



## *Arizona State Board of Nursing*

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### **ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING: MEETING OVERVIEW**

Welcome to the Arizona State Board of Nursing (AZBN) meeting. One of the reasons for this meeting is for the Board Members to review the complaints that have been received and investigated by staff to determine, based upon evidence and probable cause, whether there has been a violation of the Nurse Practice Act. The Board also conducts other Board business such as reviewing potential statute or rule revisions related to nursing practice and regulation, approving advisory opinions, determining compliance with nursing education program standards, and reviewing other committee reports and recommendations.

Sources of complaints related to licensees/certificate holders may include employers, coworkers or other healthcare professionals, patient or family members, law enforcement, self-reports, and/or other regulatory agencies. Sources of complaints related to applicants for licensure/certification may include responses to questions asked on the application, information related to a current or prior investigation, discipline in another state, and/or information received as a result of a criminal background check.

When a complaint or self-report is received by the Arizona Board of Nursing, the complaint is triaged to determine if the complaint meets the threshold criteria for investigation. The Board receives approximately 250 complaints per month of which half of those cases are determined to meet established criteria for further investigation. Upon opening the complaint a case number and an investigator are assigned. The investigator collects objective information from a number of sources, interviews the subject of the complaint ("the respondent" or the "applicant") and other witnesses, and then compiles the findings into an investigative report.

Approximately 3 weeks before the Board meeting is held, the Board members begin receiving the investigative reports and other Board business that will be reviewed in the upcoming meeting. The Board Members review approximately 200 investigative cases per Board meeting to determine if there is probable cause that a violation of the law has occurred. The Board members read the confidential investigative reports and other documents before the meeting and are prepared to discuss the materials during the Board meeting.

If you have a pending investigation regarding your application or a complaint has been submitted against your license/certificate, you are welcomed and encouraged to hear the discussion and outcome. Please know that this is an open public meeting and **not a hearing**. You may give a verbal presentation (up to 5 minutes), to provide the Board members with information you feel is pertinent for their consideration. You may also choose to just be available to respond to their questions, or you may be present and not speak at all. If you need more clarification after the Board has voted on your case, the investigator assigned to your case will discuss the decision of the Board with you.

The Board President will identify the case/item they are discussing with the agenda item and/or the name and APRN/RN/LPN/CNA number/applicant. If you have completed a "Speaker's Slip", and wish to present your comments or answer questions, when that particular agenda item is called, you will be asked to come forward to the Speaker's table and provide your comments regarding the case.

Board members will then deliberate about the case and make a motion, stating what action, if any, should occur. The Board members may further discuss the motion once a motion is seconded. For a motion to pass, a majority of the voting Board members must vote in favor of the motion.

## **BOARD ACTIONS**

Possible outcomes of the investigative cases reviewed by the Board:

### **NON-DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Dismiss - Evidence does not support the case has merit or there has been a violation of the Nurse Practice Act.

Letter of Concern - A letter from the Board expressing concern that a licensee, certificate holder or applicant may have engaged in questionable conduct, although the conduct does not necessarily violate the Nurse Practice Act.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Civil Penalty - A monetary fine issued by the Board, not to exceed \$1,000, given singly or in combination with any disciplinary action for a violation of the Nurse Practice Act.

Decree of Censure - This is an official discipline by the Board that the nurse's conduct violated the Nurse Practice Act but does not represent a continued risk to the patient/public.

Probation - This action allows the nurse to continue working during the period of probation subject to compliance with the terms and conditions. During the period of probation the nurse must be supervised in their practice and complete certain requirements which are intended to remediate (rehabilitate or educate) the nurse in his/her area(s) of practice. For example, a nurse with a substance abuse disorder may be required to enter and complete treatment, attend A.A. /N.A. meetings, and abstain from alcohol and other drug use along with other requirements. A nurse who lacks sufficient knowledge regarding the safe administration of medications may be required to take a pharmacology course.

Suspension - A person who has been suspended may not practice during the period of suspension. A person who has been suspended has terms and conditions which must be fulfilled during the period of suspension, before being allowed to resume practice. Examples of terms and conditions may include completing a refresher course, psychological or substance abuse treatment in addition to other requirements. A licensee that has been suspended often has a period of probation following successful completion of the terms of suspension.

Revocation - This action prohibits the nurse/certificate holder from practicing for a minimum of five years, pursuant to A.A.C. R4-19-404. When a license/certificate has been revoked, the applicant for re-issuance must provide detailed information to the Board that the reason for revocation no longer exists and that the issuance of a license/certificate would no longer threaten the public health or safety. A.A.C. R4-19-404 or R4-19-815. The individual whose license/certificate has been revoked may not practice or otherwise indicate to the public that they hold a license/certificate.

