

**COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT BOARDS OF NURSING AND MEDICINE
POSSIBLE SUMMARY SUSPENSION TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
AUGUST 6, 2021**

A possible summary suspension telephone conference call of the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine was held August 6, 2021, at 12:00 noon.

The Committee Members participating the call were:

Louise Hershkowitz, CRNA, MSHA, **Chair**
Marie Gerardo, MS, RN, ANP-BC
Ann Tucker Gleason, PhD, Board of Nursing Citizen Member
David Archer, MD
Blanton Marchese, Board of Medicine Citizen Member

Others participating in the meeting were:

Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Sean Murphy, Assistant Attorney General
Victoria Hinton, Adjudication Specialist
Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, Executive Director
Robin Hills, DNP, RN, WHNP; Deputy Executive Director for Advanced Practice
Claire Morris, RN, LNHA; Deputy Executive Director
Cathy Hanchey, Senior Licensing/Discipline Specialist
Nora T. Ciancio, Esquire, Counsel for Melanie Hope Leonhart Jones, LNP

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Hershkowitz. With 5 members of the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine, a quorum was established. A good faith effort to convene a meeting at the Committee offices within the week failed.

Sean Murphy, Senior Assistant Attorney General, presented evidence that the continued practice of **Melanie Hope Leonhart Jones, LNP (0024-173507)** as a licensed nurse practitioner may present a substantial danger to the health and safety of the public.

CLOSED MEETING: Dr. Gleason moved that the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine convene a closed meeting pursuant to 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 12:14 P.M. for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Ms. Jones. Additionally, Dr. Gleason moved that Ms. Douglas, Dr. Hills, Ms. Morris, Ms. Hanchey, and Ms. Mitchell 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 by Mr. Marchese and carried unanimously.

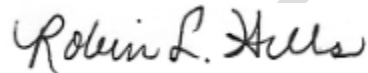
RECONVENTION: The Committee reconvened in open session at 12:31 P.M.

Dr. Gleason moved that the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine 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. Gerardo and carried unanimously.

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Mr. Marchese moved to summarily suspend the license of **Melanie Hope Leonhart Jones** to practice as a licensed nurse practitioner pending a formal administrative hearing and to offer a consent order for indefinite suspension of her nurse practitioner license for not less than two years in lieu of a formal hearing. The motion was seconded by Dr. Archer and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 P.M.



Robin L. Hills

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

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