



## Arkansas Department of Health

## Arkansas State Board of Nursing

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
Jennifer A. Dillaha, MD, Director
Renee Mallory, RN, Interim Secretary of Health
Sue A. Tedford, MNSc, APRN, Director

## BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

TIME AND PLACE:

June 9, 2022

Benton Event Center, 17322 I-30N, Benton, AR 72015

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 

Lance Lindow, RN; Stacie Hipp, APRN; Janice Ivers, MSN, RN,

CNE; Neldia Dycus, BS, MHSM, MHRD, RN; Jasper Fultz, LPN;

Melanie Garner, LPN, CLC;

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ramonda Housh, MNSc, APRN, CNP, C-PNP

STAFF ATTENDING

AT VARIOUS TIMES:

Sue A. Tedford, Director, MNSc, APRN David Dawson, General Counsel, JD

Ashlev Fisher, Attorney Specialist

Lisa Wooten, Assistant Director, MPH, BSN, RN

Shannon McKinney, Assistant Director, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC

Janet Simpson, Program Coordinator, MSN, RNP, RNC-MNN

Leslie Suggs, Executive Assistant to the Director LouAnn Walker, Public Information Coordinator Albert Williams, Information Systems Coordinator

President Lance Lindow called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A flexible agenda was declared.

## I. BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING AGENDA

A copy of the agenda for the day along with a copy of the corresponding hand-outs are attached.

David Dawson, JD, ASBN General Counsel, presented on Medication Assisted Treatment. As of April 5, 2022, the Department of Justice announced guidelines on how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects people with opioid use disorder (OUD) who are in treatment or recovery, including those who take medication to treat their OUD. After discussion, the following recommendations were made and will be presented to the full Board during July 2022 Meetings:

- Rescind Policy III-40 Methadone or Buprenorphine Use in a Treatment Plan;
- Individuals scheduled for board hearings taking specific medications should have a neuropsych evaluation, disability documentation, and a current PMP; and
- Schedule speaker to provide the Board with education on the safety of a nurse practicing while taking medications for MAT.

Sue Tedford, MNSc, APRN, Director, presented on the Complaint and Investigative process. After discussion, the following suggestions were made:

- Add an additional question on initial applications for licensure related to convictions being sealed, expunged, or pardoned;
- Do not issue a Letter of Warning (LOW) for examination applicants if the conviction was prior to enrollment in the nursing program;
- Continue issuing a Letter of Warning for endorsement applicants if the conviction/plea occurred after issuance of their first nursing license; and
- Licensed nurses be issued a LOW for Class B and C misdemeanors and Letter of Reprimand (LOR) for felonies and Class A misdemeanors.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Lance Lindow, President

Leslie Suggs, Recording Secretary

Date Approved