



**Washington State Board of Nursing  
Discipline Subcommittee **MINUTES**  
June 18, 2024  
3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

**Committee Members Present:** Sharon Ness, RN, Chair  
Dawn Morrell, BSN, RN  
Quiana Daniels, GCertHealthSc, BS, RN, LPN  
Tiffany Randich, RN, Pro-Tem  
Michelle Dedeo, DNP, ARNP-CNS, ACCNS-AG, CCRN, CNRN, SCRN, Pro-Tem  
Molly Altman, PhD, CNM, MPH, FACNM, Pro-Tem

**Staff Present:** Catherine Woodard, Director, Discipline and WHPS  
Karl Hoehn, JD, Assistant Director, Discipline - Legal  
Grant Hulteen, Assistant Director, Discipline – Investigations and WHPS  
Rena Powell, Case Manager  
Barb Elsner, HSC  
Holly Palmer, HSC  
Margaret Holm, JD, RN, ad hoc  
Heidi Collins, Case Manager  
Lori Linenberger, Case Manager

1. **3:30 pm opening – Sharon**
  - a. Call to order – Digital recording announcement – *Sharon read*
  - b. Roll call of board members and staff - *performed*
  
2. **February 20, 2024 Minutes – Sharon**
  - a. In draft format until WABON approves at the July 2024 business meeting – *approved to move forward for final approval*
  
3. **Performance measures – June 2023-May 2024 – Catherine, Grant, Karl**
  - *This is the first meeting where we’re presenting the rolling trend charts instead of the double monthly charts like we did before.*
  - *As we go through these charts, I’d like you to think about anything else you’d like to see. I will point out the metrics we have reported on in the past and you can tell us what, if any of that information you’d like to continue to see.*
  - a. **Investigations – Catherine provided highlights of the three trend charts.**
    - *Previously reported average caseload per investigator, total investigations completed, number completed per investigator, number of cases open beyond timelines, and number of task backs assigned.*
    - *Dawn – would like to include additional data (action item)*
  - b. **Legal – Karl provided highlights of the three trend charts.**
    - *Previously reported average number of cases finalized per staff attorney; document drafting time; and work type complexity, which includes number of ARNP cases, cases finalized with a legal review only, by default or final order after hearing, or by STID, AO, or APUC.*
    - *Sharon – would like to include additional data (action item), at least the Legal Case Closures graph*
    - *Dawn – would like to include ARNP case information*
  - c. **WHPS – Grant provided highlights of the two WHPS and one SUDRP trend charts.**
    - *Previously reported numbers of out-of-state nurses in monitoring; caseloads per case manager; numbers of nurses employed; specific reasons for non-compliance.*
    - *Would like to see additional stats: Percentage of successful completions; out of state nurses in monitoring, caseloads per CM, number of employed nurses, generic non-compliance reasons (action item)*
  - d. **SUDRP**
    - *Previously reported reasons for SUDRP referrals and outcomes of the referrals.*
    - *Action item: add trend line for average cases reviewed*
  
4. **Bill Implementation and Rules Updates – Catherine, Karl, Grant**
  - a. **RCW 18.79.440 (SHB 1255) WHPS Stigma and Stipend program**
    - *Adena has been working with Ramneeta in IT and testing the ‘yes’ identifier on Provider Credential Search.*
    - *IT has not been able to remove it yet. They think they have a solution.*
    - *Adena continues to test scenarios with Ramneeta. IT has prioritized this work despite HELMS commitments.*
    - *Stipend Program - Accepting applications beginning June 1. WHPS received the first application on June 12 and we’ll move this to the SUDRP agenda for June 20.*
    - *We are prepared to submit the decision package for additional funding, which is \$900,000 for the next biennium. We are factoring in a modest growth rate, and*

*we recognize if we're really successful, we may run out of money. Absent the decision package, we'll still have an ongoing fund allotment of \$25,000 per year.*

