

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING  
MINUTES**

**January 29, 2020**

**Panel - A**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The meeting of the Virginia Board of Nursing was called to order at 9:03 A.M. on January 29, 2020 in Board Room 2, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Louise Hershkowitz, CRNA, MSHA, President  
Marie Gerardo, MS, RN, ANP-BC, Second Vice President  
Margaret J. Friedenberg, Citizen Member  
Ann Tucker Gleason, PhD, Citizen Member  
James Hermansen-Parker, MSN, RN, PCCN-K  
Brandon A. Jones, MSN, RN, CEN, NEA-BC  
Dixie McElfresh, LPN

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jodi P. Power, RN, JD, Senior Deputy Executive Director  
Charlette N. Ridout, R.N., M.S., C.N.E., Deputy Executive Director  
Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk, Discipline Team Coordinator

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A PANEL:**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF AGENCY SUBORDINATE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**#1 – Sheryl Melissa Falls, LPN**

**0002-094741**

Ms. Falls did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to indefinitely suspend the license of Sheryl Melissa Falls to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, said suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice practical nursing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**#5 – Sonya D. Fleming, CNA**

**1401-056221**

Ms. Fleming did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to revoke the certificate of Sonya D. Fleming to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of

Virginia and enter a Finding of Abuse against her in the Virginia Nurse Aide Registry. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**#7 – Vernon Divers, CNA** **1401-158552**  
Mr. Divers did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to reprimand Vernon Divers and indefinitely suspend his certificate to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**#9 – Crystal D. Bell, LPN** **0002-068111**  
Ms. Bell did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to indefinitely suspend the license of Crystal D. Bell to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, said suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice practical nursing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**#11 – Valencia Denise Thomas, RMA** **0031-001009**  
Ms. Thomas did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to reprimand Valencia Denise Thomas. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**#13 – Carolyn Lewis Dean Burns, LPN** **0002-038535**  
Ms. Burns did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to reprimand Carolyn Lewis Dean Burns and indefinitely suspend the right to renew her license to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, said suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice practical nursing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**#15 – Stephon Kyle Wade, RN** **0001-263103**  
Mr. Wade did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to indefinitely suspend the license of Stephon Kyle Wade to practice professional nursing in the

Commonwealth of Virginia, said suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**#17 – Jennifer Elaine Keller, RN** **0001-199918**  
Ms. Keller did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to indefinitely suspend the right of Jennifer Elaine Keller to renew her license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, said suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**#19 Candace Marie Heinen, LPN** **0002-093542**  
Ms. Heinen did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to indefinitely suspend the license of Candace Marie Heinen to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, said suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice practical nursing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Patricia Bridgeman Underdue, CNA** **1401-171756**  
Ms. Underdue did not appear.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing accept the recommended decision of the agency subordinate to revoke the certificate of Patricia Bridgeman Underdue to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia and enter a Finding of Abuse against her in the Virginia Nurse Aide Registry. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Board adjourned at 9:07 A.M.

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Jodi P. Power, RN, JD  
Senior Deputy Executive Director

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**  
**FORMAL HEARINGS**  
**January 29, 2020**  
**Panel - A**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The meeting of the Virginia Board of Nursing was called to order at 11:02 A.M. on January 30, 2020 in Board Room 2, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Louise Hershkowitz, CRNA, MSHA, President  
Marie Gerardo, MS, RN, ANP-BC, Second Vice President  
Margaret J. Friedenberg, Citizen Member  
Ann Tucker Gleason, PhD, Citizen Member  
James Hermansen-Parker, MSN, RN, PCCN-K  
Brandon A. Jones, MSN, RN, CEN, NEA-BC  
Dixie McElfresh, LPN

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jodi P. Power, RN, JD, Senior Deputy Executive Director  
Charlette N. Ridout, R.N., M.S., C.N.E., Deputy Executive Director  
Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk, Discipline Team Coordinator

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Nursing students and faculty from Longwood University and Rappahanock Community College  
Nurse Aide students and faculty from Southside Virginia Community College

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A PANEL:**

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

**FORMAL HEARINGS:**

**Ashley Hansford, LPN** **0002-087154**  
Ms. Hansford appeared at 11:18 A.M. after hearing had begun.

Tammie Jones, Adjudication Specialist for the Department of Health Professions, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Mitchell was legal counsel for the Board. Andrea Pegram, court reporter with Andrea Pegram Court Reporting, recorded the proceeding.

Richard Strother, Operations Manager, Maxim Healthcare Services, Diana Eady, Clinical Director, Maxim Healthcare Services, and Sharon Fowlkes, LPN, were present and testified.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 12:26 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Ashley Hansford. Additionally, Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that Ms. Power, Ms. Ridout, Ms. Tamayo-Suijk, and Ms. Mitchell, 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 and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 1:17 P.M.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker 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 and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Gerardo moved that the Board of Nursing reprimand Ashley Hansford, LPN and require she enter the Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program (HPMP) within 60 days of entry of the Order and remain in compliance thereafter. The basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order which will be sent to Ms. Hansford at her address of record. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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

RECESS: The Board recessed at 1:20 P.M.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened at 2:00 P.M.

FORMAL HEARINGS: **Helen Casey, CNA** **1401-133530**  
Ms. Casey appeared, accompanied by her sons, Timothy Casey and Trevis Shane Casey.

Cynthia Gaines, Adjudication Specialist for the Department of Health Professions, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Mitchell was legal counsel for the Board. Andrea Pegram, court reporter with Andrea Pegram Court Reporting, recorded the proceeding.

Lisa Elgin, Senior Investigator, Department of Health Professions, was present and testified. Angela Sykes, RN, PCA Supervisor for Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens was also present and testified.

CLOSED MEETING: Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 3:32 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Helen Casey. Additionally, Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that Ms. Power, Ms. Ridout, Ms. Tamayo-Suijk, and Ms. Mitchell, 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 and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 4:29 P.M.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker 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 and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Gerardo moved that the Board of Nursing indefinitely suspend the right of Helen Casey to renew her certificate to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia for a period of not less than one year. The basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order which will be sent to Ms. Casey at her address of record. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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

RECESS: The Board recessed at 4:30 P.M.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 4:50 P.M.

FORMAL HEARINGS: **Derleen Marie Alexander, CNA** **1401-149685**  
Ms. Alexander did not appear.

Cynthia Gaines, Adjudication Specialist for the Department of Health Professions, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Mitchell was legal counsel for the Board. Andrea Pegram, court reporter with Andrea Pegram Court Reporting, recorded the proceeding.

Jessica Wilkerson, Senior Investigator, Department of Health Professions, was present and testified.

CLOSED MEETING: Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 5:00 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Derleen Marie Alexander. Additionally, Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that Ms. Power, Ms. Ridout, Ms. Tamayo-Suijk, and Ms. Mitchell, 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 and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 5:19 P.M.

Mr. Hermansen-Parker 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 and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. McElfresh moved that the Board of Nursing revoke the certificate of Derleen Marie Alexander to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with a Finding of Abuse to be entered in the Virginia Nurse Aide Registry. The basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order which will be sent to Ms. Alexander at her address of record. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

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Jodi P. Power, RN, JD  
Senior Deputy Executive Director