



Iowa Board of Nursing
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CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

March 24, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Electronic Meeting: On March 19, Governor Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, wherein she temporarily suspended the regulatory provisions of Iowa Code section 21.8 "Electronic Meetings" to the extent the statute prevented a governmental body from holding a meeting by electronic means. Consistent with this Proclamation, conference call instructions for members of the public to participate in the open session portion of the meeting were provided on the agenda.

Board in Attendance

Gwen Suntken, RN, Chairperson
Kathryn Dolter, RN, PhD
B.J. Hoffman (Joined the call at 3:02 p.m.)
Mark Odden, ARNP
Sue Putnam, LPN

Board Members Excused

Nancy Kramer, RN, Vice Chairperson

Staff

Kathy Weinberg, RN, Executive Director
Laura Hudson, RN, Associate Director
Jimmy Reyes, RN, Associate Director
Tessa Register, Assistant Attorney General
Tracey Westby, Enforcement Secretary

Audience

Kendra Ericson, Des Moines Area Community College

Kathy Weinberg took the roll call of individuals on the phone. She acknowledged that several other individuals were on the call and during the public comment period she would list the nursing education programs and get their names.

Chairperson Gwen Suntken called the electronic meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The public comment period statement was read.

On a motion by BJ Hoffman, the Board voted to adopt the agenda.

PETITION FOR WAIVER

Gwen Suntken introduced the topic of the Petition for Waiver of Rule 2.10 (7) a. submitted by Des Moines Area Community College.

Board member Kathy Dolter expressed her concerns about the request to use simulation exceeding 50% of the total clinical hours in a course. She cited 655 2.1(7) "Nursing programs with simulation components shall (a) ensure that the simulation component does not exceed 50% of total clinical hours in a course." She stated the petition was asking the Board to allow substituted simulation activities, virtual and video that greatly exceeds the 50% requirement that exists for high fidelity simulation.

Kathy Dolter stated the petition does not address the evidence to support the use of substitute virtual and video activities, does not have a method of debriefing for each simulated activity, or a plan for orienting faculty to simulation. Dr. Dolter cited the NCSBN study on simulation and published in the *Journal of Nursing Regulation* in July 2014, which concluded and provided substantial evidence that up to 50% simulation can be effectively substituted for clinical experience in all pre-licensure core nursing courses *under condition comparable to those described in the study*. Dr. Dolter did not believe the petition's proposed simulation curriculum met the standard for high-fidelity simulation. She asked the Board to obtain any research that identifies evidence regarding the impact of substitute simulations such as virtual or video case studies on nursing student outcomes.

BJ Hoffman concurred with Kathy Dolter. He stated that simulation is not at the level of clinicals and with the variation of simulation capabilities among the schools, he is not in favor of this petition. Mr. Hoffman expressed fear that we will compromise patient safety and this is not how he would want his family members treated.

Mark Odden, nurse practitioner and CRNA, acknowledged the comments of Kathy Dolter and BJ Hoffman. He stated the importance of simulation in healthcare, but does not feel that it should be a major part of the education process.

Sue Putnam stated that all students learn differently and she did not have an opinion either way about the use of simulation.

Chairperson Suntken supported Kathy Dolter's statement and voiced concern about the quality of nurses we will produce using simulation over clinical experiences.

Kendra Ericson thanked the Board for convening to consider the DMACC petition. She asked the Board to consider the petition as a temporary waiver for use during the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that the petition is not intended to change the long term educational modalities used in nursing programs. Kendra Ericson said that she has 100 graduates ready to enter the workforce in the next five weeks. She continued that these student have met 551 of their required 675 clinical hours. She is asking for the waiver to allow them to complete their final 124 hours using virtual simulation. Ms. Ericson stated that the DMACC clinical simulation center is approved by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH): The only one in the state.

Ms. Ericson has support statements from the SSH, the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL), the Association of Standardized Patient Educators (ASPE) and the National League for Nursing (NLN) to use virtual simulation during the COVID-19 crisis to educate healthcare workers and students. She stated this is not long-term but she does not want to halt getting workers into the workforce. Kendra Ericson described the simulation experiences, faculty involvement and holding the scenarios virtually. In the final weeks, Ms. Ericson said they are asking these students to show prioritizing, leadership, critical thinking; and in every scenario, patient safety.

Public comment was opened. Roll call was taken by Kathy Weinberg.

Allen College

Briar Cliff

Clarke University

Coe College

Dordt University

Eastern Iowa Community College – Lori Haugen expressed agreement with Kendra and the rule should be waived for the graduating class at this point.

Graceland University

Grandview University

Hawkeye Community College

Indian Hills

Iowa Central

Iowa State

Iowa Valley

Iowa Wesleyan

Iowa Western Community College

Kirkwood Community College – Board member Kathy Dolter, no further comment.

Luther

Mercy College of Health Sciences

Morningside College

Mount Mercy

North Iowa Area Community College – Lori DeGroot asked for direction for all nursing programs and a little more interpretation of things. The Chapter 2 rules talk about simulation and it does not clarify; she agrees with best practices and the research.

Northwest Iowa Community College

Northwestern

Purdue University – Andrea Gibson with Purdue Global echoed the concerns the Dr. Ericson shared. Purdue Global is on a 10 week rolling admission cycle and every 10 weeks admit new student and students then progress to the next set of nursing major courses. Limiting clinical site availabilities will influence their students' ability to complete the program and influence progression. She expressed concern about students and the workforce. She supports the temporary waiver for all nursing students until restrictions at clinical sites are lifted.

St. Ambrose

Southeastern Community College

Southwestern Community College

St. Luke's

University of Dubuque

University of Iowa – Dean Julie Zerwic did not have any comments to add.

Upper Iowa University

Western Iowa Tech – Kelly Flack stated she would like some more clarifications about simulation as Lori stated. Before the final decision is made, she wants to know if this decision is only for registered nurses, or is this also for graduating licensed practical nurses.

Waldorf University

William Penn

The roll call of nursing schools was completed.

Kathy Weinberg asked if anyone else was on the line and wanted to comment. Jackie Barber from Morningside missed her call out and added that she wanted more clarification on simulation and high fidelity simulation for programs moving forward.

Chairperson Suntken asked AAG Register some clarifying questions about the petition for waiver and stated her concern about making any motions until the petition was revised and reworded. She also clarified that the petition would apply only to DMACC and no other colleges. AAG Register described the scope of the waiver and stated that the board could make it narrower and allow only the graduating students for the DMACC request. She described Iowa Code Chapter 17A waivers of regulatory provisions are specific to persons who requested it, so granting this waiver would not allow any other programs to disregard the requirements of the rule.

The Board decided to table the issue and requested additional information and resources before voting on the petition. They discussed adding additional calls to deal with the approval of this petition after modification and other COVID-19 issues. The Board asked Kathy Weinberg to work with Kendra Ericson to get the additional information.

4:03 p.m. On a motion by Mark Odden, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.