

In the Matter of:

STATE OF MS. BOARD OF NURSING

MEETING, BUSINESS

April 12, 2024

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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON APRIL 12TH, 2024

BUSINESS MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Held at the Mississippi Board of Nursing,
713 South Pear Orchard Road, Suite 300,
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157,
on Friday, April 12th, 2024,
at approximately 11:05 a.m.

REPORTED BY:

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A P P E A R A N C E S

(continued)

MSBN ADMINISTRATION:

DR. PHYLLIS JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SHAN MONTGOMERY, CFO, CHIEF OF STAFF

DR. PRISCILLA BURKS,
DIRECTOR OF PRACTICAL NURSING EDUCATION

COUNSEL FOR THE MSBN:

DEANNE SALTZMAN, ESQ. (Not Present)
BRANDON WALKER, ESQ.
MSBN Assistant General Counsel
713 South Pear Orchard Road
Suite 300
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

1	TABLE OF CONTENTS	
2		PAGE
3	Title Page.....	1
4	Appearance Page.....	2-3
5	Table of Contents.....	4
6	Certificate of Reporter.....	60
7		
8	*****	
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 (WHEREUPON THE PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AS FOLLOWS:)

2 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Good morning,
3 and welcome to the Mississippi Board of
4 Nursing. This is our Board meeting.

5 At this time, before we begin, I would
6 like to ask Ms. Lacey Gentry to lead us in
7 prayer.

8 (Invocation)

9 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: So before we
10 begin this morning, I would like to start
11 with roll call, beginning to my left.

12 Mr. Castilla, if you will, please state
13 your name.

14 BOARD MEMBER MR. CASTILLA: Alveno
15 Castilla.

16 BOARD MEMBER MS. WALKER: Carly Walker.

17 BOARD MEMBER MS. MOODY: Janel Moody.

18 BOARD MEMBER MS. GENTRY: Lacy Gentry.

19 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: Dr. Melissa
20 King.

21 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: Jeremy
22 Cummins.

23 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Sandra
24 Culpepper.

25 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: Janie

1 Clanton.

2 BOARD MEMBER DR. DOTSON: Dr. Renia

3 Dotson.

4 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: Mary Stewart.

5 BOARD MEMBER NORRIS-JOHNSON: Nancy

6 Norris-Johnson.

7 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: And online on

8 Zoom we have Mr. T. J. Adams. Can you state

9 your name for us?

10 BOARD MEMBER MR. ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.

11 T. J. Adams, RN.

12 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: At this point,

13 I would like to declare a quorum.

14 The first item on the agenda is approval

15 of the agenda.

16 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I make a

17 motion we approve the agenda as reported.

18 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: I second.

19 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All those in

20 favor, say "aye."

21 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

22 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any opposed?

23 (No response)

24 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any abstain?

25 (No response)

1 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: The motion
2 moves forward.

3 At this point, we will have the open
4 forum.

5 Do we have anyone from the public that
6 would like to speak this morning?

7 All right. Moving forward, the
8 legislative update.

9 Mr. Bobinger?

10 MR. BOBINGER: Actually, the Mississippi
11 Senate worked up until not long ago this
12 morning. Shan, I'm kind of used to them
13 leaving early on Friday. I don't like that.

14 It's good to see y'all. And as y'all
15 might know, we have been very busy around the
16 Capitol with healthcare and a lot of other
17 issues.

18 I'll just start off mentioning the
19 Medicaid expansion bill is still alive.
20 There's a pretty good gap between the Senate
21 and the House position, but it is going to
22 conference. So we'll see what comes out of
23 that.

24 Obviously, a lot of effort was put on
25 behalf of, particularly, our professional

1 associations, advocating for full-practice
2 authority for APRNs. Unfortunately, that bill
3 did not come out of the House Committee, Public
4 Health Committee. It was brought up for a
5 vote. It was a very close vote. Quite
6 candidly, there were a couple of folks that
7 switched right there at the end, which can
8 happen sometimes, especially on a bill like
9 this.

10 Again, there's support out there for it,
11 but I still think there are some
12 misunderstandings, quite candidly, about really
13 what it does and what it doesn't do. And I
14 think there will just be a continuing effort to
15 try to educate and better inform those folks
16 and let them understand that everything you
17 hear is not exactly correct or accurate.

18 Anyway, a lot of our associations and,
19 certainly, the Board was supportive of the
20 people that we regulate and license. But we'll
21 continue on that journey.

22 I wanted to mention Senate Bill 2080. I'm
23 just going to quickly mention a few here. This
24 was the Midwifery Bill that would have actually
25 created a new, Dr. Johnson, I think, entity,

1 right, to regulate midwifery? That bill did
2 not pass, but it was introduced. It died. It
3 was Senate Bill 2080. Of course, we know
4 Senator Blackwell's Bill on the FPA was Senate
5 Bill 2377. Representative Scoggin's FPA bill
6 was House Bill 821. One that I think everybody
7 should pay attention to is House Bill 1640. I
8 call it the "omnibus mental health bill." It's
9 very important. It addresses several aspects
10 in our mental healthcare system:

11 One, my lawyer friend here will
12 appreciate, is civil commitments. It's looking
13 at the commitment process. And, you know, now,
14 someone -- if an interested person, say a
15 family member, takes someone -- they go to the
16 Chancery Clerk's Office, you know, and they try
17 to get a writ ordered for the sheriff to pick
18 them up and have them examined, one of the
19 things this bill would do would be a
20 pre-screening prior to the commitment process,
21 where they have one of those crisis
22 intervention teams or one of the community
23 health centers, they would go and try to
24 evaluate this person prior to an actual
25 commitment. The thought being, "If we can have

1 an alternative or divert them from that
2 process, then we're helping a patient." And we
3 don't want sick or mentally ill people in jail,
4 right, locked up in jail?

5 And that's been a big problem because we
6 just haven't had the beds and the facilities,
7 so a lot of these people, out of necessity, not
8 discretion, have been placed in county jails.
9 So it's not good for the patient or the sick
10 person, it's not good for the county. I can
11 tell you the sheriffs, they don't want --
12 they're not trained for that. So this bill
13 attempts to address some of those issues, so I
14 thought it was -- merited mentioning.

15 They're working on some things with hemp
16 and cannabis. It looks -- there's a bill
17 afoot. I think it looks like it's going to
18 pass -- it's still in process -- that would --
19 you know, when you go to the gas station, of
20 course, you see a lot of things for sale in the
21 gas station, kratom, CBD oil, I mean,
22 everything. And I've been told some of those
23 things, maybe not necessarily the two I
24 mentioned, but there are some things that are
25 technically illegal that are being sold in

1 places that they should not be sold, and they
2 have quite an intoxicating effect. To me,
3 that's kind of a polite word for it, probably.

4 So with this bill, they're wanting to move
5 some of the cannabis things. I don't think
6 it's like CBD oil. But some of the edibles or
7 whatever, they're wanting to require those to
8 be sold in a dispensary, a cannabis dispensary.

9 You kind of have two sections in the
10 dispensary, one would be hemp based and the
11 other. And they got into this big discussion
12 about THC levels and what is acceptable and
13 what's not. And there's really no testing on
14 the hemp and that kind of thing. So there's
15 been a lot of discussion on that. That's House
16 Bill 1676.

17 I mentioned this bill to you earlier. It
18 did not pass, but there was a Senate Bill 2070
19 with nurse practitioners authorized to dispense
20 legend drugs to patients.

21 And I think, if I'm correct, Dr. Johnson,
22 under federal law, that requires a
23 prescription; is that right? I think that's
24 correct.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: (Nods

1 head affirmatively).

2 MR. BOBINGER: But that bill was
3 dropped. Again, that's related back to the
4 cannabis, you know, to conform the Cannabis
5 Act was the intent of it.

6 I know this is something that the Board
7 leadership, Shan, I know you and Dr. Johnson
8 and some of the Board members have been very
9 interested in workforce training. Obviously,
10 we have our own Office of Workforce Training
11 for the Board of Nursing. This House
12 Bill 1129, -- and it's still going -- it would
13 transfer the Office of Mississippi Workforce
14 from UMC to the State Department of Health, so
15 it would move that. And I think the parties,
16 Dr. Johnson, have agreed upon that, I think.

17 Now, this other bill we ended up having a
18 lot of discussion about, Senate Bill 2860,
19 Medication Aide Act, A-I-D-E. This is where
20 you would have someone that could be hired with
21 like -- 12, was it -- Phyllis, I'm trying to
22 remember -- six hours of training? Twelve? I
23 mean, it was not much. But they could actually
24 inject people with insulin, and they could
25 administer an inhaler. And I'm going -- just

1 with bare minimum training.

2 And there was kind of a push behind that
3 because these personal care homes -- I guess
4 that would include what I call "assisted
5 living" as well, I assume. I understand it's a
6 money thing. You follow me? They would rather
7 hire somebody at \$12 an hour, whatever, -- I'm
8 picking that number -- rather than having an
9 LPN or an RN or someone else. But you folks
10 understand that you're bringing -- I don't care
11 if it's a blister pack or not. You're taking
12 that medication to those patients, but you're
13 talking about injections and things.

14 Like I said, there was a back-and-forth on
15 this with the folks. And, like I said, I
16 understand the business side of it. But, you
17 know, as Dr. Johnson is always saying, you
18 know, our priority is patient safety and doing
19 things to protect the public. So that bill
20 died. It did not pass, but I wanted you to
21 know that there's kind of a lot going on with
22 that bill.

23 And, then, they've got another bill on
24 cannabis where they really tried to expand it
25 on advertising and all this. That got shot

1 down. But I think they're going to do some
2 things on background checks and fees and
3 appeals and that kind of thing.

4 You know, there's a bill that I know some
5 people -- y'all are familiar. There's this
6 class of what we call "rare diseases." And
7 they don't happen a lot, but they're horrific
8 for those families and members that do. This
9 bill had been dropped several years, and I
10 think it's going to pass into law this year. I
11 think it may be on the way to the Governor.
12 The Mississippi Rare Disease Advisory Council
13 created Senate Bill 2156, and I think it's
14 going to be housed at UMC.

15 But they're going to study and gather data
16 and that kind of thing about rare diseases. I
17 think they'll make a report to the legislature
18 and, perhaps, the Department of Health and
19 other entities. And some of these families
20 that are impacted with children or adults,
21 quite frankly, have been pushing for this just
22 to bring a focus and a light on rare diseases.

23 So I think that's something that is a good
24 thing. And, you know, there again, we're
25 pushing along, hopefully, helping people that

1 are sick or having medical issues.

2 The last thing I'll mention is House
3 Bill 1803. That is our appropriation bill.
4 Shan and I have talked, and I -- again, I would
5 be remiss without thanking Shan for all of her
6 hard work on that budget, so I thank Shan and
7 all your -- I can text her and say, "Look, can
8 you get me a one-pager? I know you sent me a
9 two-pager, but can you get me a one-pager?",
10 and, bam, it's there. And I appreciate that.

11 Y'all know it's like wrestling with a bear
12 over there when you get to money and money
13 issues, and I can see the effect. You know,
14 the ARPA money, most of it has gone away. Now,
15 there's still a pot out there, but it's nothing
16 like what we had the last two or three years.

17 So things -- and then you've got PERS.
18 Y'all are all familiar with the Public
19 Employees Retirement System issue, which I'm
20 sure there are going to be -- there will end up
21 being a large appropriation made to shore up
22 the PERS fund.

23 So funds are -- general funds are tighter,
24 and there's a mentality, I think, at the
25 Capitol about watching dollars closer. But our

1 bill is scheduled to go to conference, so we've
2 got some more time to work on it. And we'll
3 continue to work on that and with Dr. Johnson,
4 Shan, and other staff, and certainly any of the
5 Board members to see what we can do to make
6 sure we have the adequate resources here for
7 this Board to carry out its duties and
8 responsibilities.

9 So with that, I'll end my presentation.
10 If anyone's got any questions?

11 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Does anybody
12 have any questions for Mr. Bobinger?