Denial - A person (applicant) who has been denied a license/certificate may not practice and is not eligible to reapply to the Board for a period of five years.

Voluntary Surrender - A Consent Agreement has been signed in which an APRN, RN, LPN, CNA has voluntarily surrendered their license or certificate.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS**

Administrative Penalty - A penalty/fine given to a licensee or certificate holder who has worked on an expired license/certificate, or failed to notify the Board of an address change within 30 days. It is not reportable to NCSBN or other national data centers.

For discipline to be final and in effect, a person must either consent to the discipline by signing a "Consent Agreement". If the person does not want to sign the consent agreement, they will have an opportunity for a hearing. After a hearing is held at the Office of Administrative Hearings by an Administrative Law Judge, the Board Members will read the hearing transcript and determine the "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law", if any, that supports the board outcome and Board Order.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

The Call to Public is scheduled at each meeting to provide licensees, certificate holders and the public access to the AZBN Board Members and Staff. The Board President allows 5 minutes for each individual to address the Board regarding concerns, issues and/or questions. Anyone wishing to speak to the Board during the Board Forum is encouraged to complete a speaker request slip.

## **THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD AND MEETING FREQUENCY**

The Arizona State Board of Nursing consists of 11 members, appointed by the Governor, to typically serve a term of five years. Six members of the Board are Registered Nurses; which a minimum of one Registered Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Specialist, two are Licensed Practical Nurses, one Nursing Assistant or a Nursing Assistant Educator and two represent the public at-large.

The Board meets for 2 days approximately every 8 weeks. Meetings begin at 8 A.M. each day.

## **CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS**

### **RANDY QUINN, RN, MSN, CRNA, BOARD PRESIDENT – TERM EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2019**

Mr. Quinn is currently self employed as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. He has been a nurse for 12 years, is a graduate of Northland Pioneer College, received a BSN from Northern Arizona University, and an MS in Nurse Anesthesia from Texas Christian University. His areas of expertise or clinical interests are Anesthesia, Critical Care and Telemetry. Mr. Quinn's professional memberships include the Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthetists and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

### **THERESA (TERRI) BERRIGAN, LPN, C-AL, BOARD VICE PRESIDENT – TERM EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2018**

Ms. Berrigan is employed at Brookdale Senior Living in Mesa, Arizona. She has been a licensed practical nurse since 1990, has been working in Long Term Care for 27 years, is a graduate of Syracuse Central Technical Vocational Center, New York, and has been certified in Excellence of Care by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Her areas of expertise or clinical interests are Long Term Care, Alzheimer's, Assisted Living, Public Policy and Regulation. Ms. Berrigan's professional memberships include American Assisted Living Nurses Association (Arizona Chapter President) and the Arizona Assisted Living.

### **JANA MACHESKY, LPN -TERM EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2019**

Ms. Machesky has been employed as a Case Manager for Post-Acute Transitions at United Health Group, Mesa, Arizona. She has been employed in case management for 14 years and her current role is coordinating care and discharge planning with skilled nursing facilities and managed care companies. She is a graduate of Willow Street Vocational/Technical School in Lancaster County PA has been a licensed practical nurse since 1984.

Her past career experiences include correctional health nursing and chemical dependency; working with adults and adolescents. She has been certified as a HIV prevention counselor and level 2 chemical dependency counselor. She currently holds a professional membership in Case Management Society of America; CMSA.

### **CECELIA ANDERSEN, BSN, RN - TERM EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2022**

Ms. Andersen attended Graduate School at University of Washington for Psychiatric Nursing. She received her BSN in 1968 from the College of St. Theresa. She has 18 years of experience in adult/pediatric intensive care, coronary care unit, emergency room care and 14 years' experience as a Behavioral Health Administrator in three hospital programs. Ms. Anderson was involved in the ownership of Andersen Health Care Consulting that included startups for behavioral health projects and outpatient clinics. She is a Retired Administrator from the Department of Economic Security – Division of Developmental Disabilities

**LORI A. GUTIERREZ, MSN, RN-BC, - TERM EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2019**

Ms. Gutierrez is a graduate of Phoenix College Nursing Program, received a BS in Business from the University of Phoenix and MSN from Chamberlin College of Nursing. Her areas of expertise or clinical interests are Long Term Care: Education, Consulting, Training, Quality Improvement Processes, Federal and State Regulations, Survey Preparation. She is also interested in Pathways to Excellence, Education, ANCC Certification Courses for LTC Nurses, Competencies, and Training. Ms. Gutierrez's professional memberships include the American Association for Long Term Care Nursing, the Arizona Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, the Arizona Healthcare Association, Aging Services of Arizona, and the Arizona Chapter of the Assisted Living Federation.