**5. Procedure Review – Catherine, Karl**

- a. A40.03 Safe to Practice – Impaired Practice policy – Request to rescind
  - *This is an old procedure that, as we work our way through all the procedures to update them, we realize does not belong here. The topic of nurses not working while impaired is not our procedure, but rather belongs on our website under Practice. Debbie is going to add the information to their FAQs. I'm requesting the subcommittee to agree with our recommendation to rescind this procedure. With your approval, we will bring it to the full board on July 12<sup>th</sup>.*
    - *Approval to request to be rescinded at WABON business meeting in July – turn into a statement on the website.*
- b. A57.02 Substance Use Disorder Review Panel – update to include stipend financial assistance review
  - *This is a relatively new procedure. However, now that we're implementing the WHPS stigma/stipend program, we needed to add review of applications and determination of need to the list of SUDRP responsibilities. We also updated NCQAC to WABON.*
    - *Approval to move forward to WABON business meeting in July*

**6. WHPS Updates – Grant**

- a. Mental Health Monitoring
  - *The goal is to add a mental health monitoring component to WHPS. We envision this will include making resources available on our website and training the case managers to monitor mental health participants in the program. We cannot provide treatment, but we can monitor nurses for compliance who need treatment and anyone using medications for mental health disorders.*
  - *Approximately 70% of our participants in WHPS have a dual diagnosis of SUD and mental health disorder.*
  - *Reviewed the suicide prevention program from South Carolina. UW Veterinarians have a great program. Collecting information from AFSP (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention).*
  - *Working with WPHP (physician's program) as a resource for our program.*
- b. Medical Director – Daniel Roa, DNP, ARNP
  - *Daniel will begin June 17 and will overlap Dr Beck for two weeks. Dr Beck is retiring from the medical director position on June 30.*
  - *Daniel works as a practitioner in Clark County and is well educated in SUD and mental health disorders. Comes with a lot of history/education.*
- c. Mentor Program – Documents for Review – Grant reviewed
  - *The WHPS team desires to engage in a mentorship program for nurses who have successfully completed the program to mentor new nurses joining the program.*
  - *Heidi Collins and Lori Linenberger organized the structure of the program. SUDRP reviewed the program components, made some edits, and now it's ready for your review.*
  - *The mentorship program is developed for graduate nurses to assist new nurses in the program to gain traction and understanding of WHPS expectations, requirements, the online monitoring system (Recovery Trek), testing, and*

*employment questions. It is intended to supplement the peer support group experience, to provide one-on-one support.*

- *The mentorship program is not a sponsorship. Mentors and mentees will not be involved in any financial relationship. Mentors are volunteers and are not paid for their service.*
- *If at any time the mentor/mentee relationship becomes uncomfortable, either party can terminate it.*
- *Legal drafted the consent for release of confidential information and volunteer non-disclosure agreement.*
  - *Approval to move the documents forward for approval at WABON July Business Meeting. (Action Item)*

**7. Joy in Practice Conference Update – Grant** *(that’s the correct title, not Joy in Nursing as the agenda showed)*

a. Date, time, location

- *The conference will be held on October 4, 2024, at the Labor and Industries building in Tumwater.*

b. Speakers

- *Donna Cardillo, “The Inspiration Nurse,” is the keynote speaker. Elevating nurses to live and work at their highest potential. Donna is a humorist and master motivator who is going to uplift, energize, and motivate everyone in the room!*
- *A panel discussion will feature Penny Tovar (pro tem), Qiana Daniels (board member and entrepreneur), and Jeremy Aaron (founder of ANDS Nurse Consulting). The planning committee is looking to add a couple more people to the panel.*
- *HeartMath will present in a breakout session. They have developed practical solutions for relieving stress and anxiety, improving health and wellness, enhancing spirituality, and improving individual performance.*
- *Melissa Fraser (WHPS case manager) will talk about the WHPS program, and two graduates (Allison Wood and Shayla Holcomb) will talk about their WHPS experience.*
- *The agenda is still in the planning stage; the planning committee is hoping to add at least one more speaker.*

**8. Work plan – Sharon, Catherine – Catherine reviewed**

**9. Public comment – Sharon - No speakers**

**10. Anything for the good of the order? – All**

- a. *Sharon – would like to thank the staff for time and effort they put into their work.*

**11. Adjournment – 4:40pm**