13 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: So the Rare
14 Diseases Committee Council, did they
15 appropriate funds for that, or did they --

16 MR. BOBINGER: No. That's a great
17 question. Thank you, Dr. Stewart, for asking
18 that.

19 What they did initially is, they've
20 created it. They've given them authority. I've
21 been told there's already a benefactor who's
22 willing to make some contributions. I don't
23 know that for a fact. That's what I was told.
24 But it said they could accept donations or
25 receive funds.

1 What I would like to see, if they start
2 really meeting and gathering data, then you can
3 take that and go to the legislature and say,
4 "Okay. We're carrying out our duties and
5 responsibilities. Give us some State funds to
6 support it." So I think that's kind of the
7 idea. It's got to be self-sufficient at this
8 point with private donations. But I think if
9 it works like it should, then I think the
10 legislature later would probably be open to
11 funding it.

12 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: I was just
13 curious. Thanks.

14 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any other
15 questions?

16 ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL MS. TURNER:
17 Trey, do you have an update on Senate
18 Bill 2799, the reconstitution of all of the
19 Boards that went back to the Senate for
20 conference?

21 MR. BOBINGER: Yes, I do. I was on the
22 phone with Representative Randy Boyd on that
23 very bill this morning. I've spoken to
24 Representative Zuber, Hank Zuber, who has
25 that bill in this Committee. The bill --

1 thank you for asking that question.

2 That is the bill dealing with the
3 appointment of all State agency Board members
4 and something we've never seen before, an every
5 four-year confirmation of every executive
6 director, which, to me, that obviously has
7 always been a prerogative of a Board, you know,
8 whether it's Board of Nursing, Board of Medical
9 Licensure, whomever. So we've never had that.
10 That would be a new wrinkle if that stays in
11 the bill.

12 Now, the bill as currently proposed -- and
13 it's going to conference -- would come into
14 effect in 2028, so there would be a four-year
15 delay period there. But, nonetheless, at that
16 point, it would still have an impact.

17 The other thing is geographical diversity
18 is supposedly one of the purposes behind the
19 bill, meaning they want, like, so many from the
20 Southern, Central, Northern Supreme Court
21 Districts to try to ensure that various areas
22 of the State are adequately represented.

23 One thing we've been sensitive to is, we
24 want to keep high quality, right, our standards
25 and qualifications up? You know, on this

1 Board, most of -- many of our appointees are
2 recommended by nursing -- professional nursing
3 organizations or associations. And, you know,
4 there's been some of our folks that want to
5 keep that in place, and other Boards. We're
6 not the only one that has a similar system.
7 Some don't, but some do.

8 So it sort of depends on -- you know, some
9 folks are for just a straight-out appointment;
10 some would rather somebody make a
11 recommendation. But I just wanted to mention
12 that was in there. And I'm trying to remember.
13 But, basically, it would be a reconstituting of
14 the way the current system is done.

15 Now, like our Board members, obviously,
16 you have to be -- do the advice and consent
17 from the Senate once you're appointed by the
18 Governor. Some Boards, believe it or not, do
19 not even require -- all Boards do not require
20 that. So for some Boards, it's not just the
21 Executive Director, but it would be the actual
22 Board itself, their membership. But that's not
23 a change for us. It would not be a change for
24 this Board. But I think a lot of agencies,
25 obviously, are interested in the bill and are

1 watching it. We'll see what happens in
2 conference.

3 I know Representative -- or Chairman Zuber
4 has been open to discussing any particular
5 issues we may have with our language in the
6 bill, so that's encouraging. So we'll continue
7 to look at that.

8 But, yes, it's headed to conference, and
9 it appears to have leadership support on both
10 sides. So it's not just some bill floating. I
11 mean, it -- I think it's an intentional bill,
12 so...

13 BOARD MEMBER MR. CASTILLA: I have a
14 question about Medicaid Expansion
15 Legislation.

16 MR. BOBINGER: Yes, sir.

17 BOARD MEMBER MR. CASTILLA: From a
18 calendar standpoint in time, what are the
19 drop-dead dates in terms of final action on
20 that?

21 MR. BOBINGER: That's a good question.
22 On paper -- you know, we always laugh and say
23 that on paper, signing dye, you know, the
24 last day is May the 5th. But all indications
25 are they're really trying to get out a little

1 early. In fact, Speaker White, I think,
2 today said -- you know, a lot of times
3 they'll do a designated weekend for
4 appropriation rather than bill. He's wanting
5 to do that more during the week and speed
6 that process up.

7 I was watching Lieutenant Governor
8 Hosemann today, and he kept admonishing and
9 encouraging his Chairmen, "Submit your names
10 for your conferees on your bills that are going
11 to conference." So I'm seeing -- now, that
12 doesn't mean it will happen.

13 Normally, on the Conference Committee,
14 like on Medicaid, you could run close to the
15 end of April. I don't have the calendar in
16 front of me, but you could go probably right
17 near the end of April. So what's today? The
18 12th, maybe; is that right?

19 So at least two and a half weeks probably,
20 close to it. But I've got a feeling that it's
21 going to be compressed, the time period will.
22 But there's still some time there, and I figure
23 that will be one of the -- if they get a bill,
24 it will be one of the last bills.

25 BOARD MEMBER MR. CASTILLA: One of the

1 last ones?

2 MR. BOBINGER: Yes, sir, it will be one
3 of the last ones, so...

4 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any other
5 questions for Mr. Bobinger?

6 MR. BOBINGER: I have one comment, if I
7 may. I think when our Assistant AG gets
8 coffee next time, she needs to bring
9 everybody a Starbucks. I think that's
10 unfair.

11 All right. Thank y'all very much. I
12 appreciate it.

13 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
14 Mr. Bobinger.

15 Next, we're going to move forward with
16 just a reminder for the Board of Directors'
17 Retreat. It will be May 7th, 8th, and 9th,
18 with a reception occurring on the 7th and
19 two days of education, which I will say is
20 going to be a great educational opportunity for
21 all of us.

22 Next, I'm going to ask Dr. Burks for the
23 Office of Nursing Workforce report.

24 DR. BURKS: Good morning. From the
25 Office of Nursing Workforce, first, I'll

1 start with ONW Advisory Board Committee.
2 That's a voluntary Committee that consists of
3 ten members, and their purpose is to advise
4 and assist the Office of Nursing Workforce.
5 Currently, there are six members whose term
6 will expire June 2024, and we are actively
7 seeking individuals who will be an asset to
8 the Advisory Board. And as of the 10th, we
9 had four applications. I received some
10 information yesterday that there are a couple
11 more individuals that are considering
12 submitting for a position on the Advisory
13 Committee. So if you know of anyone, please
14 submit their information. The deadline for
15 submission is April 26th, 2024.

16 Also, in ONW, the first newsletter was
17 published, and that was on March the 8th. That
18 newsletter is currently on the ONW webpage.
19 And we did receive positive feedback from
20 stakeholders as well as the nursing community
21 about the ONW newsletter. They thought it was
22 very informative. They thought it was well put
23 together, and they're looking forward to more
24 newsletters from ONW the future.

25 Also, with the ONW student nurse retention

1 scholarships, we had three that graduated in
2 February; two will graduate in May of 2024; two
3 also finished their work service agreements in
4 February; we had two that finished in January;
5 and three that finished their service
6 agreements in December.

7 Also, in the Office of Nursing Workforce,
8 they've been participating in community
9 outreach. They participated in the Health Fair
10 at Mississippi Delta Community College; it was
11 also Mississippi Delta Community College and
12 their Advisory Committee as well. And they
13 were very appreciative of the Board attending
14 and participating because they said this was
15 the first time that they had the Board out to
16 their school, so they were excited about that.
17 Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's
18 Career Fair is April of 2024, and they were
19 also very appreciative.

20 In terms of the ONW nursing program
21 scholarships, there were over \$800,000
22 distributed to the schools. And there are some
23 letters of appreciation, and they are attached
24 to the document that you received. The
25 schools, as well as the students, they are very

1 appreciative of the funding that they receive
2 through the scholarship program. And for many
3 of these students, it is a game-changer. It
4 assists them. It helps them to go to that next
5 level, and it also encourages and helps them to
6 reach their goal of becoming nurses.

7 We are in the process of reviewing the
8 schools' accountability forms because the
9 schools are responsible for submitting the
10 names, the amount that each individual
11 received. We will have a preliminary outcome
12 report and that will be available in July, and
13 that report will include the actual -- the
14 total number of students from each discipline
15 that received their scholarships, their NCLEX
16 outcomes, and those who are licensed in
17 Mississippi. It will be a preliminary report
18 because students will be graduating in May.
19 There will be some that will possibly have
20 taken boards at that time. So, hopefully, in
21 the fall, we will have a finalized report for
22 the Board's review.

23 The MnVP, they are steady with the number
24 of participants that are in that program. I
25 want to thank the project manager, Casey Loper.

1 She has done a wonderful job in facilitating
2 and monitoring the current participants in that
3 program. And Casey, she has been visible and
4 out in the community. She was a vendor at the
5 addiction conference in February. She's going
6 to be attending the NOAP in May and also a part
7 of the Mental Health Awareness Day in June.
8 And Casey, she will speaking at an upcoming
9 event hosted by MNA. That's going to be in
10 North Mississippi on April the 26th.

11 And that is the end of my report for the
12 Office of Nursing Workforce.

13 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
14 Dr. Burks.

15 Do we have any questions for her?

16 (No response)

17 DR. BURKS: And Ms. Montgomery, she
18 pulled up the newsletter.

19 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Well,
20 Dr. Burks, I would like to say I believe
21 collectively we appreciate your efforts, and
22 this looks fantastic. And I really love that
23 we've received these letters. I think that's
24 really important. So thank you.

25 Next, moving on to the practical nursing

1 educational report from Dr. Burks.

2 DR. BURKS: From the practical nursing
3 side, I'll start with an application. Blue
4 Cliff College, they have resubmitted their
5 self-study with corrections of the
6 standards/criteria that they were found to be
7 noncompliant. Last year, Blue Cliff actually
8 submitted an application to start a new
9 program in Mississippi. And the site visit
10 team is currently in the process of reviewing
11 that revised report. Once they have
12 completed reviewing that report, we will
13 submit a date to go out and do another site
14 visit to at Blue Cliff. And they are located
15 in the coastal area.

16 Also, the accreditation schedule is coming
17 up for the year 2024. This will be the first
18 time under the purview of the Mississippi Board
19 of Nursing that accreditation site visits will
20 occur. As you can see, we have four visits
21 scheduled for this year.

22 And in addition to preparing the schools
23 for the accreditation visits, the Board hosted
24 a virtual accreditation training for the PN
25 directors, staff, and faculty on April the 4th.

1 That training was a success. And the next
2 training is scheduled for April 16th, 2024.

3 And, also, the practical nursing program
4 director has been participating in different
5 conferences: You'll see the Mississippi LPN
6 Association Convention that was held this week;
7 we will be attending the Mississippi School of
8 Nursing Association Conference in June; the PN
9 Council Faculty Retreat also in June; and the
10 Community College Board CTE Conference in
11 Natchez, and that will be August of 2024.

12 And that is the end of my report for
13 practical nursing.

14 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any questions
15 for Dr. Burks on the practical nursing
16 report?

17 (No response)

18 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
19 Dr. Burks, for your great work on that.

20 Next, we're going to move to the
21 Director's Report, Dr. Johnson.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: Madam
23 President and Members of the Board, good
24 morning. I was trying to see if
25 Ms. Montgomery had my PowerPoint over there,

1 but you have a copy of it in your packet.

2 So you will see that we changed the report
3 a little bit. And going forward, the report
4 will look like this.

5 And this is an opportunity for us to
6 provide data, the metrics of what was done in
7 past Board meetings so that we can keep up with
8 that information and present that information
9 to our stakeholders and also to show how
10 diligently and efficiently the Board works to
11 fulfill the mission of public safety here at
12 the Board of Nursing, because you-all do a
13 great job and you work very hard.

