

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: BEDFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRACTICAL NURSING
 EDUCATION PROGRAM
 Program Code: US28107300
 Case Number: 186370**

RATIFICATION AND ORDER

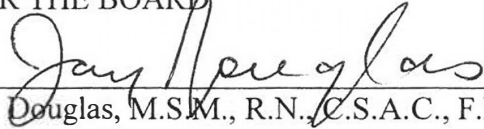
On May 15, 2018, a panel of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Education Special Conference Committee. Bedford County Public Schools Practical Nursing Education Program was not present nor represented by legal counsel.

In consideration whereof, the Board of Nursing ACCEPTS the attached Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Education Special Conference Committee and ADOPTS the Recommended Order in its entirety.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Bedford County Public Schools Practical Nursing Education Program may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on June 27, 2018, notify Jay P. Douglas, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that it desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:



This Order shall become final on June 27, 2018, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: BEDFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 PRACTICAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM
 Program Code: US28107300
 Case Number: 186370**

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF EDUCATION SPECIAL CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE**

Jurisdiction and Procedural History

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), the Education Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) held an informal conference on May 2, 2018 in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Bedford County Public Schools Practical Nursing Education Program (“Bedford County PN”) may have violated certain regulations governing the operation of a practical nursing education program in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The program was represented at the informal conference by Tara Smith, R.N., B.S.N., Program Director. Also present on behalf of the program were Kim Halterman, Principal of the Bedford County Career and Technical Education Center, and Anthony Francis, Director of Secondary Programs for Bedford County. The program was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and recommends that the Board adopt the following Order.

Notice

By letter dated April 3, 2018, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Bedford County PN notifying it that an informal conference would be held on May 2, 2018. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board.

Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

1. Bedford County Public Schools Practical Nursing Education Program was approved to operate a practical nursing education program in May 1976. The program was placed on conditional approval in 2016 following two years of NCLEX passage rates below 80%.
2. Board staff conducted an NCLEX site visit in May 2017 and a survey visit in October 2017.
3. Bedford County PN violated 18 VAC 90-20-132(A)(1) and (10) and 18 VAC 90-20-151 of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (currently found at 18 VAC 90-27-140(A)(1) and (10) and 18 VAC 90-27-210 of the Regulations for Nursing Education Programs, effective February 24, 2017) in that its pass rate for first-time test takers of the NCLEX-PN was below 80 percent for the past three calendar years.
 - a. In 2017, the pass rate was 70%.
 - b. In 2016, the pass rate was 78.57%.
 - c. In 2015, the pass rate was 71.43%.
4. At the informal conference, Ms. Smith stated that she and other faculty all started employment with Bedford County PN in 2017 and acknowledged that all had a need for additional professional development in the area of nursing education.
5. Bedford County PN presented evidence that the program has strengthened its admission criteria and made improvements to the curriculum and to the support it provides to students.
6. The program provided evidence that it enjoys strong support from the school system and its community partners.

Recommended Order

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Committee recommends that the Board issue an Order as follows:

1. Bedford County Public Schools Practical Nursing Education Program is CONTINUED on CONDITIONAL APPROVAL based on compliance with the following terms and conditions:

a. Bedford County PN's NCLEX passage rate for first-time test takers for Calendar Year 2018 shall be 80% or above.

b. Within 60 days of entry of this Order, Bedford County PN shall provide a copy of this Order to all current and prospective students and all faculty members and publish it on its website, if any.

c. Bedford County PN shall comply with the Board's regulations for maintaining an approved practical nursing education program, as evidenced by the completion of a survey visit report form which shall be submitted to the Board no later than December 31, 2018.

d. By no later than the end of Calendar Year 2018, Bedford County PN shall provide to the Board evidence that the program director and all faculty have attended relevant professional development in the area of nursing education.

2. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or any law or regulation affecting the operation of nursing education programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia may constitute grounds for the withdrawal of approval of Bedford County PN, and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether such approval shall be withdrawn.

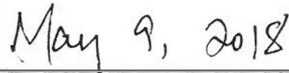
3. Upon review of compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order, the Board will further consider Bedford County PN's approval status, which may require its appearance before a Committee of the Board. Upon receipt of evidence of Bedford County PN's full compliance with all

terms and conditions of this Order, the Committee, at its discretion, may waive Bedford County PN's appearance before the Committee and may conduct an administrative review of this matter to determine restoring Bedford County PN's full approval status to operate a practical nursing education program without restriction, unless there is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation involving a violation of law or regulation.

Reviewed and determined to be consistent with the
Education Special Conference Committee's Decision



Jodi P. Power, R.N., J.D.
Deputy Executive Director



Date

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing