

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**INDIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

on  
**Thursday, September 7, 2023**  
at 8:30 a.m.

**\*TO BE HELD THROUGH WEBEX\***  
**TO JOIN, CALL: (240) 454-0887**  
**or LOG ON: [indiana.webex.com](https://indiana.webex.com)**  
**MEETING CODE: 172 253 3540**

**Administrative Law Judge:**

Jennifer Miller, MSN, RN (Personal Appearances 5-28 and 35)  
Angela Morris, MSN, RN (Personal Appearances 1-4, 29-34, and 36-46)

**PLA Staff:**

Nicholas Hart  
Dinena Moore  
Kayla Perkins  
Rose Kremple  
Rebecca Tinsley  
Catherine Briney  
Toni Herron

**Advisory Counsel:**

Donald Hannah  
Claire Dyer

**I. Personal Appearances**

1. Kate Weiler: FTA
2. John Gross: Gross appeared for a positive response on an initial application for licensure. He has a criminal plea for OWI. Probation set to complete February 3 or 4, 2024. The ALJ recommended allowing Gross to test with license issued on probation for length of the criminal probation, quarterly reports, signed board orders.
3. Joshua Mendoza - VACATED
4. Zakiyah Rahman: Rahman appeared for a positive response on her RN application. She currently holds an LPN in Indiana. The positive response related to a workplace termination. The ALJ made a recommendation to allow Rahman to test with issuance of license free and clear.
5. Ineicha Robinson: Robinson appeared for a positive response on her initial application. She had an OWI. Her BAC was .08. She reports that her criminal case is complete. She reports that she does not have an alcohol problem and only drinks once per month or so. She reports no issues at work. The ALJ recommended issuance of license free and clear.
6. Linda Frye: Frye appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She was represented by attorney Carol Dillon. Dillon reported that the positive response was related to a pending malpractice case and that it is new and she probably didn't even need to provide a

positive response. There is no judgment against her. The ALJ makes a recommendation to renew free and clear and make a referral to OAG.

7. Natalie LaRosa - CONTINUED
8. Amanda Newman: Newman appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She was arrested for OWI. Her BAC was 0.2. She was convicted of reckless driving, not OWI. She expects that her criminal case will be complete in January 2024. The ALJ makes a recommendation to renew the license on probation due to the existing criminal probation. Probation for length of criminal probation, signed board orders, quarterly reports, keeping the Board informed of her information and that of her employer, active nursing practice for term of probation.
9. Lindsay Reich: Reich appeared on a positive response on her renewal application. She has an agreed order of discipline with the Kentucky Board that includes UDSEs and checkins. She has discipline on her KY license. She also holds this IN license. She reports that she has been compliant with the KY order and has no issues in monitoring. She lives and works in KY as a nurse navigator for a pediatric practice. They are aware of her license discipline. The ALJ recommends renewing her license on probation for length of KY discipline. May petition once KY discipline ends. Signed orders, quarterly reports, and document completion of her KY license, provide reports from Affinity, have her contact ISNAP.
10. Aaron Mojica - CONTINUED
11. Deborah Wisniewski: Wisniewski appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She disclosed that she had a criminal case for a “domestic matter” related to her boyfriend cheating. She reports that it was “labeled as stalking.” She reports that the criminal case has been successfully closed. The ALJ recommends renewal of license free and clear.
12. Shao-yu Wang - CONTINUED
13. Amy Leach: Leach appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She reported that she was convicted of OWI in May 2023 by plea. BAC was .195. She no longer drinks alcohol. The incident was in February 2023. She also graduated with her master’s degree in May 2023 and passed boards in August 2023. She expressed regret and embarrassment over the situation. She reports being in compliance with her probation. Her probation is set to end in May 2024. She works as a CNS and her employer is aware of the criminal issue. The ALJ recommends renewal on probation for length of criminal case, signed board orders, quarterly reports. No ISNAP evaluation required. Active practice for length of probation. Compliance with criminal probation and submit info about successful completion.
14. Jody Still: Still appeared for a positive response on his renewal application. OWI conviction/diversion from August 2023. Still remains on criminal diversion. Still is not aware of his BAC. Still reports drinking once or twice a week. He reported making a lapse in judgment due to a bad day at work. He reported that he blacked out the night of the OWI. He expressed regret. Still’s employer is aware of criminal matter. The ALJ recommended probation – 6 months active practice or length of criminal probation, quarterly reports, signed board orders. ISNAP eval and enroll if recommended.
15. Pamela Hartig: Hartig appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She reported a termination from a position as a home care nurse with a special needs client. She was with the client since 2018. She was going through a stressful time and fell asleep (or closed her eyes, according to Hartig) next to her client (who was also napping). She was terminated for this but felt that it was in retaliation for a complaint she filed against the agency. She then got a job at a drug rehab where she felt she received insufficient training and was ultimately terminated due to making a couple of med errors. One was charting and one was giving the wrong drug (or maybe right drug, wrong dosage) to a patient. However, she

discovered the error before the patient ingested that med. She immediately reported that error. However, she was terminated. She has since returned to home care with children. They are aware of her past terminations and she has The ALJ recommended renewal on probation for 6 months of active practice. 6 CEUs in documentation. Quarterly reports and signed board orders.