14 And that is also a testament to this week
15 where we had our Associate General Counsel,
16 Brandon Walker, who had to stand in the stead
17 and do the entire week due to some unforeseen
18 circumstances with our General Counsel. But I
19 must say that Brandon and the legal team did an
20 outstanding job, as well as the Board Panel
21 that was convened to review the multiple,
22 multiple number of cases that were brought
23 before the Board.

24 So I just want to thank the Board Panel
25 and thank my staff and Brandon and his staff

1 for the outstanding job that they have done
2 this week.

3 And as you will see the agenda on here,
4 basically, my report will include information
5 on that agenda. And I like the saying by Mark
6 Twain, "The secret of getting ahead is getting
7 started." So this is something new that we're
8 doing, but we're getting started and presenting
9 the information that needs to be brought to the
10 public's attention and to let you know how well
11 you're doing.

12 So we will go on to the next slide,
13 "Mission and Vision." As you know, we are here
14 to protect the public. We promote competence;
15 we collaborate; we innovate; we educate; and we
16 lead. We want to promote the interests of
17 nurses and offer forward-thinking guidance in
18 the healthcare workforce, but regulate the
19 nursing practice and education to ensure public
20 safety.

21 Updates. Operation Nightingale is still
22 ongoing. We are actively monitoring for any
23 schools and/or individuals associated with the
24 schools, and I'm happy to report that
25 Mississippi still has only had six nurses to

1 show up as a result of the FBI investigation or
2 Operation Nightingale. And those nurses have
3 been confirmed to have been educated
4 appropriately and received their nursing
5 degrees appropriately, and that report has been
6 forwarded to the appropriate authorities at the
7 FBI level.

8 Additionally, we had our first
9 administrative denial that you will be given
10 more information about when Madam President
11 does her report. That is a result of the
12 Fraudulent Schools Operation Nightingale
13 investigation that will be presented to the
14 Board today.

15 I investigate all situations dealing with
16 Operation Nightingale firsthand, so they have
17 to come to me. I have affidavits and things of
18 that nature from the FBI. I have a direct
19 contact with the FBI. And so, it's still
20 ongoing. New schools are continuing to
21 develop.

22 We get notification when those -- when the
23 FBI completes its investigation of any new
24 affidavits that come forward with any
25 information of any licensees that are in our

1 database.

2 And I must say that our ThoughtSpan system
3 has worked very well with us being able to
4 identify any licensees. I've asked for an
5 audit retrospectively to look back to make sure
6 that we don't have individuals that have
7 graduated from these schools that may have done
8 that prior to this investigation, and
9 ThoughtSpan has been very cooperative.

10 And our system has worked very well in
11 that we have been able to either identify and
12 make the appropriate changes in investigations
13 or we have not had many that have graduated
14 from some of these schools. So that's a great
15 testament to the technology system that you-all
16 so graciously approved for us to have here at
17 the Board of Nursing.

18 Board Visibility. We've been very
19 visible. You will see that the NCSBN
20 Governance Review Committee met last month.
21 Shan Montgomery is our Board staff that has
22 been appointed at the national level for that
23 Committee. It is a two-year Committee, and
24 it's a very important Committee, and it
25 requires a lot of hard work. I guess she can

1 attest to that. They will be very busy, but
2 it's very important in that they will be
3 reviewing the bylaws, articles of
4 incorporation, and making the necessary changes
5 at the national level.

6 We attended the midyear meeting. I would
7 like to highlight our Board member, Lacey
8 Gentry, soon to be Dr. Lacy Gentry. Have you
9 defended yet?

10 BOARD MEMBER MS. GENTRY: Nine days.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: Nine
12 days. Okay.

13 But she presented at the midyear meeting,
14 and it was on competency-based nursing and
15 education, and she did a phenomenal job. I
16 have had people come up to me wanting to know,
17 "Where did this person come from?"

18 And I said, "Mississippi, the Sip."

19 But they were just amazed at her
20 presentation, her knowledge. Philip Dickison,
21 the CEO of NCSBN, came up to me personally and
22 wanted to let me know how great a job she did.
23 She was very knowledgeable. And so, I've
24 gotten a lot of people to inquire about that.

25 So, again, it's a testament to the skill

1 set of the Board members that we have here. So
2 I highly encourage other Board members to get
3 involved at the national level. You know I'm
4 all about, when the Committees come up, sending
5 out that information.

6 So Lacey is a rock star now. She'll
7 probably be called on to present at some other
8 national conferences, and I wouldn't be a bit
9 surprised if it goes international. So just be
10 on guard.

11 The APRN Roundtable. What's conducted
12 this week will be at the APRN Roundtable on
13 Monday. My topic was on IV hydration. I've
14 gotten a lot of questions from other entities
15 across the nation based on what we're doing
16 here in Mississippi because Mississippi is kind
17 of looked at as one on the flagships of how to
18 investigate the IV hydration issue that is a
19 big issue nationwide, and not only nationwide,
20 but internationally. I've gotten questions
21 from New Zealand and Australia because they're
22 seeing this in their countries now, and they
23 don't know really how to handle it.

24 So I'll give you guys the feedback from
25 the evaluation once it's received. But I've

1 got information from the National Council that
2 all of the responses have been very positive
3 and that the information has been very helpful.
4 And it shows how we can work together. We work
5 with the Board of Medicine; we work with the
6 Board of Pharmacy; and the Board of Nursing to
7 investigate these entities. And that
8 collaboration has been very, very effective.
9 So, again, a testament to you-all for your
10 leadership in that.

11 And the International Center for
12 Regulatory Scholarship Advanced Leadership
13 Institute was held in Washington, D.C., this
14 year. And I must say we want to congratulate
15 our staff member, Dr. Rebecca Cagle, who
16 completed the Institute and received her
17 certification at this event. So we are very
18 proud of her for stepping up to the plate
19 because it does require some time and some
20 study to do that. But that, again, was a
21 testament to the kind of staff that we have
22 here at the Board of Nursing.

23 Dr. Burks and I will be attending a spring
24 Advisory Board meeting at the Canton Career &
25 Technical Education Center. They reached out

1 to us to come and serve on a panel and ask
2 questions about career and technical education.
3 Again, that's a buzzword now that you're seeing
4 a lot about, and so we wanted to make sure that
5 nursing has a seat at the table. So they
6 reached out to us, and we'll be doing that, I
7 think, next week, I believe, the latter part of
8 April.

9 And upcoming meetings. You heard about
10 the retreat, so there's nothing more to say on
11 that. Vanessa Gray, my Executive Assistant,
12 will be sending out additional information
13 about that so that you are prepared and
14 accommodated to attend. And that will be at
15 the Westin.

16 Licensure Data. There's probably a little
17 bit more now than when I did this report last
18 week because it turns over every 24 hours.
19 But, as you can see, we're right at about
20 65,000-plus RNs and LPNs combined in the State,
21 and there's a breakdown of the advanced
22 practice nurses there for your review.

23 The licensures -- the licenses that we
24 monitor are much, much more than that. We're
25 at about 80,000-plus licenses that we are

1 responsible for because some of these people
2 have duplicate licenses that we have to
3 monitor.

4 Hearing Matters in February. Hearing
5 matters were 20; Letters of Concern were one;
6 six ASPs; we had 26 administrative affidavits;
7 and one administrative denial; and then one
8 cease and desist. That will probably be a lot
9 more at the next meeting based on all that was
10 done this past week. But I wanted to give you
11 this information to show you the kind of work
12 that you do each and every time you come for
13 the Board.

14 Investigations & CBC Actions. If you will
15 look at this, this is somewhat impressive to me
16 because it shows that we mailed 241 fingerprint
17 cards during that time period, which is about
18 roughly a month, and we had 251 in-person
19 fingerprints here at the Board. And at that
20 time, 87 new allegations came in during that
21 time period. And that's normally somewhat of
22 an average as far as allegations. So if you
23 multiply that times 12, you'll see how many
24 allegations normally come in. It's roughly an
25 average, but that's a lot.

1 Regulatory Updates Approved by the OLRC on
2 March 29th, 2024. And you can see those on
3 there: Part 2840, Part 2880, and Part 2820.
4 And the one that is not listed is Part 2825,
5 and that's the procedural one about the stays.

6 And, Brandon, I don't know if you want to
7 highlight what that says, basically.

8 BOARD ATTORNEY MR. WALKER: I can.

9 It was mainly about the appeals,
10 discipline being stayed. There was some
11 administrative affidavit language put in there,
12 administrative denial language put in there.
13 It was the same language that y'all approved,
14 but it went to the OLRC last Friday. So on
15 Good Friday, we had the pleasure of doing that.
16 So it all got approved, and we're waiting on
17 the resolution.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: So all
19 of those have been approved by OLRC,
20 thankfully. And once we get the approval for
21 the resolution, then it will be implemented.

22 So thank you-all for that.

23 This is technology investments that we --
24 it's ongoing. All of these projects are
25 ongoing. And I must thank Shan for her hard

1 work. She's the liaison for technology, and
2 she is always getting the website updated and
3 trying to make it easier to navigate. She's
4 all into AI, and sometimes I have to tell her
5 to slow down because she's all into AI.

6 We have bot and bot videos created, and
7 they're on the website. And this is an
8 educational tool for our licensees. They like
9 that. And, again, the ThoughtSpan data reports
10 are updated. So this is ongoing, but these are
11 the things that we're doing here from a
12 technological standpoint.

13 And going forward, we want to focus on the
14 key priorities. We will continue to fulfill
15 our mission of protecting the public through
16 nursing regulation, and we could not do that
17 without your support. So thank you for that.

18 And that is the end of my report.

19 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
20 Dr. Johnson.

21 Are there any questions for Dr. Johnson?

22 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: I have a
23 question, Madam President.

24 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Okay.

25 Dr. King.

1 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: Dr. Johnson,
2 thank you for that report. I have a question
3 as to the breakdown of the disciplines and
4 the licensure data.

5 Is there anything that we have currently
6 or have access to that you could break down
7 those investigations for APRNs and how many are
8 practice related, just for information moving
9 forward for our professional organizations or
10 legislators to understand what it looks like in
11 our current collaborative state?

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: I can
13 look at that information. I can probably
14 delve into our database. Interestingly
15 enough, I had another conversation with one
16 of the other Board members similar to that
17 question.

18 So I'll get with Dr. Burks, who is my
19 researcher, and we will delve into that and try
20 to get that information going forward.

21 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: Thank you.

22 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: I have just
23 one question just very quickly to clarify the
24 "Mission & Vision" that's here on this
25 handout.

1 Is this something we're going to be
2 discussing at the retreat, or is this restating
3 from something we already have?

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: This is
5 restating something that we already have.
6 Now, if you-all want to change that, we can
7 discuss that at the retreat.

8 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: Okay. My
9 only comment is that these are pretty vague,
10 particularly in response to regulating the
11 nursing practice and education. We don't
12 regulate all nursing education.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: Right.

14 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: I just think
15 we need to probably be clear about that, that
16 we regulate --

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON:
18 Practical nursing.

19 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: -- practical
20 nursing and education just for clarity
21 because Mississippi is so different.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: Oh,
23 yeah. Yeah.

24 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: That's it.
25 Thank you.

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: Thank
2 you.

3 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any other
4 questions for Dr. Johnson?

5 (No response)

6 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
7 Dr. Johnson. You do a great job for us.

8 Moving forward, next is Board business.
9 The first thing we have is business meeting
10 minutes from February 9th, 2024.

11 Would anyone like to make a motion to
12 accept them?

13 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I make a
14 motion we accept them.

15 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: I'll second.

16 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All those in
17 favor, say "aye."

18 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

19 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any of those
20 opposed?

21 (No response)

22 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Anyone
23 abstain?

24 (No response)

25 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: It moves

1 forward.

2 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: May I ask a
3 quick question on the minutes?

4 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Sure.

5 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: I know there
6 was some brief conversation about having a
7 different structure of our minutes.

8 Have we gone anywhere with that?

9 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: We have had a
10 discussion in the Executive Committee about
11 that, and we're looking to moving forward
12 with changing how we do that.

