

September 21, 2004


Board Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC SESSION: The Wyoming State Board of Nursing held a special meeting by teleconference on September 21, 2004, at the Board of Nursing office located at 2020 Carey Avenue, Suite 110, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

**Voting numbers on all decisions and motions are as follows:
IN FAVOR - OPPOSED - ABSTAINING - ABSENT**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Wyoming State Board of Nursing was called to order by President Merrill at 1:05 p.m., Tuesday, September 21, 2004.

ROLL CALL: President Merrill took the roll call.

Board Members Present by Telephonic Conference:

Baerbel Merrill, BSN, RNC, President, Gillette
Karen Ouzts, PhD, RN, Vice President, Laramie
Bernadine Davis, LPN, Secretary, Douglas
Shirley Harris, RN, MSN, MBA, Member, Cheyenne
Parry Davison, CRNA, MS, Member, Kemmerer
Kim Williamson, LPN, Member, Torrington

Board Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Cheryl Koski, MN, RN, Executive Director
Mary Calkins, Ph.D., RN, Assistant Executive Director/Practice & Education Consultant
Kathy Marquis, JD, MSN, FNP-C, Compliance Consultant
Rita Pouppirt, Executive Assistant

Staff Members Absent:

Kennard Nelson, Assistant Attorney General

Visitors Present:

None

DECLARATION OF QUORUM: President Merrill declared a quorum present, noting for the record that no Consumer Representative has been appointed.

DISCUSSION REGARDING GERIATRIC AIDES & MEDICATION AIDES:

Ms. Koski initiated a discussion regarding ongoing legislative actions regarding Geriatric Aides and Medication Aides, and in particular, related developments in the last twenty-four hours.

A Geriatric Aide Bill is being developed by Senator Tex Boggs where the supervisor of the Aide is required to be licensed in any health profession in Wyoming, but the supervisor is not required to be present. The idea behind the Bill is to help address patient neglect in nursing homes, as well as the nursing shortage. Linda Mink and Marlene Ethier met with Senator Boggs yesterday. Senator Boggs informed Ms. Mink and Ms. Ethier that he would withdraw the Geriatric Aide Bill if the nursing profession would support Medication and Feeding Aides. He said his short term goal is to support Medication Aides and Feeding aides with a five year sunset date. Long term goals would include:

September 21, 2004

- Funding for a study to look at nursing issues such as retention, and whether to continue medication and feeding aides.
- Lobbying for the study
- Lobbying for Magnet Status, with increased reimbursement for facilities who adopt Magnet Status
- Encourage Long Term Care facilities to identify students to sponsor, who would then agree to work for them.

Nurse Educators of Wyoming will not support the Geriatric Aide or Medication Aide Bills. They feel it is essential to study Long Term Care and Long Term Care needs in general.

The Board members discussed various issues regarding the effect of Geriatric Aides on nursing, the problems of adequate supervision, and regulation. In addition, an educational program of 12 months would be required for the Geriatric Aides, but the training is not transferrable to a nursing degree. Even though the Board members had read the proposed Bill, they agreed that they did not have enough information at this time in order to make a decision on whether they would be willing to regulate Geriatric Aides. There are many unanswered questions about the scope of their duties, the curriculum, and whether or not an LPN would be better equipped to handle the duties. All expressed concern for the protection of the public, which is the Board of Nursing's mission.

Draft motions regarding Geriatric Aides and Medication Aides were discussed.

President Merrill and Dr. Calkins will attend the Legislative Labor and Health Committee meeting on Friday, September 24, 2004 at 8:00a.m. in Casper, where the Bills will be discussed and possibly passed through the Committee. If passed, they will go on to the Legislative session in January as Committee Bills. Ms. Harris and Ms. Davis will also try to attend the Committee meeting, but may not be able to because of prior commitments.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by President Merrill at 2:32 p.m. on September 21, 2004.

Submitted by:

//SIGNED//
Rita Pouppirt, Recorder

//SIGNED//
Baerbel Merrill, BSN, RNC, President

//SIGNED//
Karen Ouzts, PhD, RN, Vice President

//SIGNED//
Bernadine Davis, LPN, Secretary