16. Juliya Soldyshev: Soldyshev appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She disclosed that in May 2016 she was working as a CRNA and had a malpractice case due to a bad patient outcome related to an emergency intubation. The malpractice trial occurred in 2022. The jury ruled in favor of the patient. The patient has no long-term health consequences. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear.
17. Rebecca Jackson: Jackson appeared with her attorney Rick Weil. Weil indicated that the positive response was a mistake and that she has been dismissed from a malpractice case. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear.
18. James Bennett: Bennett appeared for a positive response on his renewal application. He was previously on probation with the Indiana board and withdrawn from that status in 2015. Based on the Indiana discipline, his Tennessee license was reinstated on probationary status in 2022. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear since the discipline is all collateral from Indiana discipline. The ALJ recommended renewal of license free and clear. Mitigating factors: transparency, historical fulfillment of IN discipline, no other subsequent issues.
19. Louise Amberger: Amberger appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. The positive response is related to a malpractice case related to a patient with a pain pump. There was an issue with the pain pump and the patient had to go to the hospital emergently. EMS at the scene accused Amberger of allowing the patient to overdose. This occurred in California. Ultimately, the case was dismissed with a settlement. Amberger now lives in Indiana. She has worked in the same position in Indiana for 2 years without issue. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear.
20. Shelbie Hashem - CONTINUED
21. Karen Bengert: Bengert appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She reported a termination. She fell behind due to short staffing and she was terminated due to performing below standards. She is now working as a school nurse and has been since 2021. They are aware of her previous termination. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear.
22. Thomas Habimana: Habimana appeared for a positive response on his renewal application. The positive response was related to a malpractice case filed against him related to his work as a CRNA. The case was settled. The lawsuit had to do with a patient fall, not specifically Habimana's care of the patient as a CRNA. No workplace discipline historically or now. His current employer is aware of this lawsuit. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear.
23. Jason Phillip: Phillip appeared for a positive response on his renewal application. He had discipline from Arizona as a licensure denial in 2021 due to many criminal cases involving substance use and failure to enter into an agreed order. He has a 2023 licensure denial from California for the Arizona denial. As a result, Florida (home state) issued a reprimand and deactivated his compact license in 2023. Phillip is currently working on a contract in Indiana and is considering moving to Indiana. The ALJ recommended renewal on probation for no less than 1 year of active practice or length of RMA if a candidate, quarterly reports, signed orders, no unsupervised roles, ISNAP evaluation and enrollment if an RMA is recommended. Phillip agreed to the terms.
24. Biname Tshiefu: Tshiefu appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. The positive response is related to a termination while working as a director of nursing. Tshiefu worked at that facility for 5 years. She was told she was let go due to a bad survey result. She

never had previous discipline at the facility. She was never advised of the survey or how she could improve prior to termination. She has been looking for a job since her termination in July 2023. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear with a referral to OAG.

25. Janice Ceccucci: Ceccuci appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. Her positive response related to a civil case in New York that has been dismissed with prejudice. She also had a malpractice settlement for patient cosmetic issues related to removal of a fish hook. Ceccucci lives in New York and reports that license is free and clear.
26. Mia Amundson - CONTINUED
27. Mark Ramel: Ramel appeared for a positive response on his renewal application. Ramel was arrested for OWI in June 2023 and is currently on probation. He said he went to a bar for some beers, chicken wings, and karaoke. His employer is aware of the criminal case The ALJ recommended renewal of his license on probation for length of criminal probation or 3 months of active nursing practice whichever is longer, signed board orders, quarterly reports. Ramel agreed to these terms.
28. Blake Bennett: Bennett appeared for a positive response on his renewal application. Bennett's positive response related to a termination in January 2023. Bennett has Level I autism. He felt that his termination is related to social issues with coworkers. He felt that his autism was not taken into account as he did not ask for work accommodations at the time of hiring as he had done with previous employment. Bennett is currently working at an employer he has worked at PRN for the last 5 years. Bennett's administrator/boss was at the PA and indicated that she feels he is a good employee and provides quality care. She indicated that she has never had any issues with his interactions with staff or patients. A toilet could be heard flushing at this point in the PA. The ALJ recommended renewal of his license free and clear.
29. Candace Hiigli: Hiigli appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She was arrested in July 2022 for OWI. Her BAC was 0.4. She has been sober since her arrest. She is currently enrolled in a 5-year RMA with IPRP. She has a sponsor and attends AA and Caduceus. She has successfully completed her criminal probation. She currently works at Franciscan in Michigan City as has done so since 2009. Her employer is aware of her criminal case. The ALJ recommended renewal on probation for a minimum of 1 year of probation, quarterly reports, signed board orders, ISNAP compliance. Hiigli agreed to the terms.
30. Melissa Baughman: Baughman appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. The positive response was related to a tort claim as part of her work at the VA in northern Indiana. The settlement implicated Baughman because there was a delay in care due to a scheduling issue that was not her fault. To her knowledge, the patient did not have any negative outcomes. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear.
31. Nicole Bowman: Bowman appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She provided a positive response due to a criminal conviction for OWI in March 2022. She completed criminal probation in September 2022. Her BAC at the time of arrest was .16 and she was driving her friends. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear.
32. Jesse Garibaldi: Garibaldi appeared for a personal appearance on his renewal application. He was arrested for OWI, pleaded to reckless driving. He has been discharged from probation since February 2023. The ALJ recommended renewal of license free and clear.
33. Shawn McCue: McCue appeared with attorney Patrick Callahan for a positive response on her renewal application. The criminal case remains pending, but she has been charged with OWI. She refused breathalyzer and hasn't received the results of the blood test. The ALJ recommended renewal of the license free and clear with a referral to the OAG.
34. Monique Iverson: Iverson appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. Deputy Dyer advised Iverson of her 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment right. Iverson disclosed a pending criminal case