13 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: All right.
14 Thank you.

15 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: You're
16 welcome.

17 The next thing is the full Board appellate
18 oral argument minutes from October 2nd, 2023.

19 Would anyone like to make a motion?

20 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I make a
21 motion that we accept those minutes.

22 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Is there a
23 second?

24 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: I second.

25 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All those in

1 favor, say "aye."

2 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

3 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any opposed?

4 (No response)

5 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any abstain?

6 (No response)

7 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: It will move
8 forward.

9 On future meetings, the administrative
10 hearings and settlements are set for June 4th,
11 5th, and 6th, beginning at 8:30 a.m. On
12 June the 7th, the business meeting will occur
13 at 11:05 a.m.

14 The Panel for June will be Sandra
15 Culpepper, Carly Walker, Janel Moody, and we
16 will have an APRN or an RN sitting for that as
17 well to be determined.

18 Any questions on that?

19 (No response)

20 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All right.

21 Moving forward to the Committee reports.

22 This morning from the Executive Committee,
23 we only have one thing coming out. And it is
24 in regard --

25 I'm sorry. Did I miss something?

1 (Confers with Board Member Mr. Cummins).

2 Coming out of the Executive Committee, we
3 only have one item; and, that is, I move that
4 the Board adopt the Executive Committee's
5 recommendation to accept the following
6 administrative denial for Case No. 2024-0244 in
7 regards to an LPN exam application.

8 Would anyone like to make a motion?

9 BOARD MEMBER NORRIS-JOHNSON: I'll make
10 a motion.

11 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I'll second.

12 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All those in
13 favor, say "aye."

14 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

15 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any opposed?

16 (No response)

17 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any abstain?

18 (No response)

19 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: We will move
20 forward with that. And that will be the only
21 thing coming out of the Executive Committee.

22 Next, moving on to the Compliance
23 Committee.

24 Ms. Norris-Johnson?

25 BOARD MEMBER NORRIS-JOHNSON: Madam

1 President, I move that the Board adopts the
2 Compliance Committee recommendation that we
3 approve License No. R-893398, Compliance
4 Affidavit 2; and, No. 2, we deny P-326356,
5 Compliance Affidavit 2; and one more, that we
6 approve R-886727, R-905135, NP, Final Order
7 of Modification.

8 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Do I have a
9 second on that motion?

10 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I second.

11 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any
12 discussion?

13 (No response)

14 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All those in
15 favor, say "aye."

16 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

17 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any opposed?

18 (No response)

19 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Anyone
20 abstain?

21 (No response)

22 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: It will move
23 forward.

24 Is there anything further out of your
25 Committee?

1 BOARD MEMBER NORRIS-JOHNSON: No, ma'am.

2 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
3 Mr. Norris-Johnson.

4 Next, we're going to move to the Advanced
5 Practice Committee.

6 Dr. Stewart?

7 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: We don't have
8 any motions to come out of the Committee.

9 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
10 Dr. Stewart.

11 Next is the Practice Committee.

12 Ms. Clanton?

13 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: We have one
14 thing that we are bringing forward.

15 Okay. So what we're going to bring
16 forward is after discussion with the Practice
17 Committee, it was decided to update the
18 position statement with reference to insertion,
19 maintenance, and removal of PICC lines by using
20 ultrasound. But, also, we want to reference
21 that they need to go to the decision tree to
22 also confirm any of the competencies that they
23 may have inquired about.

24 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Do I have a
25 second on that motion?

1 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I'll second.

2 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any

3 discussion?

4 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: Can I ask a
5 question, Madam President?

6 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: For the position
8 statements, are we still looking at taking
9 those position statements down?

10 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: We are
11 currently, within the Practice Committee,
12 reviewing because we do have a number of
13 people that still do look at these position
14 statements. So as a Committee, we are
15 reviewing each one of them currently, and we
16 will come back to the table in June with our
17 recommendations currently at this time. But
18 we are referencing the decision tree still.

19 Any other questions?

20 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: Well, just to
21 tag along, I think I'm also trying to
22 clarify. If we are shifting to the decision
23 tree, I'm trying to understand the need to
24 update the existing position descriptions
25 right now. I'm not opposed to it. I'm

1 trying to understand why we would be revising
2 position statements if our move really is to
3 stop referring to them?

4 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: Well, with
5 this particular one, the position statement
6 is already out there. It is still on the
7 website. It's still out there. And it was
8 very specific to the confirmation was via
9 X-ray, and it was very specific to say this
10 is how it's going to be done, via X-ray. And
11 what they want to do is add the verbiage to
12 use the ultrasound, which is the standard
13 right now.

14 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: Right.

15 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: So that's the
16 reason why we said we're going to go ahead
17 and approve that, where they can go ahead and
18 refer to that. But we do want to go back and
19 look at the position statements that are out
20 there because there are 18 or 19 that are
21 standing out there. And seeing the
22 viability, "Do we need to pull them down?",
23 or, "What's the viability? Why are they
24 still out there?" So we're going to go back
25 and look at each one individually.

1 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: Including the
2 one that we just updated?

3 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: Every one of
4 them.

5 BOARD MEMBER DR. STEWART: Okay.

6 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: And then like
7 making sure that there's not a, I guess,
8 discrepancy in the position statement versus
9 the decision tree?

10 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: Exactly, make
11 sure there's no conflicts. Because, like I
12 said, they're still out there. People are
13 still looking at them. So it's still on the
14 website. So we've got to -- that's what
15 they're looking at also. And there are
16 people, from what I've learned from
17 Dr. Burks, that are looking at the decision
18 tree, too. This is coming from a facility,
19 and this is what they were citing.

20 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any other
21 questions?

22 (No response)

23 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All those in
24 favor, say "aye."

25 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

1 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any opposed?

2 (No response)

3 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any abstain?

4 (No response)

5 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: It will move
6 forward.

7 Is there any other further business from
8 your Committee, Ms. Clanton?

9 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: Nothing else.

10 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Next, we have
11 the Administrative Code.

12 Ms. Gentry?

13 BOARD MEMBER MS. GENTRY: Yes. I don't
14 have a report, but I do have a praise; and
15 that is for the phenomenal Administrative
16 Code Committee that did so much great work
17 this year.

18 And, also, Ms. Saltzman and Mr. Walker, I
19 know we are awaiting resolution from OLRC for
20 the Administrative Code revision, but I just
21 have just a huge and tremendous amount of
22 appreciation for the hours and hours of work
23 that was put into this, not only by our
24 phenomenal legal team, but also by our
25 wonderful Committee.

1 So just a big "thank you" on the record,
2 please.

3 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
4 Ms. Gentry.

5 Next is the Finance Committee.

6 Mr. Cummins?

7 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I have a
8 report from the Finance Committee on the
9 fiscal year budget, the "Fiscal Year
10 '24 Budget and Expense Analysis." You have
11 the report in front of you, and I'm not going
12 to go real deep. I'll hit some high points
13 here; and, if you have questions, I'll be
14 happy to answer them.

15 Revenue collected through March was
16 \$2,290,400. Our total budget is \$5,062,992.
17 And our current purchase orders are sitting at
18 \$152,716.30. We have parked funds available at
19 \$18,232.37, and that would be fixed items, such
20 as insurance, work comp., DFA payments, so on
21 and so forth as far as that goes. Total
22 commitments to date is \$170,948.67. Our actual
23 expenses for the fiscal year are \$3,338,164.70.
24 And our current available remaining in the
25 fiscal budget total is \$1,553,878.63.

1 If you'll look at your breakdown under
2 "Salaries," we have expended about
3 49.95 percent of this budget. That's going to
4 be due to us having around -- well, not
5 around -- but having 14 openings within the
6 agency at the time. So the salary budget has
7 not been expended by any means.

8 As far as travel, we are slightly over on
9 travel at 76.14 percent. We still have about
10 two and a half months left in this fiscal year,
11 so I think we're going to be fine there. We
12 probably will see expending that entire budget,
13 though, by the end of the fiscal year.

14 For commodities, we've expended 58 percent
15 of that budget. Capital out equipment is
16 sitting at 2.85 percent, which is greatly under
17 budget. That is a budget that we normally look
18 at towards the end of the fiscal year to see
19 what the needs are as far as electronic
20 replacement, so on and so forth. So that is
21 something that Ms. Montgomery is evaluating now
22 to see where expenses need to take place.

23 As far as subsidies and loans, we're going
24 to be at 100 percent of that budget, meaning
25 that the amount will be fully utilized there.

1 In conclusion, our total expenses are
2 sitting at 72.65 percent of the budget, and
3 that shows that we're clearly managing our
4 expenses effectively. We are in good financial
5 standing with the Board, and we're able to
6 continue the work of the Board with available
7 cash at this time of \$6,774,465.17.

8 If you go to page 2, you can see some
9 information on fiscal year '25. We have not
10 gotten approval for our fiscal year '25 budget
11 as of yet, but there are three main areas that
12 we were looking at for proposal that we hope to
13 get some feedback on, I guess you would say.

14 We did look at some salary increases.
15 We've requested a one to four percent raise for
16 staff that did not get a raise in fiscal year
17 '24. We also are looking at a 10 percent raise
18 for all nursing staff and new recruits.

19 As far as staffing positions, as I
20 mentioned earlier, we have 14 open positions.
21 We are proposing to retain 41 of our current
22 positions and are open to losing one part-time
23 position that's got a pay rate of \$15,000, and
24 that would be a clerk position. So we're open
25 to giving that one up.

1 As far as Office of Nursing Workforce, we
2 continue to advocate for financial resources
3 for the ONW. We don't look to see -- we don't
4 expect to see an increase in that budget this
5 year, but we do have a projected plan going
6 into fiscal year '26/'27.

7 As far as other matters, the Board has got
8 a share of health insurance premiums that are
9 going to increase by \$18 a month. The
10 retirement benefits are projected to increase
11 by two percent. That bill died in Committee,
12 so we don't have to worry about that. The rate
13 for mileage reimbursement has increased from
14 65 cents to 67 cents per mile.

15 So overall, we're in a good financial
16 state. The finances are sufficient to continue
17 the financial mission and purpose of the Board.

18 I'm open to any questions if y'all have
19 any.

20 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
21 Mr. Cummins.

22 May I get a motion to approve Mr. Cummins'
23 finance report?

24 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: I make a motion.

25 BOARD MEMBER MS. GENTRY: I'll second.

1 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any

2 discussion?

3 (No response)

4 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All those in
5 favor, say "aye."

6 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

7 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any opposed?

8 (No response)

9 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any abstain?

10 (No response)

11 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: The next thing
12 on the agenda is the Office of Nursing
13 Workforce Committee.

14 Ms. Clanton, do you have anything?

15 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: We do not
16 have anything today.

17 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Under "Other
18 Committee Business," at this point, we are in
19 April; and, therefore, we will be having
20 elections in June. So it's appropriate to
21 have a discussion about a Nominating
22 Committee.

23 At this point, I would like to ask for any
24 volunteers that would like to participate on
25 that Committee?

1 BOARD MEMBER MS. GENTRY: I'll gladly
2 participate on the Committee.

3 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Thank you,
4 Ms. Gentry.

5 Anyone else?

6 (No response)

7 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Typically, we
8 have three to four people that sit on this
9 Committee. So do I have any other volunteers
10 that would like to --

11 Yes, Dr. Johnson?

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. JOHNSON: I think
13 even though they're volunteers, there has to
14 be an election process according to the
15 bylaws. I just wanted to make sure you --

16 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I'll nominate
17 Lacey Gentry as the director of this -- or
18 the chair of this Nominating Committee.

19 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: I'll second
20 that.

21 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All those in
22 favor, say "aye."

23 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

24 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any opposed?

25 (No response)

1 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any abstain?

2 (No response)

3 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any questions?

4 (No response).

5 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I would like
6 to nominate Ms. Carly Walker to the
7 Committee.

8 Do you want us to get all of the
9 nominations and then vote?

10 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Yes. Let's go
11 ahead and do the rest.

