

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF NURSING**

In the Matter of
Riverland Community College
Practical Nursing Program

**REPORT TO THE BOARD WITH CONSENT OF
PROGRAM REVIEW PANEL
RECOMMENDATION OF REPRIMAND**

The Riverland Community College Practical Nursing Program ("Program") and the Minnesota Board of Nursing Review Panel ("Review Panel") agree the above-referenced matter may be resolved without trial of any issue or fact as follows:

I.

JURISDICTION

1 The Minnesota Board of Nursing ("Board") is authorized pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 148.251 to approve nursing programs, survey approved programs to determine compliance with Board Rules and continue or revoke approval based on the determination of compliance or non-compliance.

2 The Program is currently approved by the Board and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board with respect to the matter referred to in this Recommendation of Reprimand.

II.

BACKGROUND

3 On March 27, 2025, Chris Wolf, MBA, MA, RN, Program Director, and Heather Conley, VP of Academics and Innovation, appeared on behalf of the Program at a conference with a Board Review Panel. The Review Panel was composed of Jessica Mieke, Board Member; Tracy Sönterre-Rieger, Board Member; Lynette How, Board Member; JaCinda Downs, Nursing Education Specialist; and Deborah Schuhmacher, Director of Nursing Education. The Program met with the Review Panel to discuss allegations contained in a Notice of Conference dated February 10, 2025. Erin Farmer, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Review Panel. Alec Sloan, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Program.

III.

FACTS

4. On December 27, 2024, the Board of Nursing Education Staff received information that the Riverland Community College Practical Nursing program used an associate degree-prepared faculty to fill a clinical vacancy.

5. On December 27, 2024, Board staff discussed information it received with the Program Director. The Program Director's response did not demonstrate that the Program ensured general principles for faculty include academic preparation for the areas in which they teach per Minnesota Rule 6301.2340 subpart 3.A(9)(a). The response did not demonstrate that all seven practical nursing faculty held a baccalaureate degree or higher in nursing per Minnesota Rule 6301.2340 subpart 3.A(10): "ensure practical nursing program faculty have a baccalaureate or graduate degree in nursing from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university recognized by the United States Department of Education, by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or successors, or by a comparable organization if the baccalaureate- or graduate-level degree is from a foreign country."

6. By letter dated January 7, 2025, the Board notified the Program of a survey scheduled for January 28, 2025, related to alleged non-compliance with Board rules. In preparation for the survey, the Program was asked to submit its fall 2024 practical nursing faculty assignments for all theory and clinical courses and Riverland Community College's faculty hiring policy and procedure.

7. On January 28, 2025, Board staff and a Board member conducted a survey of the Program and confirmed one member of the practical nursing faculty did not have the minimum academic credentials to teach in an approved practical nursing program in Minnesota. The results of the January 28, 2025, survey indicated that Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subparagraph 3.A(9)(a) and (10) were not met.

8. At the conference on March 27, 2025, the Program admitted that it did not comply with Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subpart 3.A(10), during the fall 2024 term. The Program provided

additional information satisfactory to the Panel that it was compliant with Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subpart 3.A(9)(a).

IV.

LAWS

9. The Program acknowledges that it did not comply with Minnesota Rule 6301.2340 subpart 3.A(10) as it pertained to Practical Nursing faculty hired to teach fall semester 2024 in the nursing program and justifies the action described in Section V. below.

V.

BOARD ACTION

10. The Review Panel and the Program agree the Board may take the following action: The Board **REPRIMANDS** the Program for its failure to comply with Minnesota Rules 6301.2340, subpart 3.A(10). This action does not change the Program's approval status, and the Program remains on the list of approved programs.

VI.

OTHER INFORMATION

11. By agreeing to this report and recommendation to the Board, the Program waives the contested case hearing before an Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings, and all other procedures to which the Program may be entitled under the Minnesota and United States constitutions, statutes, or rules.

12. The Program waives any claims against the Board, the Minnesota Attorney General, the State of Minnesota, and their agents, employees, and representatives related to the investigation of the conduct herein, or the negotiation or execution of this Order of Reprimand to the Board.

13. This Review Panel Recommendation of Reprimand, the files, records, and proceedings associated with this matter shall constitute the entire record and may be reviewed by the Board in its consideration of this matter.

14. Representatives of the Program have read, understand, and agree to this Recommendation of Reprimand, and have voluntarily signed it.

15. This Recommendation of Reprimand shall not limit the Board's authority to proceed against the Program by initiating a contested case hearing or by other appropriate means on the basis of any act, conduct, or admission not directly related to the specific facts and circumstances set forth herein.

VII.


**NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT DATA
PRACTICES ACT**

16. Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, information given to the Board following a compliance survey of a nursing education program is classified as public. This information will be used by the Board in evaluating the allegations of lack of compliance with one or more rules made against the program. This Reprimand Order, and any subsequent Board action on this matter, are also classified as public data.

17. This Recommendation of Reprimand contains the entire agreement between the parties, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies the terms of this Recommendation of Reprimand.

CONSENT:

RIVERLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM



CHRIS WOLF
Director of the Program



HEATHER CONLEY
VP of Academics and Innovation

Representatives of the Program

BOARD OF NURSING
REVIEW PANEL



JESSICA MIEHE
Board Member

Dated: April 18, 2025

Dated: June 5, 2025

ORDER

Upon consideration of this order, the Board issues the Program a **REPRIMAND** and adopts all of the terms described above on this 5th day of June, 2025.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF
NURSING

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Caren E. Gaytko". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G".

CAREN GAYTKO
Executive Director