for shoplifting. She admitted to shoplifting a dress. Her employer is not aware of her criminal case. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear with a referral to the OAG.

35. Susan Wolfe: Wolfe appeared with Attorney Lorie Brown. Wolfe appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She disclosed that she was terminated while working as a travel nurse in Missouri. She was required to get a physical for work and ultimately didn't do so and changed the date on the previous year's physical paperwork. She ended up being terminated for this. She has completed continuing education in ethics and professionalism and submitted letters of reference. She is currently working as a nurse in Missouri and her current employer is aware of this issue. Attorney Brown disclosed the existence of a consumer complaint against Wolfe for this issue. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear with a referral to OAG.
36. Jennifer Bergen: Bergen appeared for a positive response on her initial application for licensure. She reported that she was arrested in 2016 for DUI endangering a person because she had her 3 children (2, 8, and 10 years old) in the car. She was under the influence of Xanax and did not have a prescription. She reported that she had been in drug addiction for 10 years prior to her arrest. She completed IOP and has maintained employment since this event. She is currently tapering off of Subutex. Bergen's employer is aware of her history. The ALJ recommended issuance on probation for a minimum of 1 year of active practice, signed board orders, quarterly reports, ISNAP evaluation and enter into an RMA if one is required. No unsupervised practice, no home health or other unsupervised roles.
37. Marjorie Spencer: Spencer appeared due to an application where she graduated in 2010 from nursing school. She has not passed NCLEX and has not gotten licensed elsewhere. She has taken NCLEX 3 times. The ALJ recommended denial of application due to length of time since graduation from the RN program.
38. Odilia Garcia: Garcia appeared on a positive response on her reinstatement application. Her license expired in 2009. Her criminal case was for "obstruction of highway by the introduction of alcohol" instead of a DUI. The criminal case is done as of 2010. She has maintained an active license in Texas. She holds licenses in several other states. She's never received license discipline. The ALJ recommended renewal free and clear.
39. Randi Zwerner: Zwerner appeared for a reinstatement application with a license that expired in 2019. The ALJ recommended reinstatement of her license with refresher course with clinical component.
40. Sarah Dowty: Dowty appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. She indicated that she was terminated. She is currently working at another employer and has had no issues. Her current employer is aware that she was terminated from her past employer. The ALJ recommended renewal of her license free and clear.
41. James Karanja: Karanja appeared for a positive response on his initial RN application. He was arrested for OWI with his daughter in the car. The ALJ recommends permitting to test free and clear with referral to OAG for possible renewal fraud and pending criminal case.
42. Tina Shapiro: Shapiro appeared for a positive response on her renewal application. Shapiro was convicted of OWI in 2021 and the case is now complete. She indicated that she was distracted due to her navigation system and that it was not alcohol related. The ALJ recommended renewal of the license free and clear.
43. Katrina Lareau: Lareau appeared on a positive response on her renewal application. Deputy Dyer advised Lareau of her 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights. She has a pending charge for OWI from September 2022. Her BAC was 0.2. There were no passengers in the car. She caused a car accident. No one was hurt. The last time she drank was a couple of weeks ago at a bachelorette party. She reports that she drinks every couple of weeks (between 1-3 drinks). She reports that

she doesn't use other drugs. Her current employers are aware of her criminal case. No work issues. The ALJ recommends renewal of her license free and clear with a referral to the OAG.

44. Cora Hendricks: Hendricks appeared for a positive response on her application for LPN license. She graduated from MedTech in 2014. She has an OWI that has concluded in 2018/2019. She has attempted NCLEX once shortly after she graduated. The ALJ recommended allowing her to test, with issuance free and clear.
45. Michael Orr: Cathy Dorvil appeared on behalf of Orr and asked for a continuance. The ALJ granted the continuance.
46. Tia Wagner: Wagner appeared for a reinstatement with a license that expired in 2019. Her license expired on summary suspension. She hasn't worked as a nurse since 2018. Her license expired on emergency suspension and a motion to dismiss was granted due to license expiration. She is still on methadone and has been since 2019. The ALJ asked that the Board be provided with additional documentation of her methadone treatment. She will be scheduled to appear before the full board.