12 BOARD MEMBER DR. KING: I would like to
13 nominate Ms. Janel Moody.

14 BOARD MEMBER MS. CLANTON: I'll second
15 both nominations.

16 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: With that, all
17 in favor, say "aye."

18 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

19 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any opposed?

20 (No response)

21 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Any abstain?

22 (No response)

23 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: We will move
24 forward with that Committee with Ms. Gentry
25 as Chair. Thank you.

1 At this point, all of our business has
2 been completed for the day.

3 Do we have a motion for adjournment?

4 BOARD MEMBER MR. CUMMINS: I make a
5 motion we adjourn.

6 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: Do we have a
7 second?

8 BOARD MEMBER MS. GENTRY: I'll second.

9 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All those in
10 favor, say "aye."

11 BOARD PANEL: Aye.

12 PRESIDENT MS. CULPEPPER: All right.
13 Thank you.

14 (HEARING ADJOURNED AT 12:04 P.M.)

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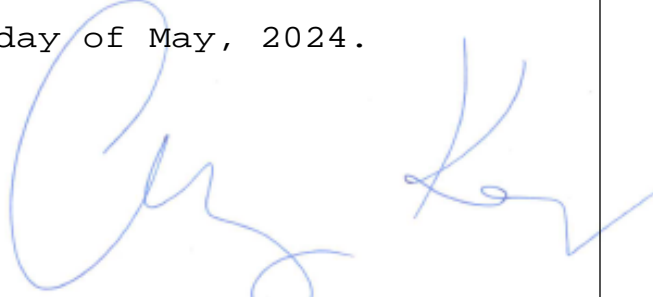
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, AMY M. KEY, Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Mississippi, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing pages contain a full, true and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the aforementioned case at the time and place indicated, which proceedings were recorded by me to the best of my skill and ability.

I certify that I have no interest, monetary or otherwise, in the outcome of this case.

This the 14th day of May, 2024.



AMY M. KEY, CSR, RPR

My Commission Expires:
October 10, 2025

Exhibits	16th 28:2	29th 38:2	A
4-12-24-BON-BIZ-meet	18 49:20	2nd 43:18	A-I-D-E 12:19
\$	1803 15:3	4	a.m. 44:11,13
\$1,553,878.63 52:25	19 49:20	41 54:21	abstain 6:24 42:23 44:5 45:17 46:20 51:3
\$12 13:7	2	49.95 53:3	accept 16:24 42:12,14 43:21 45:5
\$15,000 54:23	2 46:4,5 54:8	4th 27:25 44:10	acceptable 11:12
\$152,716.30 52:18	2.85 53:16	5	access 40:6
\$170,948.67 52:22	20 37:5	58 53:14	accommodated 36:14
\$18,232.37 52:19	2023 43:18	5th 20:24 44:11	accountability 25:8
\$2,290,400 52:16	2024 23:6,15 24:2, 18 27:17 28:2,11 38:2 42:10	6	accreditation 27:16,19,23,24
\$3,338,164.70 52:23	2024-0244 45:6	65,000-plus 36:20	accurate 8:17
\$5,062,992 52:16	2028 18:14	6th 44:11	Act 12:5,19
\$6,774,465.17 54:7	2070 11:18	7	action 20:19
\$800,000 24:21	2080 8:22 9:3	72.65 54:2	Actions 37:14
1	2156 14:13	76.14 53:9	actively 23:6 30:22
10 54:17	2377 9:5	7th 22:17,18 44:12	actual 9:24 19:21 25:13 52:22
100 53:24	24 36:18 52:10 54:17	8	Adams 6:8,10,11
10th 23:8	241 37:16	80,000-plus 36:25	add 49:11
1129 12:12	25 54:9,10	821 9:6	addiction 26:5
11:05 44:13	251 37:18	87 37:20	addition 27:22
12 12:21 37:23	26 37:6	8:30 44:11	additional 36:12
12th 21:18	26th 23:15 26:10	8th 22:17 23:17	Additionally 31:8
14 53:5 54:20	2799 17:18	9	address 10:13
1640 9:7	2820 38:3	9th 22:17 42:10	
1676 11:16	2825 38:4		
	2840 38:3		
	2860 12:18		
	2880 38:3		

<p>addresses 9:9 adequate 16:6 adequately 18:22 administer 12:25 administrative 31:9 37:6,7 38:11, 12 44:9 45:6 51:11,15,20 admonishing 21:8 adopt 45:4 adopts 46:1 adults 14:20 advanced 35:12 36:21 47:4 advertising 13:25 advice 19:16 advise 23:3 Advisory 14:12 23:1,8,12 24:12 35:24 advocating 8:1 affidavit 38:11 46:4,5 affidavits 31:17, 24 37:6 affirmatively 12:1 afoot 10:17 AG 22:7 agencies 19:24 agency 18:3 53:6 agenda 6:14,15, 17 30:3,5 agreed 12:16</p>	<p>agreements 24:3, 6 ahead 30:6 49:16, 17 AI 39:4,5 Aide 12:19 alive 7:19 allegations 37:20, 22,24 alternative 10:1 Alveno 5:14 amazed 33:19 amount 25:10 51:21 53:25 Analysis 52:10 and/or 30:23 anyone's 16:10 appeals 14:3 38:9 appears 20:9 appellate 43:17 application 27:3,8 45:7 applications 23:9 appointed 19:17 32:22 appointees 19:1 appointment 18:3 19:9 appreciation 24:23 51:22 appreciative 24:13,19 25:1 appropriately 31:4,5</p>	<p>appropriation 15:3,21 21:4 approval 6:14 38:20 54:10 approve 6:17 46:3,6 49:17 approved 32:16 38:1,13,16,19 April 21:15,17 23:15 24:18 26:10 27:25 28:2 36:8 APRN 34:11,12 44:16 APRNS 8:2 40:7 area 27:15 areas 18:21 54:11 argument 43:18 ARPA 15:14 articles 33:3 aspects 9:9 ASPS 37:6 asset 23:7 assist 23:4 Assistant 22:7 36:11 assisted 13:4 assists 25:4 Associate 29:15 Association 28:6, 8 associations 8:1, 18 19:3 ASST 17:16 assume 13:5</p>	<p>attached 24:23 attempts 10:13 attend 36:14 attended 33:6 attending 24:13 26:6 28:7 35:23 attention 9:7 30:10 attest 33:1 ATTORNEY 17:16 38:8 audit 32:5 August 28:11 Australia 34:21 authorities 31:6 authority 8:2 16:20 authorized 11:19 average 37:22,25 awaiting 51:19 Awareness 26:7 aye 6:20,21 42:17, 18 44:1,2 45:13, 14 46:15,16 50:24,25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <hr/> <p>back 12:3 17:19 32:5 48:16 49:18, 24 back-and-forth 13:14 background 14:2 bam 15:10</p>
---	--	--	--

<p>bare 13:1</p> <p>based 11:10 34:15 37:9</p> <p>basically 19:13 30:4 38:7</p> <p>bear 15:11</p> <p>beds 10:6</p> <p>begin 5:5,10</p> <p>beginning 5:11 44:11</p> <p>behalf 7:25</p> <p>benefactor 16:21</p> <p>big 10:5 11:11 34:19 52:1</p> <p>bill 7:19 8:2,8,22, 24 9:1,3,4,5,6,7,8, 19 10:12,16 11:4, 16,17,18 12:2,12, 17,18 13:19,22,23 14:4,9,13 15:3 16:1 17:18,23,25 18:2,11,12,19 19:25 20:6,10,11 21:4,23</p> <p>bills 21:10,24</p> <p>bit 29:3 34:8 36:17</p> <p>Blackwell's 9:4</p> <p>blister 13:11</p> <p>Blue 27:3,7,14</p> <p>Board 5:3,4,14, 16,17,18,19,21,25 6:2,4,5,10,16,18, 21 8:19 12:6,8,11 16:5,7,13 17:12 18:3,7,8 19:1,15, 22,24 20:13,17</p>	<p>21:25 22:16 23:1, 8 24:13,15 27:18, 23 28:10,23 29:7, 10,12,20,23,24 31:14 32:17,18,21 33:7,10 34:1,2 35:5,6,22,24 37:13,19 38:8 39:22 40:1,16,21, 22 41:8,14,19,24 42:8,13,15,18 43:2,5,13,17,20, 24 44:2 45:1,4,9, 11,14,25 46:1,10, 16 47:1,7,13 48:1, 4,7,20 49:4,14,15 50:1,3,5,6,10,25 51:9,13 52:7 54:5, 6</p> <p>Board's 25:22</p> <p>boards 17:19 19:5,18,19,20 25:20</p> <p>Bobinger 7:9,10 12:2 16:12,16 17:21 20:16,21 22:2,5,6,14</p> <p>bot 39:6</p> <p>Boyd 17:22</p> <p>Brandon 29:16, 19,25 38:6</p> <p>break 40:6</p> <p>breakdown 36:21 40:3 53:1</p> <p>bring 14:22 22:8 47:15</p> <p>bringing 13:10 47:14</p> <p>brought 8:4 29:22</p>	<p>30:9</p> <p>budget 15:6 52:9, 10,16,25 53:3,6, 12,15,17,24 54:2, 10</p> <p>Burks 22:22,24 26:14,17,20 27:1, 2 28:15,19 35:23 40:18 50:17</p> <p>business 13:16 42:8,9 44:12 51:7</p> <p>busy 7:15 33:1</p> <p>buzzword 36:3</p> <p>bylaws 33:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <hr/> <p>Cagle 35:15</p> <p>calendar 20:18 21:15</p> <p>call 5:11 9:8 13:4 14:6</p> <p>called 34:7</p> <p>candidly 8:6,12</p> <p>cannabis 10:16 11:5,8 12:4 13:24</p> <p>Canton 35:24</p> <p>Capital 53:15</p> <p>Capitol 7:16 15:25</p> <p>cards 37:17</p> <p>care 13:3,10</p> <p>career 24:18 35:24 36:2</p> <p>Carly 5:16 44:15</p> <p>carry 16:7</p>	<p>carrying 17:4</p> <p>Case 45:6</p> <p>cases 29:22</p> <p>Casey 25:25 26:3, 8</p> <p>cash 54:7</p> <p>Castilla 5:12,14, 15 20:13,17 21:25</p> <p>CBC 37:14</p> <p>CBD 10:21 11:6</p> <p>cease 37:8</p> <p>Center 35:11,25</p> <p>centers 9:23</p> <p>Central 18:20</p> <p>CEO 33:21</p> <p>certification 35:17</p> <p>Chairman 20:3</p> <p>Chairmen 21:9</p> <p>Chancery 9:16</p> <p>change 19:23 41:6</p> <p>changed 29:2</p> <p>changing 43:12</p> <p>checks 14:2</p> <p>children 14:20</p> <p>circumstances 29:18</p> <p>citing 50:19</p> <p>civil 9:12</p> <p>Clanton 5:25 6:1, 18 47:12,13 49:4, 15 50:3,10 51:8,9</p>
--	---	--	---

