



## Arkansas Department of Health

### Arkansas State Board of Nursing

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Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Renee Mallory, RN, BSN, Secretary of Health

Jennifer Dillaha, MD, Director

Sue A. Tedford, MNSc, APRN, Director

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

#### TIME AND PLACE:

February 27, 2025  
~~Board Conference Room~~ *Virtual*

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allie Barker, MSN, RN; Tabitha Lancaster, RN; Jamie Sims; Phillip Petty, RN; Cassie Gonzales, MNSc, APRN, FNP-BC; Veronica Harmon, RN; Barbara Hillman, BSN, RN; Robin Lambert, LNHA, LPN; Lakisha Young, LPN

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

#### STAFF ATTENDING AT VARIOUS TIMES:

Sue A. Tedford, Director, MNSc, APRN  
David Dawson, JD, General Counsel  
Jennifer Ivory, JD, Attorney Specialist  
Lisa Wooten, Assistant Director, MPH, BSN, RN  
Shannon McKinney, Assistant Director, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC  
Janet Simpson, ASBN Program Coordinator, MSN, RNP, RNC-MNN  
Kim Hooks, ASBN Assistant Director- ArNAP, MPH, BSN, RN  
Tammy Vaughn, Program Coordinator, MSN, RN, CNE  
Susan Moore, Computer Operator  
Mindy Darnier, Legal Support Specialist  
Corrie Edge, Administrative Analyst  
Lisa Mendenhall, Legal Support Specialist  
Kelly Doppelhammer, Legal Support Specialist  
Whitney Kinney, Licensing Coordinator  
LouAnn Walker, Public Information Coordinator  
Carla Davis, Licensing Coordinator  
Christine Lewis, Legal Support Specialist  
Andrea McCuien, Administrative Specialist II  
Ellen Harwell, Licensing Coordinator  
Cecelia Laman, Fiscal Support Specialist

#### Guests:

None

President Allie Barker called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Guests were welcomed and a flexible agenda was approved.

#### DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

General Counsel, David Dawson, represented the Board. Motions reflect the decisions of the Board reached in deliberation following the hearing of each case.

## ASBN MINUTES

February 27, 2025

Page 2

Shannon McKinney spoke to the Board about the addition of the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner national certification exam offered by the American of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board.

**MOTION:** I MOVE that the Arkansas State Board of Nursing approve the addition of the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner national certification exam offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANP-CB).

Brought by Allie Barker and seconded by Phillip Petty.

**PASSED**

**MOTION:** I MOVE that the Arkansas State Board of Nursing accept AANP-CB national certification as a psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner issued December 2, 2024 expiring December 1, 2029 to add an additional population specialty to APRN-CNP license number A006029, Nikita Coleman-Smith.

Brought by Allie Barker and seconded by Cassie Gonzales.

**PASSED**

**MOTION:** I MOVE that the Arkansas State Board of Nursing accept AANP-CB national certification as a psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner issued November 11, 2024 expiring November 10, 2029 as an applicant for initial APRN-CNP license for Mary Burr.

Brought by Allie Barker and seconded by Cassie Gonzales.

**PASSED**

### **MATTHEW JOSEPH BURROUS, NCSBN ID. 21053820, APRN LICENSE NO. A004724, RN LICENSE NO. R080934 and PAC NO. 9724 (INACTIVE)**

Respondent was not present for the proceedings before the Board and was not represented by counsel. David Dawson, General Counsel, presented a motion for Summary Suspension.

**MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION:** The Board's Prescriber Metrics Report indicated that during quarters three (3) and four (4) of 2022 and quarters one (1) and two (2) of 2023, Matthew Burrous was prescribing high amounts of pain medications. Burrous failed to respond to Board staff's request for additional information. Burrous worked at Optimal Pain and Wellness in Van Buren, Arkansas, from 2021 to 2023, with no approved collaborative practice agreement on file with the Board. On June 29, 2021, Burrous submitted a collaborative agreement for Optimal Pain and Wellness. Board staff sent a message to Burrous on the same day asking him to clarify his role. Burrous did not respond. The collaborative practice agreement was not approved. On March 24, 2022, Burrous submitted another collaborative practice agreement for Optimal Pain and Wellness. A message was sent to Burrous on the same day requesting him to correct an error. On March 31, 2022, a message was sent to Burrous asking him to describe the services provided at Optimal Pain and Wellness and what his role would entail. Burrous did not respond. That collaborative practice agreement for Optimal Pain and Wellness was never approved. Burrous worked at Wound Care Plus from September of 2024 to present, with no approved collaborative practice agreement on file with the Board. Burrous never submitted a collaborative practice agreement for approval, for his practice with Wound Care Plus. Burrous worked at Behavior Health Group in Fayetteville, Arkansas from March 2021 through June 2024, with no approved collaborative practice agreement on file with the Board. On April 6, 2021, Burrous submitted a collaborative agreement for Behavioral Health Group. Board staff instructed Burrous that he would need continuing education to reinstate