**M. SHAWN HARRELL, RN, MS – TERM EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2018**

Ms. Harrell most recently worked for John C. Lincoln Health Network in Phoenix, Arizona, for 15 years. During her tenure at JCL, now known as Honor Health, she served as Director of College Nursing Programs for 8 years, working in partnership with Paradise Valley Community College and Grand Canyon University. She has also served as a Nursing Administrator for Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, and on the faculty of Arizona State University's College of Nursing. Ms. Harrell has a health care project management consulting business, Harrell Consultations. She is current Chair of the Arizona State Board of Nursing Education Advisory Committee. She earned an Associate Degree from Phoenix College, a BS from Idaho State University, and an MS from Arizona State University; all in nursing. Her areas of expertise are Nursing Education and Administration. She is the Editor of the Arizona Nurse, the official publication of the Arizona Nurses Association. Ms. Harrell's professional memberships include the Arizona Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, the Future of Nursing/Arizona Action Coalition, and the Arizona Action Coalition Education Task Force.

**MELINDA PRESTON, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC – TERM EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2019**

Dr. Melinda Pheanis Preston received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Psychiatric Nursing degrees from the University of Cincinnati. Experience following these degrees includes psychiatric staff nurse, charge nurse, head nurse, Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) for 17 years in both adult and pediatric settings including development of emergency psychiatric services and inpatient consultation. She received a Post-Masters Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate and later her Doctor of Nursing Practice in Psychiatry from Arizona State University.

Past experiences include being a psychiatric representative to The Cincinnati Child Abuse Team, co-teaching a course in Child Abuse for Social Workers. She was also the CNS for Menninger Phoenix for 5 years. Dr. Preston was the first nurse practitioner hired by Mayo Clinic, where she worked for almost 13 years in paving the way for others Melinda served on the ASU curriculum committee to develop the Arizona post-masters certificate for nurse practitioners and obtained her certificate as an ANCC Board Certified Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. She has also served as a voting member of two Institutional Review Boards, chaired Nursing Research Councils, Documentation Committees, and developed a Psychiatric Sitter course for St. Joseph's Hospital and Research for the Bedside Nurse course at Mayo Clinic. She has presented regionally and nationally on psychiatric issues and research and pursues her own continuing education.

Dr. Preston currently provides psychiatric consults and ongoing service at Foothills Neurology. In her practice she provides evaluation, medication management, and psychotherapy for individuals and couples as well as family therapy. Her special interests are patients with a variety of neurological disorders such as Multiple Sclerosis, migraine, and chronic pain. She treats patients with depression, anxiety, personality disorder, behavioral change in dementia and Parkinson's, delirium, psychosis, and bipolar disorders. Her research involves the co-morbidity of migraine and mood issues and use of continuing education to change clinical decision-making. She maintains an active drug research practice with NoesisPharma.

**LAJUANA GILLETTE – PUBLIC MEMBER – TERM EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2023**

Mrs. Gillette is a retired Real Estate Broker and Class A Contractor from California. Community service includes four term president of Havasu Mohave Community College Foundation Board, president of Paso Robles, member of WAHS Building Campaign Committee, member of State Board of Homeopathic Medicine and past member California Board of Realtors. LaJuana was also selected as the 2015 Woman of Year.

**ELIZABETH BOYER, RN, BSN – TERM EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2021**

Mrs. Boyer works with the pediatric population at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center. She received her BSN from Grand Canyon University in 2011 and her first nursing position was at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center (now known as Banner University Medical Center) in the Pulmonary/Medical-Surgical Unit. She was a preceptor for new graduate/new hire nurses, enjoying the teaching opportunity and growth she witnessed in others until her transfer to pediatrics in November of 2014. She is a volunteer at the Neighborhood Christian Clinic in Phoenix and has also served on short-term medical mission trips, traveling to Kenya, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras.

**Dr. CARMEN HILL-MEKOBA, DNP, APRN-BC TERM EXPIRES June 30, 2020**

Dr. Carmen Hill-Mekoba, DNP, APRN-BC is an adult and geriatric Nurse Practitioner. Over twenty years ago, she began her nursing career in the hospital working in cardiac and critical care areas. After leaving the hospital setting, she began working as a Workers Compensation Case Manager and progressed to the occupational health environment. As an occupational health nurse, she provided leadership to the Linden, New Jersey and Doraville, Georgia medical departments at General Motors Corporation for eight years. Thirteen years ago, she resigned from General Motors and incorporated her own business in which she provided medical house calls to the elderly and consultative services to corporations for wellness initiatives.