<p>clarify 40:23 48:22</p> <p>clarity 41:20</p> <p>class 14:6</p> <p>clear 41:15</p> <p>clerk 54:24</p> <p>Clerk's 9:16</p> <p>Cliff 27:4,7,14</p> <p>close 8:5 21:14,20</p> <p>closer 15:25</p> <p>Coast 24:17</p> <p>coastal 27:15</p> <p>Code 51:11,16,20</p> <p>coffee 22:8</p> <p>collaborate 30:15</p> <p>collaboration 35:8</p> <p>collaborative 40:11</p> <p>collected 52:15</p> <p>collectively 26:21</p> <p>College 24:10,11 27:4 28:10</p> <p>College's 24:17</p> <p>combined 36:20</p> <p>COMMENCED 5:1</p> <p>comment 22:6 41:9</p> <p>commitment 9:13,20,25</p> <p>commitments 9:12 52:22</p> <p>Committee 8:3,4</p>	<p>16:14 17:25 21:13 23:1,2,13 24:12 32:20,23,24 43:10 44:21,22 45:2,21, 23 46:2,25 47:5,8, 11,17 48:11,14 51:8,16,25 52:5,8</p> <p>Committee's 45:4</p> <p>Committees 34:4</p> <p>commodities 53:14</p> <p>community 9:22 23:20 24:8,10,11, 17 26:4 28:10</p> <p>comp 52:20</p> <p>competence 30:14</p> <p>competencies 47:22</p> <p>competency- based 33:14</p> <p>completed 27:12 35:16</p> <p>completes 31:23</p> <p>Compliance 45:22 46:2,3,5</p> <p>compressed 21:21</p> <p>Concern 37:5</p> <p>conclusion 54:1</p> <p>conducted 34:11</p> <p>conferees 21:10</p> <p>conference 7:22 16:1 17:20 18:13 20:2,8 21:11,13 26:5 28:8,10</p>	<p>conferences 28:5 34:8</p> <p>confers 45:1</p> <p>confirm 47:22</p> <p>confirmation 18:5 49:8</p> <p>confirmed 31:3</p> <p>conflicts 50:11</p> <p>conform 12:4</p> <p>congratulate 35:14</p> <p>consent 19:16</p> <p>consists 23:2</p> <p>contact 31:19</p> <p>continue 8:21 16:3 20:6 39:14 54:6</p> <p>continuing 8:14 31:20</p> <p>contributions 16:22</p> <p>convened 29:21</p> <p>Convention 28:6</p> <p>conversation 40:15 43:6</p> <p>cooperative 32:9</p> <p>copy 29:1</p> <p>correct 8:17 11:21,24</p> <p>corrections 27:5</p> <p>Council 14:12 16:14 28:9 35:1</p> <p>Counsel 29:15,18</p> <p>countries 34:22</p>	<p>county 10:8,10</p> <p>couple 8:6 23:10</p> <p>Court 18:20</p> <p>created 8:25 14:13 16:20 39:6</p> <p>crisis 9:21</p> <p>CTE 28:10</p> <p>Culpepper 5:2,9, 23,24 6:7,12,19, 22,24 7:1 16:11 17:14 22:4,13 26:13,19 28:14,18 39:19,24 42:3,6, 16,19,22,25 43:4, 9,15,22,25 44:3,5, 7,15,20 45:12,15, 17,19 46:8,11,14, 17,19,22 47:2,9, 24 48:2,6,10 50:20,23 51:1,3,5, 10 52:3</p> <p>Cummins 5:21,22 6:16 42:13 43:20 45:1,11 46:10 48:1 52:6,7</p> <p>curious 17:13</p> <p>current 19:14 26:2 40:11 52:17, 24 54:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>D.C. 35:13</p> <p>data 14:15 17:2 29:6 36:16 39:9 40:4</p> <p>database 32:1 40:14</p>
--	---	---	--

<p>date 27:13 52:22 dates 20:19 day 20:24 26:7 days 22:19 33:10, 12 deadline 23:14 dealing 18:2 31:15 December 24:6 decided 47:17 decision 47:21 48:18,22 50:9,17 declare 6:13 deep 52:12 defended 33:9 degrees 31:5 delay 18:15 Delta 24:10,11 delve 40:14,19 denial 31:9 37:7 38:12 45:6 deny 46:4 Department 12:14 14:18 depends 19:8 descriptions 48:24 designated 21:3 desist 37:8 determined 44:17 develop 31:21 DFA 52:20</p>	<p>Dickison 33:20 died 9:2 13:20 diligently 29:10 direct 31:18 director 11:25 18:6 19:21 28:4, 22 33:11 38:18 40:12 41:4,13,17, 22 42:1 Director's 28:21 directors 27:25 Directors' 22:16 discipline 25:14 38:10 disciplines 40:3 discrepancy 50:8 discretion 10:8 discuss 41:7 discussing 20:4 41:2 discussion 11:11, 15 12:18 43:10 46:12 47:16 48:3 Disease 14:12 diseases 14:6,16, 22 16:14 dispensary 11:8, 10 dispense 11:19 distributed 24:22 Districts 18:21 diversity 18:17 divert 10:1 document 24:24</p>	<p>dollars 15:25 donations 16:24 17:8 Dotson 6:2,3 drop-dead 20:19 dropped 12:3 14:9 drugs 11:20 due 29:17 53:4 duplicate 37:2 duties 16:7 17:4 dye 20:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>earlier 11:17 54:20 early 7:13 21:1 easier 39:3 edibles 11:6 educate 8:15 30:15 educated 31:3 education 22:19 30:19 33:15 35:25 36:2 41:11,12,20 educational 22:20 27:1 39:8 effect 11:2 15:13 18:14 effective 35:8 effectively 54:4 efficiently 29:10 effort 7:24 8:14</p>	<p>efforts 26:21 electronic 53:19 Employees 15:19 encourage 34:2 encourages 25:5 encouraging 20:6 21:9 end 8:7 15:20 16:9 21:15,17 26:11 28:12 39:18 53:13,18 ended 12:17 ensure 18:21 30:19 entire 29:17 53:12 entities 14:19 34:14 35:7 entity 8:25 equipment 53:15 evaluate 9:24 evaluating 53:21 evaluation 34:25 event 26:9 35:17 exam 45:7 examined 9:18 excited 24:16 executive 11:25 18:5 19:21 28:22 33:11 36:11 38:18 40:12 41:4,13,17, 22 42:1 43:10 44:22 45:2,4,21 existing 48:24 expand 13:24</p>
---	--	--	--

<p>expansion 7:19 20:14</p> <p>expended 53:2,7, 14</p> <p>expending 53:12</p> <p>Expense 52:10</p> <p>expenses 52:23 53:22 54:1,4</p> <p>expire 23:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>facilitating 26:1</p> <p>facilities 10:6</p> <p>facility 50:18</p> <p>fact 16:23 21:1</p> <p>faculty 27:25 28:9</p> <p>Fair 24:9,18</p> <p>fall 25:21</p> <p>familiar 14:5 15:18</p> <p>families 14:8,19</p> <p>family 9:15</p> <p>fantastic 26:22</p> <p>favor 6:20 42:17 44:1 45:13 46:15 50:24</p> <p>FBI 31:1,7,18,19, 23</p> <p>February 24:2,4 26:5 37:4 42:10</p> <p>federal 11:22</p> <p>feedback 23:19 34:24 54:13</p>	<p>feeling 21:20</p> <p>fees 14:2</p> <p>figure 21:22</p> <p>final 20:19 46:6</p> <p>finalized 25:21</p> <p>Finance 52:5,8</p> <p>financial 54:4</p> <p>fine 53:11</p> <p>fingerprint 37:16</p> <p>fingerprints 37:19</p> <p>finished 24:3,4,5</p> <p>firsthand 31:16</p> <p>fiscal 52:9,23,25 53:10,13,18 54:9, 10,16</p> <p>fixed 52:19</p> <p>flagships 34:17</p> <p>floating 20:10</p> <p>focus 14:22 39:13</p> <p>folks 8:6,15 13:9, 15 19:4,9</p> <p>follow 13:6</p> <p>forms 25:8</p> <p>forum 7:4</p> <p>forward 7:2,7 22:15 23:23 29:3 31:24 39:13 40:9, 20 42:8 43:1,11 44:8,21 45:20 46:23 47:14,16 51:6</p> <p>forward-thinking 30:17</p> <p>forwarded 31:6</p>	<p>found 27:6</p> <p>four-year 18:5,14</p> <p>FPA 9:4,5</p> <p>frankly 14:21</p> <p>Fraudulent 31:12</p> <p>Friday 7:13 38:14, 15</p> <p>friend 9:11</p> <p>front 21:16 52:11</p> <p>fulfill 29:11 39:14</p> <p>full 43:17</p> <p>full-practice 8:1</p> <p>fully 53:25</p> <p>fund 15:22</p> <p>funding 17:11 25:1</p> <p>funds 15:23 16:15,25 17:5 52:18</p> <p>future 23:24 44:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <hr/> <p>game-changer 25:3</p> <p>gap 7:20</p> <p>gas 10:19,21</p> <p>gather 14:15</p> <p>gathering 17:2</p> <p>general 15:23 17:16 29:15,18</p> <p>Gentry 5:6,18 33:8,10 51:12,13 52:4</p>	<p>geographical 18:17</p> <p>give 17:5 34:24 37:10</p> <p>giving 54:25</p> <p>goal 25:6</p> <p>good 5:2 7:14,20 10:9,10 14:23 20:21 22:24 28:23 38:15 54:4</p> <p>Governance 32:20</p> <p>Governor 14:11 19:18 21:7</p> <p>graciously 32:16</p> <p>graduate 24:2</p> <p>graduated 24:1 32:7,13</p> <p>graduating 25:18</p> <p>Gray 36:11</p> <p>great 16:16 22:20 28:19 29:13 32:14 33:22 42:7 51:16</p> <p>greatly 53:16</p> <p>guard 34:10</p> <p>guess 13:3 32:25 50:7 54:13</p> <p>guidance 30:17</p> <p>Gulf 24:17</p> <p>guys 34:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>half 21:19 53:10</p> <p>handle 34:23</p>
---	---	---	--

