

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**  
**VIRTUAL FORMAL HEARINGS**  
**January 26, 2021**  
**Panel - A**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The virtual Webex meeting of the Virginia Board of Nursing was called to order at 9:08 A.M. on January 26, 2021.

Due to COVID-19 declared state of emergency and consistent with Amendment 28 to HB29 (Budget Bill for 2018-2020) and the applicable provision of §2.2-3708.2 in the Freedom of Information Act, the Board convened a virtual meeting to consider such regulatory and business matters as was presented on the agenda for the Board to discharge its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

**BOARD MEMBERS  
PARTICIPATING  
VIRTUALLY:**

Marie Gerardo, MS, RN, ANP-BC, President  
Margaret J. Friedenber, Citizen Member  
A Tucker Gleason, PhD, Citizen Member  
James Hermansen-Parker, MSN, RN, PCCN-K  
Jennifer Phelps, BS, LPN, QMHP-A, CSAC

**STAFF PRESENT  
AT DHP:**

Charlette Ridout, RN, MS, CNE, Deputy Executive Director  
Sally Ragsdale, Discipline Specialist

**STAFF PARTICIPATING  
VIRTUALLY:**

Claire Morris, RN, LNHA, Deputy Executive Director  
Patricia Dewey, RN, BSN, Discipline Case Manager  
Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk, Discipline Team Coordinator

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING  
VIRTUALLY:**

Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
David Kazzie, Adjudication Consultant, Administrative Proceedings  
Division (APD)  
Rebecca Ribley, Adjudication Specialist, APD  
David Robinson, Adjudication Specialist, APD  
Julia Bennett, Deputy Executive Director, APD  
Stephanie Willinger, Deputy Executive Director, Board of Nursing  
Etta Brutton

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
PANEL:**

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

FORMAL HEARING: **Tamara Kaaba Gorham, CNA Reinstatement Applicant  
1401-182347**

Ms. Gorham participated.

David Kazzie, Adjudication Specialist for the Department of Health Professions, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Mitchell was legal counsel for the Board. M. Pamela Lima Vasquez, court reporter, Veteran Reporters, recorded the proceeding.

Gayle Miller, Senior Investigator, Department of Health Professions, participated 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 10:00 A.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Tamara Kaaba Gorham. Additionally, Dr. Gleason moved that Ms. Ridout, Ms. Morris, Ms. Tamayo-Suijk, Ms. Dewey, Ms. Ragsdale, 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 properly seconded by Ms. Phelps. A roll call was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 10:20 A.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 properly seconded by Ms. Friedenbergl. A roll call was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Phelps moved that the Board of Nursing reinstate the CNA certificate of Tamara Kaaba Gorham and issue an Order of reprimand. The basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order which will be sent to Ms. Gorham at her address of record. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Gleason. A roll call was taken and the motion 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 10:22 A.M.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 1:03 P.M.

FORMAL HEARING: **Toshimeenn I. Thornton, CNA** **1401-111819**

Ms. Thornton participated.

Rebecca Ribley, Adjudication Specialist for the Department of Health Professions, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Mitchell was legal counsel for the Board. M. Pamela Lima Vasquez, court reporter, Veteran Reporters, recorded the proceeding.

Jesslyn Watkins, Senior Investigator, Department of Health Professions, was participated and testified. Crystal Reynolds (Gary), LPN, Nurse Supervisor, Beth Sholom Home of Virginia, and Leslie Glass, CNA, Beth Sholom Home of Virginia participated and testified.

CLOSED MEETING: Dr. Gleason moved that the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(16) of the Code of Virginia at 2:16 P.M., for the purpose of consideration and discussion of medical records of Toshimeenn I. Thornton. Additionally, Dr. Gleason moved that Ms. Thornton, Ms. Ridout, Ms. Morris, Ms. Tamayo-Suijk, Ms. Dewey, Ms. Ragsdale, 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 properly seconded by Ms. Friedenber. A roll call was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 2:36 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 properly seconded by Mr. Hermansen-Parker. A roll call was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

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 2:47 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Toshimeenn I. Thornton. Additionally, Dr. Gleason moved that Ms. Ridout, Ms. Morris, Ms. Tamayo-Suijk, Ms. Dewey, Ms. Ragsdale, 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 properly seconded by Ms. Phelps. A roll call was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 3:28 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 properly seconded by Ms. Friedenber. A roll call was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Phelps moved that the Board of Nursing dismiss the case. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Gleason. A roll call was taken and the motion 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.

FORMAL HEARING: **John Alexander Bain, LPN Reinstatement Applicant 0002-084524**

Mr. Bain participated.

Rebecca Ribley, Adjudication Specialist for the Department of Health Professions, represented the Commonwealth. Ms. Mitchell was legal counsel for the Board. M. Pamela Lima Vasquez, court reporter, Veteran Reporters, recorded the proceeding.

Renee White, Senior Investigator, Department of Health Professions, participated 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 4:29 P.M., for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of John Alexander Bain. Additionally, Dr. Gleason moved that Ms. Ridout, Ms. Morris, Ms. Tamayo-Suijk, Ms. Dewey, Ms. Ragsdale, 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 properly seconded by Ms. Friedenber. A roll call was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION: The Board reconvened in open session at 4:54 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 properly seconded by Ms. Friedenber. A roll call was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION:**

Mr. Hermansen-Parker moved that the Board of Nursing approve the reinstatement application of John Alexander Bain to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, indefinitely suspend his license and stay the suspension contingent upon entry into an alternative program in another state deemed by the Board to be substantially equivalent to the Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program. The basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order which will be sent to Mr. Bain at his address of record. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Friedenber. A roll call was taken and the motion 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 4:58 P.M.

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Charlette Ridout, RN, MS, CNE  
Deputy Executive Director