She is currently working in a leadership position as the Senior Vice President of Clinical Services for Matrix Medical Network which is organization that delivers innovative healthcare initiatives in the home, as well as the community. In her current role, she is responsible for 4000 Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Registered Nurses and other ancillary healthcare staff in 50 states. She also teaches nurse practitioner students at Simmons College of Nursing where she works as an adjunct faculty member. She has had adjunct faculty positions with Chamberlain University, the University of Texas at Arlington, and Boise State University.

She earned both my undergraduate and graduate degrees from Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. In 2010, she completed a post master's certificate at the University of Massachusetts in the Family Nurse Practitioner program. Additionally, in May of 2011, she graduated from Georgia Southern University with a doctorate degree in nursing practice.

Volunteerism and stewardship play an intricate role in Dr. Hill-Mekoba's life. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses. She has recently served as program chair for Hashtag Lunch bag in Phoenix which is an organization that coordinates events to pack and distribute bagged lunches to the homeless with inspirational notes of encouragement.

## **BOARD STAFF**

The Arizona State Board of Nursing consists of approximately 55 staff positions. The Executive Director, Associate Directors and Nurse Practice Consultants are typically masters-prepared nurses or have experience consistent with the role of nurse practice consultant. Senior Investigators, while not a nurse, most commonly have experience in conducting investigations and may have prior law enforcement background. Board nurse consultants and investigators are responsible for investigating complaints, implementing Board decisions, monitoring and reporting compliance of licensees or certificate holders subject to discipline or in CANDO, facilitating AZBN committees, assisting in the drafting of legislation and rules, surveying all nursing and nursing assistant programs and educating the public and nursing community regarding the Arizona Nurse Practice Act. The AZBN staff carries out the mission and the directives of the Board.

**AZBN staff** who commonly participate in Board meetings includes:

Joey Ridenour, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director  
Janeen Dahn, Ph.D., RN, FNP-C, Associate Director, Investigations & Monitoring  
Kathy Malloch, PhD, MBA, RN FAAN Associate Director Education & Evidenced Based Regulation  
Robert Ellis, BSIT, MBA, MPM, Associate Director Operations  
Valerie Smith, MS, RN, FRE, Associate Director – Hearing Department  
Cindy Mand, MSN, RN, Program Administrator  
Kathleen Harrington, MSN-INF, RN, Program Administrator Monitoring & Alternative to Discipline Programs (ATD)  
Judy Bontrager, MN, RN Scope of Practice  
Cindy George, BSN, RN, – Nurse Practice Consultant – Education  
Amy Steinbinder PhD, RN, NE-BC Education Program Administrator  
David Hrabe, PhD, RN, NC-BC Education Program Administrator  
Paulette Jones, MSN, RN, Nurse Practice Consultant  
Eileen Owens-Williams, DNP, PhD, APRN, CNM, FNP, AFN-BC, FAANP, Advanced Practice Nurse Consultant  
Kevin Rapkoch, BSN, Nurse Practice Consultant  
Kristi Hunter, MSN, FNP-C, Advanced Practice Nurse Consultant  
Loral Pultz, BSN, RN Nurse Practice Consultant  
Michael J. Pilder, MSN, RN, Nurse Practice Consultant  
Pat Midkiff, MN, RN, Nurse Practice Consultant  
Ruth Kish, MN, Nurse Practice Consultant  
Shawna Bonner, BSN, RN Nurse Practice Consultant  
Stephanie Chambers, MN, RN, Nurse Practice Consultant  
Bonnie Richter, MSW, Senior Investigator  
David R Elson III, Senior Investigator  
Dolores Hurtado, Senior Investigator  
Frank Curatola, Senior Investigator  
Jennifer Ingram, Senior Investigator  
Kirk Olson, Program Manager  
Michelle Morton, Senior Investigator  
Pam Millben, Senior Investigator  
Pete Wittenberg, Senior Investigator  
Stephanie Cruz, Senior Investigator  
Susan Bushong, B.A. Senior Investigator  
Brent Sutter, Senior Investigator – ATD  
Naira Kutnerian, Legal Assistant/Investigator  
Trina Smith, Legal Assistant – Hearing Department

\*Elizabeth (Beth) Campbell, and \*Sunita Krishna Assistant Attorney's General, are employees of the State Office of the Attorney General who are assigned to the Board of Nursing.

Emma Mamaluy, Chief Legal Counsel, is employed by the AZBN.

*\* Occasionally there is a representative advisor present from the State Office of the Attorney General. The advisor is present to give the Board independent legal advice when, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Krishna are representing the State of Arizona in a case.*