



Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas State Board of Nursing

1123 S. University Ave., #800 • Little Rock, AR 72204

(501) 686-2700 • Fax (501) 686-2714

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TIME AND PLACE:	June 3, 2026 Board Conference Room
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Allie Barker, MSN, RN; Tabitha Lancaster, RN; Phillip Petty, RN; Cassie Gonzales, MNSc, APRN, FNP-BC; Veronica Harmon, RN; Robin Lambert, LNHA, LPN; Katelynn Rougeau, RN; Lakisha Young, LPN; Jason Wallace, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Jamie Sims; Barbara Hillman, BSN, RN
STAFF ATTENDING AT VARIOUS TIMES:	Ashley Davis, Director, PhD, RN 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 Kim Hooks, ASBN Assistant Director- ArNAP, MPH, BSN, RN Udell Ward Jr., Regulatory Board Chief Investigator Tammy Vaughn, Assistant Director, MSN, RN, CNE Brandy Haley, Program Coordinator, PhD, RN, CNE Charissa McVay, Program Coordinator, MNSc, APRN, FNP-bc Darla Erickson, Administrative Services Manager Paul Bradshaw, IT Infrastructure Coordinator Christine Lewis, Executive Assistant to the Director Mindy Darnier, Legal Support Specialist Lisa Mendenhall, Legal Support Specialist Lou Ann Walker, Public Information Coordinator Elaine Wooten, Administrative Analyst Corrie Edge, Administrative Analyst Susan Moore, Computer Operator Keturah Urquhart, Administrative Specialist
Guests:	None.

President Allie Barker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Guests were welcomed and a flexible agenda was approved.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION 1: I MOVE the Arkansas State Board of Nursing approves the items on the Consent Agenda.

Brought by Allie Barker and seconded by Phillip Petty.

PASSED.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports were given by Committee chairs. Motions reflect committee recommendations.

A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tabitha Lancaster, Education Committee Chairperson, along with Brandy Haley, ASBN Program Coordinator, covered items for the Education Committee. The Committee approved their January 7, 2026, minutes and reviewed their strategic plan.

The following motions were presented:

MOTION 2: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing approves the use of the distance education site in Memphis TN for the Arkansas State University BSN and AD programs.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 3: I move the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing accepts the intent to close the University of Arkansas East Arkansas Community College Medication Assistant program effective June 3, 2026.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED

MOTION 4: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing grants continued Full Approval to the North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas AD program until 2031.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 5: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing grants Full Approval to the Arkansas Health Care Association PN program until the year 2029.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 6: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing moves the University of Arkansas at Pulaski Technical College CMA program to Conditional Approval due to failure to maintain a minimum 75% overall pass rate. The conditional approval status will be in effect until 2027 at which time the Board will re-evaluate the program's overall exam pass rate.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 7: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing grants Continued Full Approval to the Arkansas State University Bebee AD program until the year 2031.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster. and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 8: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing grants Continued Full Approval to the Arkansas State University Bebee AD program until the year 2031.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 9: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing grants Continued Full Approval to the John Brown University BSN program until the year 2031.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 10: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing approves the use of the distance education site in Rome Italy for the University of Arkansas Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 11: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing grants Initial Approval to the South Arkansas College AD Program.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 12: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing grant grants Initial Approval to the University of Arkansas at Rich Mountain AD program

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 13: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing grants approval to the Arkansas Health Care Association PN program to open a satellite campus in the Fort Smith satellite campus.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 14: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing approves the decrease in length of the Ozarka College Melbourne PN campus program from 18 months to 11 months following the same PN curriculum as other campus locations.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 15: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing accepts the curriculum changes to meet the requirements for requisite general education core courses from Act 566 of the 2025 Legislative Session for the Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium (ARNEC) AD program; Arkansas State University Three Rivers AD program; University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton AD program; University of Arkansas Cossatot AD program; and University of Arkansas East Arkansas Community College AD program.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 16: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing accepts the curriculum change allowing the move of the Northwest Arkansas Community College high school PN program from the Don Tyson School of Innovation to the already Board approved satellite campus in Springdale.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

MOTION 17: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing makes changes to the existing English exam required scores to follow the Health Resources and Services

Administration (HRSA) Updated list of Tests and Scores for Foreign Health Care Workers dated May 12, 2026, as recommended.

Brought by Tabitha Lancaster and seconded by the Education Committee.

PASSED.

B. PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Cassie Gonzalez, Practice Committee Chairperson, and Shannon McKinney, ASBN Program Director, presented items for the Practice Committee. The Committee approved their minutes of the January 7, 2026, meeting, and reviewed their strategic plan. The Practice Committee reviewed recommended changes in Position Statements. After discussions, there were no motions to present to the Board.

C. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Phillip Petty, the Finance Committee Chairperson, along with Darla Erickson, Administrative Services Manager, covered items for the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee approved their minutes from January 7, 2026, and purpose of their committee. The following motions were presented:

MOTION 18: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing approve the FY2027 Annual Operations Plan submitted on April 22, 2026, by ASBN to the Arkansas Department of Health – Budget Department.