## ASBN MINUTES

February 27, 2025

Page 3

his prescriptive authority and asked for him to clarify his role at Behavioral Health Group. On April 8, 2021, after receiving clarification of the role Board staff told Burrous the role was outside his scope of practice as an adult/geriatric acute care Nurse Practitioner, and the collaborative practice agreement could not be approved. Burrous worked at both Optimal Pain and Wellness and Behavioral Health Group without the appropriate collaborative practice agreements on file with the Board and after being told the role was outside his scope of practice, specifically at Behavioral Health Group. Burrous failed to respond to questions related to Optimal Pain and Wellness which were most likely outside his scope of practice as well. On March 15, 2024, Burrous submitted a collaborative practice agreement for practice at Clouse Family Medicine. After clarifying the role, the collaborative practice agreement was denied for being outside Burrous's scope of practice. On June 27, 2024, Burrous submitted a collaborative practice agreement for practice at Advanced Healthcare NWA. After clarifying the role, the collaborative practice agreement was denied for being outside Burrous's scope of practice. Burrous did not have appropriate prescriptive authority. The only approved collaborative practice agreement on file was with Dr. Holden at Eagle Crest Recovery, approved May 24, 2021. The Chief Operations Officer at Eagle Crest confirmed with the Board investigator that Burrous never worked at Eagle Crest. Information and text messages provided to the Board investigator from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration indicate that Burrous was prescribing Cialis to an individual in exchange for receiving testosterone, a schedule III controlled substance. Nine complaints were received from Burrous's former employer, Behavioral Health Group in Fayetteville, Arkansas. These patient complaints reported that Burrous was sexually inappropriate with patients, requested dates and sex with patients, and improperly touched patients' bodies and breasts with his hands and mouth. Burrous would also ask patients to touch his genitals. Burrous made inappropriate sexual comments about female patient's bodies and implied that he would continue their medications in exchange for favors. Many patients began avoiding Burrous when they came to the clinic for treatment. During an interview with the Board investigator, Patient JJ stated that she was uncomfortable with Burrous after he spanked her during one of her visits. During an interview with the Board investigator, Patient MM stated that Burrous preyed on her and during a visit. Burrous pushed her against the wall, pulled up her skirt, and touched her inappropriately. Patient MM also stated that at least five times, Burrous masturbated behind the desk in front of her. Patient MM said that Burrous insinuated that he would pay her for sexual services. Burrous asked Patient MM to go to a hotel with him and she put up with this behavior out of fear of being cut off from her medication. During an interview with the Board investigator, Patient KR stated that on one visit, Burrous told her that he wanted to bend her over the table and asked her to meet with him after hours. Burrous texted her and offered to prescribe her medications in exchange for sexual favors. The investigator viewed the text messages and confirmed the phone number on the text messages matched the phone number for Burrous on file with the Board. During an interview with the Board investigator, Patient AnS stated that she stopped being seen by Burrous after he made a comment about her breasts that made her uncomfortable. During an interview with the Board Investigator, a Counselor employed at Behavioral Health Group stated that after the first patient came forward in counseling about sexual harassment inflicted by Burrous, "the flood gates have opened." There have been multiple complaints by about forty patients, many of whom are terrified to come forward. Many patients were afraid of not receiving their medications and some reported that Burrous told them that he can help them get other medications. In a letter sent to the Board investigator, Burrous denies exchanging written prescriptions and cash in exchange for testosterone. Burrous claimed that he

## ASBN MINUTES

February 27, 2025

Page 4

was unaware of the unapproved collaborative practice agreements. Burrous denied the allegations of sexual misconduct with patients. Burrous indicated that there may have been some boundary issues and that he did exchange text messages with patients, however, Burrous stated that he never touched any patients.

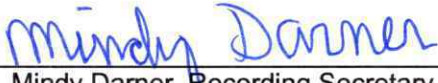
Brought by Allie Barker and seconded by Phillip Petty.

**PASSED**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.



Allie Barker, President



Mindy Darner, Recording Secretary



Date Approved