.M.

Dr. Gleason 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. Hershkowitz and carried unanimously.

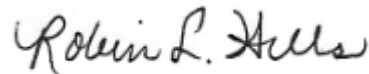
ACTION:

Ms. Swineford moved that the Board of Nursing deny the application for reinstatement of **Elsie Conforte** to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith 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 4:06 P.M.



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Robin Hills, DNP, RN, WHNP  
Deputy Executive Director for Advanced Practice