<p>handout 40:25 Hank 17:24 happen 8:8 14:7 21:12 happy 30:24 52:14 hard 15:6 29:13 32:25 38:25 head 12:1 headed 20:8 health 8:4 9:8,23 12:14 14:18 24:9 26:7 healthcare 7:16 9:10 30:18 hear 8:17 heard 36:9 Hearing 37:4 hearings 44:10 held 28:6 35:13 helpful 35:3 helping 10:2 14:25 helps 25:4,5 hemp 10:15 11:10,14 high 18:24 52:12 highlight 33:7 38:7 highly 34:2 hire 13:7 hired 12:20 hit 52:12</p>	<p>homes 13:3 hope 54:12 horrific 14:7 Hosemann 21:8 hosted 26:9 27:23 hour 13:7 hours 12:22 36:18 51:22 House 7:21 8:3 9:6,7 11:15 12:11 15:2 housed 14:14 huge 51:21 hydration 34:13, 18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>idea 17:7 identify 32:4,11 ill 10:3 illegal 10:25 impact 18:16 impacted 14:20 implemented 38:21 important 9:9 26:24 32:24 33:2 impressive 37:15 in-person 37:18 include 13:4 25:13 30:4 Including 50:1 incorporation</p>	<p>33:4 increases 54:14 indications 20:24 individual 25:10 individually 49:25 individuals 23:7, 11 30:23 32:6 inform 8:15 information 23:10,14 29:8 30:4,9 31:10,25 34:5 35:1,3 36:12 37:11 40:8,13,20 54:9 informative 23:22 inhaler 12:25 initially 16:19 inject 12:24 injections 13:13 innovate 30:15 inquire 33:24 inquired 47:23 insertion 47:18 Institute 35:13,16 insulin 12:24 insurance 52:20 intent 12:5 intentional 20:11 interested 9:14 12:9 19:25 Interestingly 40:14 interests 30:16</p>	<p>international 34:9 35:11 internationally 34:20 intervention 9:22 intoxicating 11:2 introduced 9:2 investigate 31:15 34:18 35:7 investigation 31:1,13,23 32:8 investigations 32:12 37:14 40:7 investments 38:23 Invocation 5:8 involved 34:3 issue 15:19 34:18, 19 issues 7:17 10:13 15:1,13 20:5 item 6:14 45:3 items 52:19 IV 34:13,18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <hr/> <p>jail 10:3,4 jails 10:8 Janel 5:17 44:15 Janie 5:25 January 24:4 Jeremy 5:21 job 26:1 29:13,20 30:1 33:15,22</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>42:7</p> <p>Johnson 8:25 11:21,25 12:7,16 13:17 16:3 28:21, 22 33:11 38:18 39:20,21 40:1,12 41:4,13,17,22 42:1,4,7</p> <p>journey 8:21</p> <p>July 25:12</p> <p>June 23:6 26:7 28:8,9 44:10,12, 14 48:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <hr/> <p>key 39:14</p> <p>kind 7:12 11:3,9, 14 13:2,21 14:3, 16 17:6 34:16 35:21 37:11</p> <p>King 5:19,20 39:22,25 40:1,21 42:15 43:24 48:4, 7 50:6</p> <p>knowledge 33:20</p> <p>knowledgeable 33:23</p> <p>kratom 10:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <hr/> <p>Lacey 5:6 33:7 34:6</p> <p>Lacy 5:18 33:8</p> <p>language 20:5 38:11,12,13</p> <p>large 15:21</p>	<p>laugh 20:22</p> <p>law 11:22 14:10</p> <p>lawyer 9:11</p> <p>lead 5:6 30:16</p> <p>leadership 12:7 20:9 35:10,12</p> <p>learned 50:16</p> <p>leaving 7:13</p> <p>left 5:11 53:10</p> <p>legal 29:19 51:24</p> <p>legend 11:20</p> <p>Legislation 20:15</p> <p>legislative 7:8</p> <p>legislators 40:10</p> <p>legislature 14:17 17:3,10</p> <p>letters 24:23 26:23 37:5</p> <p>level 25:5 31:7 32:22 33:5 34:3</p> <p>levels 11:12</p> <p>liaison 39:1</p> <p>license 8:20 46:3</p> <p>licensed 25:16</p> <p>licensees 31:25 32:4 39:8</p> <p>licenses 36:23,25 37:2</p> <p>licensure 18:9 36:16 40:4</p> <p>licensures 36:23</p> <p>Lieutenant 21:7</p> <p>light 14:22</p>	<p>lines 47:19</p> <p>listed 38:4</p> <p>living 13:5</p> <p>loans 53:23</p> <p>located 27:14</p> <p>locked 10:4</p> <p>long 7:11</p> <p>looked 34:17</p> <p>Loper 25:25</p> <p>losing 54:22</p> <p>lot 7:16,24 8:18 10:7,20 11:15 12:18 13:21 14:7 19:24 21:2 32:25 33:24 34:14 36:4 37:8,25</p> <p>love 26:22</p> <p>LPN 13:9 28:5 45:7</p> <p>LPNS 36:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <hr/> <p>Madam 28:22 31:10 39:23 45:25 48:5</p> <p>made 15:21</p> <p>mailed 37:16</p> <p>main 54:11</p> <p>maintenance 47:19</p> <p>make 6:16 14:17 16:5,22 19:10 32:5,12 36:4 39:3 42:11,13 43:19,20 45:8,9 50:10</p>	<p>making 33:4 50:7</p> <p>manager 25:25</p> <p>managing 54:3</p> <p>March 23:17 38:2 52:15</p> <p>Mark 30:5</p> <p>Mary 6:4</p> <p>matters 37:4,5</p> <p>meaning 18:19 53:24</p> <p>means 53:7</p> <p>Medicaid 7:19 20:14 21:14</p> <p>medical 15:1 18:8</p> <p>medication 12:19 13:12</p> <p>Medicine 35:5</p> <p>meeting 5:4 17:2 33:6,13 35:24 37:9 42:9 44:12</p> <p>meetings 29:7 36:9 44:9</p> <p>Melissa 5:19</p> <p>member 5:14,16, 17,18,19,21,25 6:2,4,5,10,16,18 9:15 16:13 17:12 20:13,17 21:25 33:7,10 35:15 39:22 40:1,21,22 41:8,14,19,24 42:13,15 43:2,5, 13,20,24 45:1,9, 11,25 46:10 47:1, 7,13 48:1,4,7,20 49:4,14,15 50:1,3, 5,6,10 51:9,13</p>
--	---	--	---

<p>52:7 members 12:8 14:8 16:5 18:3 19:15 23:3,5 28:23 34:1,2 40:16 membership 19:22 mental 9:8,10 26:7 mentality 15:24 mentally 10:3 mention 8:22,23 15:2 19:11 mentioned 10:24 11:17 54:20 mentioning 7:18 10:14 merited 10:14 met 32:20 metrics 29:6 midwifery 8:24 9:1 midyear 33:6,13 minimum 13:1 minutes 42:10 43:3,7,18,21 mission 29:11 30:13 39:15 40:24 Mississippi 5:3 7:10 12:13 14:12 24:10,11,17 25:17 26:10 27:9,18 28:5,7 30:25 33:18 34:16 41:21</p>	<p>misunderstanding s 8:12 MNA 26:9 Mnvp 25:23 Modification 46:7 Monday 34:13 money 13:6 15:12,14 monitor 36:24 37:3 monitoring 26:2 30:22 Montgomery 26:17 28:25 32:21 53:21 month 32:20 37:18 months 53:10 Moody 5:17 44:15 morning 5:2,10 7:6,12 17:23 22:24 28:24 44:22 motion 6:17 7:1 42:11,14 43:19,21 45:8,10 46:9 47:25 motions 47:8 move 11:4 12:15 22:15 28:20 44:7 45:3,19 46:1,22 47:4 49:2 51:5 moves 7:2 42:25 moving 7:7 26:25 40:8 42:8 43:11 44:21 45:22 multiple 29:21,22</p>	<p>multiply 37:23 <hr/> N <hr/> names 21:9 25:10 Nancy 6:5 Natchez 28:11 nation 34:15 national 32:22 33:5 34:3,8 35:1 nationwide 34:19 nature 31:18 navigate 39:3 NCLEX 25:15 NCSBN 32:19 33:21 necessarily 10:23 necessity 10:7 newsletter 23:16, 18,21 26:18 newsletters 23:24 Nightingale 30:21 31:2,12,16 NOAP 26:6 nods 11:25 noncompliant 27:7 nonetheless 18:15 Norris-johnson 6:5,6 45:9,24,25 47:1,3 North 26:10 Northern 18:20</p>	<p>notification 31:22 NP 46:6 number 13:8 25:14,23 29:22 48:12 nurse 11:19 23:25 nurses 25:6 30:17,25 31:2 36:22 nursing 5:4 12:11 18:8 19:2 22:23, 25 23:4,20 24:7, 20 26:12,25 27:2, 19 28:3,8,13,15 29:12 30:19 31:4 32:17 33:14 35:6, 22 36:5 39:16 41:11,12,18,20 54:18 <hr/> O <hr/> occur 27:20 44:12 occurring 22:18 October 43:18 offer 30:17 Office 9:16 12:10, 13 22:23,25 23:4 24:7 26:12 oil 10:21 11:6 OLRC 38:1,14,19 51:19 omnibus 9:8 one-pager 15:8,9 ongoing 30:22 31:20 38:24,25 39:10</p>
---	--	---	---

<p>online 6:7</p> <p>ONW 23:1,16,18, 21,24,25 24:20</p> <p>open 7:3 17:10 20:4 54:20,22,24</p> <p>openings 53:5</p> <p>Operation 30:21 31:2,12,16</p> <p>opportunity 22:20 29:5</p> <p>opposed 6:22 42:20 44:3 45:15 46:17 48:25 51:1</p> <p>oral 43:18</p> <p>Order 46:6</p> <p>ordered 9:17</p> <p>orders 52:17</p> <p>organizations 19:3 40:9</p> <p>outcome 25:11</p> <p>outcomes 25:16</p> <p>outreach 24:9</p> <p>outstanding 29:20 30:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>P-326356 46:4</p> <p>pack 13:11</p> <p>packet 29:1</p> <p>panel 6:21 29:20, 24 36:1 42:18 44:2,14 45:14 46:16 50:25</p> <p>paper 20:22,23</p>	<p>parked 52:18</p> <p>part 26:6 36:7 38:3,4</p> <p>part-time 54:22</p> <p>participants 25:24 26:2</p> <p>participated 24:9</p> <p>participating 24:8,14 28:4</p> <p>parties 12:15</p> <p>pass 9:2 10:18 11:18 13:20 14:10</p> <p>past 29:7 37:10</p> <p>patient 10:2,9 13:18</p> <p>patients 11:20 13:12</p> <p>pay 9:7 54:23</p> <p>payments 52:20</p> <p>people 8:20 10:3, 7 12:24 14:5,25 33:16,24 37:1 48:13 50:12,16</p> <p>percent 53:3,9,14, 16,24 54:2,15,17</p> <p>period 18:15 21:21 37:17,21</p> <p>PERS 15:17,22</p> <p>person 9:14,24 10:10 33:17</p> <p>personal 13:3</p> <p>personally 33:21</p> <p>Pharmacy 35:6</p> <p>phenomenal 33:15 51:15,24</p>	<p>Philip 33:20</p> <p>phone 17:22</p> <p>Phyllis 12:21</p> <p>PICC 47:19</p> <p>pick 9:17</p> <p>picking 13:8</p> <p>place 19:5 53:22</p> <p>places 11:1</p> <p>plate 35:18</p> <p>pleasure 38:15</p> <p>PN 27:24 28:8</p> <p>point 6:12 7:3 17:8 18:16</p> <p>points 52:12</p> <p>polite 11:3</p> <p>position 7:21 23:12 47:18 48:7, 9,13,24 49:2,5,19 50:8 54:23,24</p> <p>positions 54:19, 20,22</p> <p>positive 23:19 35:2</p> <p>possibly 25:19</p> <p>pot 15:15</p> <p>Powerpoint 28:25</p> <p>practical 26:25 27:2 28:3,13,15 41:18,19</p> <p>practice 30:19 36:22 40:8 41:11 47:5,11,16 48:11</p> <p>practitioners 11:19</p>	<p>praise 51:14</p> <p>prayer 5:7</p> <p>pre-screening 9:20</p> <p>preliminary 25:11,17</p> <p>prepared 36:13</p> <p>preparing 27:22</p> <p>prerogative 18:7</p> <p>prescription 11:23</p> <p>present 29:8 34:7</p> <p>presentation 16:9 33:20</p> <p>presented 31:13 33:13</p> <p>presenting 30:8</p> <p>President 5:2,9, 23 6:7,12,19,22, 24 7:1 16:11 17:14 22:4,13 26:13,19 28:14, 18,23 31:10 39:19,23,24 42:3, 6,16,19,22,25 43:4,9,15,22,25 44:3,5,7,20 45:12, 15,17,19 46:1,8, 11,14,17,19,22 47:2,9,24 48:2,5, 6,10 50:20,23 51:1,3,5,10 52:3</p> <p>pretty 7:20 41:9</p> <p>prior 9:20,24 32:8</p> <p>priorities 39:14</p> <p>priority 13:18</p>
--	--	--	---