Brought by Phillip Petty and seconded by Lakisha Young.

PASSED.

MOTION 19: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing approve the 2026 Control Self-Assessment for (0277) ADH – Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

Brought by Phillip Petty and seconded by Lakisha Young.

PASSED.

MOTION 20: I move that the ADH - Arkansas State Board of Nursing approve sponsorship of \$7,500.00 for the 2026 Stop OD Summit to be held November 17, 2026, at the Fort Smith Convention Center.

Brought by Phillip Petty and seconded by Lakisha Young.

PASSED.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Veronica Harmon, Chairperson for the Administrative Committee, and Ashley Davis, ASBN Director, presented for the Committee. The Administrative Committee approved their minutes from January 7, 2026, and reviewed the process going forward for the next Strategic Plan. After discussions, there were no motions to present to the Board.

III. STAFF REPORTS

A. UPDATED RULES STATUS

Ashley Davis gave an update on the *Rules* status. The *Rules* changes have been presented to the Public Health Committee and were approved. On June 15, the *Rules* changes will be presented to the Rules Committee.

B. CASE APPEAL STATUS

David Dawson reviewed the status of all pending appeals and shared that there have been no unfavorable decisions received.

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.

AMANDA ELAINE HERNANDEZ VANTASSEL, NCSBN ID. 23908063, LPN LICENSE NO. 222971

Respondent was not present for the proceedings before the Board and was not represented by counsel. Udell Ward, ASBN Chief Investigator, and Jamie Turpin, PharmD, provided testimony on behalf of the Board. An investigation commenced after the Board received a complaint reporting that Respondent was arrested for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of Controlled Substances. It was also reported that there were missing narcotics regarding Respondent's employment at Greystone Nursing and Rehabilitation in Cabot. Additionally, Respondent's residents had received incorrect medication or no medication. Facility records from Greystone Nursing and Rehabilitation indicate that Respondent received disciplinary warnings and one on one education regarding chronic absence and leaving the workplace without permission, processing orders in a timely manner, documenting properly, and failure to complete duties. Respondent's employment was terminated on September 18, 2025, for "theft from co-worker, never showed up to explain." The Board investigator reviewed ten (10) patient records from Respondent's residents. A total of 100mg of tramadol is unaccounted for. The investigator was unable to contact Respondent, using the contact information on file with the Board, to request that Respondent submit to a urine drug screen. On November 19, 2024, Respondent entered a negotiated plea of guilty to A.C.A. § 5-64-419(b)(1)(A) Possession of Controlled Substance Schedule I or II, Class D Felony in the Circuit Court of Pulaski County, Arkansas, Case No. 60CR-24-3511. Respondent was found guilty and sentenced to thirty-six (36) months of probation and received ten (10) days jail time credit, and payment of \$445.00 in fines and costs, random drug screening, drug treatment as needed, and Driver's License suspension. An additional charge of A.C.A. § 5-64-443(a)(1) Drug Paraphernalia, Class A Misdemeanor was Nolle Prossed. Board staff made numerous attempts to communicate with Respondent using the contact information on file with the Board, to discuss the criminal felony drug conviction, and to request that Respondent obtain a psychological/addictive evaluation. Respondent has failed to communicate with Board staff. A.C.A. 5-64-419 is part of the Uniformed Controlled Substances Act. A.C.A. 17-3-102 (a)(32), bars an individual from holding a Nursing license if they have plead guilty or been found guilty of a felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, unless the Board grants a waiver requested by Respondent. Respondent's nursing licenses will be revoked pursuant to Arkansas law, unless the Board grants a waiver of license revocation after a waiver request made by Respondent. A hearing will be scheduled, as outlined herein, to address the violations of the Arkansas Nurse Practice Act, and to give Respondent an opportunity to request a waiver of license revocation pursuant to A.C.A. 17-3-102 (b). If a waiver request is made, the Board may or may not grant a waiver, after consideration of the testimony and evidence presented. If a waiver request is not made, the Board will permanently revoke Respondent's Nursing licenses pursuant to the requirements of Arkansas Law.

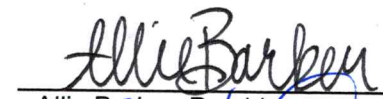
MOTION: I MOVE that based on the evidence presented and the allegations contained in the Order and Notice of Hearing, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing finds that the license of **AMANDA ELAINE HERNANDEZ VANTASSEL, NCSBN ID. 23908063, LPN LICENSE NO. 222971**, be suspended until Respondent appears before the Board and request a waiver for violations of Ark. Code Ann. § 17-87-309(a)(2) and (a)(6).

Brought by Allie Barker and seconded by Tabitha Lancaster.

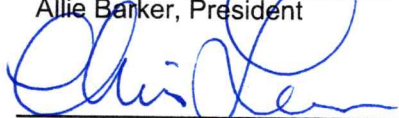
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PASSED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.



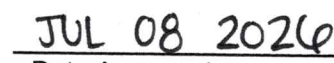
Allie Barker, President



Christine Lewis, Recording Secretary



Mindy Darner, Recording Secretary



Date Approved