<p>private 17:8</p> <p>problem 10:5</p> <p>procedural 38:5</p> <p>PROCEEDINGS 5:1</p> <p>process 9:13,20 10:2,18 21:6 25:7 27:10</p> <p>professional 7:25 19:2 40:9</p> <p>program 24:20 25:2,24 26:3 27:9 28:3</p> <p>project 25:25</p> <p>projects 38:24</p> <p>promote 30:14,16</p> <p>proposal 54:12</p> <p>proposed 18:12</p> <p>proposing 54:21</p> <p>protect 13:19 30:14</p> <p>protecting 39:15</p> <p>proud 35:18</p> <p>provide 29:6</p> <p>public 7:5 8:3 13:19 15:18 29:11 30:14,19 39:15</p> <p>public's 30:10</p> <p>published 23:17</p> <p>pull 49:22</p> <p>pulled 26:18</p> <p>purchase 52:17</p> <p>purpose 23:3</p>	<p>purposes 18:18</p> <p>purview 27:18</p> <p>push 13:2</p> <p>pushing 14:21,25</p> <p>put 7:24 23:22 38:11,12 51:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <hr/> <p>qualifications 18:25</p> <p>quality 18:24</p> <p>question 16:17 18:1 20:14,21 39:23 40:2,17,23 43:3 48:5</p> <p>questions 16:10, 12 17:15 22:5 26:15 28:14 34:14,20 36:2 39:21 42:4 44:18 48:19 50:21 52:13</p> <p>quick 43:3</p> <p>quickly 8:23 40:23</p> <p>quorum 6:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <hr/> <p>R-886727 46:6</p> <p>R-893398 46:3</p> <p>R-905135 46:6</p> <p>raise 54:15,16,17</p> <p>Randy 17:22</p> <p>rare 14:6,12,16,22 16:13</p>	<p>rate 54:23</p> <p>reach 25:6</p> <p>reached 35:25 36:6</p> <p>real 52:12</p> <p>reason 49:16</p> <p>Rebecca 35:15</p> <p>receive 16:25 23:19 25:1</p> <p>received 23:9 24:24 25:11,15 26:23 31:4 34:25 35:16</p> <p>reception 22:18</p> <p>recommendation 19:11 45:5 46:2</p> <p>recommendations 48:17</p> <p>recommended 19:2</p> <p>reconstituting 19:13</p> <p>reconstitution 17:18</p> <p>record 52:1</p> <p>recruits 54:18</p> <p>refer 49:18</p> <p>reference 47:18, 20</p> <p>referencing 48:18</p> <p>referring 49:3</p> <p>regard 44:24</p> <p>regulate 8:20 9:1 30:18 41:12,16</p>	<p>regulating 41:10</p> <p>regulation 39:16</p> <p>Regulatory 35:12 38:1</p> <p>related 12:3 40:8</p> <p>remaining 52:24</p> <p>remember 12:22 19:12</p> <p>reminder 22:16</p> <p>remiss 15:5</p> <p>removal 47:19</p> <p>Renia 6:2</p> <p>replacement 53:20</p> <p>report 14:17 22:23 25:12,13, 17,21 26:11 27:1, 11,12 28:12,16,21 29:2,3 30:4,24 31:5,11 36:17 39:18 40:2 51:14 52:8,11</p> <p>reported 6:17</p> <p>reports 39:9 44:21</p> <p>Representative 9:5 17:22,24 20:3</p> <p>represented 18:22</p> <p>requested 54:15</p> <p>require 11:7 19:19 35:19</p> <p>requires 11:22 32:25</p> <p>researcher 40:19</p>
---	---	---	---

<p>resolution 38:17, 21 51:19</p> <p>resources 16:6</p> <p>response 6:23,25 26:16 28:17 41:10 42:5,21,24 44:4,6, 19 45:16,18 46:13,18,21 50:22 51:2,4</p> <p>responses 35:2</p> <p>responsibilities 16:8 17:5</p> <p>responsible 25:9 37:1</p> <p>restating 41:2,5</p> <p>resubmitted 27:4</p> <p>result 31:1,11</p> <p>retain 54:21</p> <p>retention 23:25</p> <p>Retirement 15:19</p> <p>retreat 22:17 28:9 36:10 41:2,7</p> <p>retrospectively 32:5</p> <p>Revenue 52:15</p> <p>review 25:22 29:21 32:20 36:22</p> <p>reviewing 25:7 27:10,12 33:3 48:12,15</p> <p>revised 27:11</p> <p>revising 49:1</p> <p>revision 51:20</p> <p>RN 6:11 13:9 44:16</p>	<p>RNS 36:20</p> <p>rock 34:6</p> <p>roll 5:11</p> <p>roughly 37:18,24</p> <p>Roundtable 34:11,12</p> <p>run 21:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>safety 13:18 29:11 30:20</p> <p>Salaries 53:2</p> <p>salary 53:6 54:14</p> <p>sale 10:20</p> <p>Saltzman 51:18</p> <p>Sandra 5:23 44:14</p> <p>schedule 27:16</p> <p>scheduled 16:1 27:21 28:2</p> <p>scholarship 25:2 35:12</p> <p>scholarships 24:1,21 25:15</p> <p>school 24:16 28:7</p> <p>schools 24:22,25 25:9 27:22 30:23, 24 31:12,20 32:7, 14</p> <p>schools' 25:8</p> <p>Scoggin's 9:5</p> <p>seat 36:5</p> <p>secret 30:6</p> <p>sections 11:9</p>	<p>seeking 23:7</p> <p>self-study 27:5</p> <p>self-sufficient 17:7</p> <p>Senate 7:11,20 8:22 9:3,4 11:18 12:18 14:13 17:17,19 19:17</p> <p>Senator 9:4</p> <p>sending 34:4 36:12</p> <p>sensitive 18:23</p> <p>serve 36:1</p> <p>service 24:3,5</p> <p>set 34:1 44:10</p> <p>settlements 44:10</p> <p>Shan 7:12 12:7 15:4,5,6 16:4 32:21 38:25</p> <p>She'll 34:6</p> <p>sheriff 9:17</p> <p>sheriffs 10:11</p> <p>shifting 48:22</p> <p>shore 15:21</p> <p>shot 13:25</p> <p>show 29:9 31:1 37:11</p> <p>shows 35:4 37:16 54:3</p> <p>sick 10:3,9 15:1</p> <p>side 13:16 27:3</p> <p>sides 20:10</p> <p>signing 20:23</p>	<p>similar 19:6 40:16</p> <p>Sip 33:18</p> <p>sir 20:16 22:2</p> <p>site 27:9,13,19</p> <p>sitting 44:16 52:17 53:16 54:2</p> <p>situations 31:15</p> <p>skill 33:25</p> <p>slide 30:12</p> <p>slightly 53:8</p> <p>slow 39:5</p> <p>sold 10:25 11:1,8</p> <p>sort 19:8</p> <p>Southern 18:20</p> <p>speak 7:6</p> <p>Speaker 21:1</p> <p>speaking 26:8</p> <p>specific 49:8,9</p> <p>speed 21:5</p> <p>spoken 17:23</p> <p>spring 35:23</p> <p>staff 16:4 27:25 29:25 32:21 35:15,21 54:16,18</p> <p>staffing 54:19</p> <p>stakeholders 23:20 29:9</p> <p>stand 29:16</p> <p>standard 49:12</p> <p>standards 18:24</p> <p>standards/criteria 27:6</p>
---	--	---	---

<p>standing 49:21 54:5</p> <p>standpoint 20:18 39:12</p> <p>star 34:6</p> <p>Starbucks 22:9</p> <p>start 5:10 7:18 17:1 23:1 27:3,8</p> <p>started 30:7,8</p> <p>state 5:12 6:8 12:14 17:5 18:3, 22 36:20 40:11</p> <p>statement 47:18 49:5 50:8</p> <p>statements 48:8, 9,14 49:2,19</p> <p>station 10:19,21</p> <p>stayed 38:10</p> <p>stays 18:10 38:5</p> <p>stead 29:16</p> <p>steady 25:23</p> <p>stepping 35:18</p> <p>Stewart 6:4 16:13, 17 17:12 40:22 41:8,14,19,24 43:2,5,13 47:6,7, 10 48:20 49:14 50:1,5</p> <p>stop 49:3</p> <p>straight-out 19:9</p> <p>structure 43:7</p> <p>student 23:25</p> <p>students 24:25 25:3,14,18</p>	<p>study 14:15 35:20</p> <p>submission 23:15</p> <p>submit 21:9 23:14 27:13</p> <p>submitted 27:8</p> <p>submitting 23:12 25:9</p> <p>subsidies 53:23</p> <p>success 28:1</p> <p>support 8:10 17:6 20:9 39:17</p> <p>supportive 8:19</p> <p>supposedly 18:18</p> <p>Supreme 18:20</p> <p>surprised 34:9</p> <p>switched 8:7</p> <p>system 9:10 15:19 19:6,14 32:2,10,15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>table 36:5 48:16</p> <p>tag 48:21</p> <p>takes 9:15</p> <p>taking 13:11 48:8</p> <p>talked 15:4</p> <p>talking 13:13</p> <p>team 27:10 29:19 51:24</p> <p>teams 9:22</p> <p>technical 35:25 36:2</p> <p>technically 10:25</p>	<p>technological 39:12</p> <p>technology 32:15 38:23 39:1</p> <p>ten 23:3</p> <p>term 23:5</p> <p>terms 20:19 24:20</p> <p>testament 29:14 32:15 33:25 35:9, 21</p> <p>testing 11:13</p> <p>text 15:7</p> <p>thankfully 38:20</p> <p>thanking 15:5</p> <p>THC 11:12</p> <p>thing 11:14 13:6 14:3,16,24 15:2 18:17,23 42:9 43:17 44:23 45:21 47:14</p> <p>things 9:19 10:15, 20,23,24 11:5 13:13,19 14:2 15:17 31:17 39:11</p> <p>thought 9:25 10:14 23:21,22</p> <p>Thoughtspan 32:2,9 39:9</p> <p>tighter 15:23</p> <p>time 5:5 16:2 20:18 21:21,22 22:8 24:15 25:20 27:18 35:19 37:12,17,20,21 48:17 53:6 54:7</p> <p>times 21:2 37:23</p>	<p>today 21:2,8,17 31:14</p> <p>told 10:22 16:21, 23</p> <p>tool 39:8</p> <p>topic 34:13</p> <p>total 25:14 52:16, 21,25 54:1</p> <p>trained 10:12</p> <p>training 12:9,10, 22 13:1 27:24 28:1,2</p> <p>transfer 12:13</p> <p>travel 53:8,9</p> <p>tree 47:21 48:18, 23 50:9,18</p> <p>tremendous 51:21</p> <p>Trey 17:17</p> <p>TURNER 17:16</p> <p>turns 36:18</p> <p>Twain 30:6</p> <p>Twelve 12:22</p> <p>two-pager 15:9</p> <p>two-year 32:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>ultrasound 47:20 49:12</p> <p>UMC 12:14 14:14</p> <p>understand 8:16 13:5,10,16 40:10 48:23 49:1</p> <p>unfair 22:10</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>unforeseen 29:17</p> <p>upcoming 26:8 36:9</p> <p>update 7:8 17:17 47:17 48:24</p> <p>updated 39:2,10 50:2</p> <p>Updates 30:21 38:1</p> <p>utilized 53:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <hr/> <p>vague 41:9</p> <p>Vanessa 36:11</p> <p>vendor 26:4</p> <p>verbiage 49:11</p> <p>versus 50:8</p> <p>viability 49:22,23</p> <p>videos 39:6</p> <p>virtual 27:24</p> <p>Visibility 32:18</p> <p>visible 26:3 32:19</p> <p>Vision 30:13 40:24</p> <p>visit 27:9,14</p> <p>visits 27:19,20,23</p> <p>voluntary 23:2</p> <p>vote 8:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>waiting 38:16</p> <p>Walker 5:16 29:16 38:8 44:15 51:18</p>	<p>wanted 8:22 13:20 19:11 33:22 36:4 37:10</p> <p>wanting 11:4,7 21:4 33:16</p> <p>Washington 35:13</p> <p>watching 15:25 20:1 21:7</p> <p>webpage 23:18</p> <p>website 39:2,7 49:7 50:14</p> <p>week 21:5 28:6 29:14,17 30:2 34:12 36:7,18 37:10</p> <p>weekend 21:3</p> <p>weeks 21:19</p> <p>Westin 36:15</p> <p>White 21:1</p> <p>whomever 18:9</p> <p>wonderful 26:1 51:25</p> <p>word 11:3</p> <p>work 15:6 16:2,3 24:3 28:19 29:13 32:25 35:4,5 37:11 39:1 51:16, 22 52:20 54:6</p> <p>worked 7:11 32:3, 10</p> <p>workforce 12:9, 10,13 22:23,25 23:4 24:7 26:12 30:18</p> <p>working 10:15</p>	<p>works 17:9 29:10</p> <p>wrestling 15:11</p> <p>wrinkle 18:10</p> <p>writ 9:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <hr/> <p>X-RAY 49:9,10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <hr/> <p>y'all 7:14 14:5 15:11,18 22:11 38:13</p> <p>year 14:10 27:7, 17,21 35:14 51:17 52:9,23 53:10,13, 18 54:9,10,16</p> <p>years 14:9 15:16</p> <p>yesterday 23:10</p> <p>you-all 29:12 32:15 35:9 38:22 41:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <hr/> <p>Zealand 34:21</p> <p>Zoom 6:8</p> <p>Zuber 17:24 20:3</p>
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