

**PROPOSED PROCESS/GUIDELINE RELATING TO
DEVELOPMENT OF A PROCESS ALLOWING FOR
BOARD APPROVAL OF HOSPITAL-BASED DIPLOMA PROGRAMS**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the proposed process/guideline allowing for Board approval of hospital-based diploma programs.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- The Sunset Advisory Commission Report to the 80th Legislature, May 2007, under Recommendations, Management Action 1.8 states "The Board should develop a process to allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma programs."
- At the July 2007 Board meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) issued a charge to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) to recommend to the Board a process to allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma nursing programs.

ACTIONS TO DATE:

- On August 28, 2007, ACE met, began discussions regarding the development of a draft process that would allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma programs, and directed Board staff to develop a crosswalk of regulating agencies, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and current Texas BON approval processes for a proposed new professional nursing educational program for further discussion.
- In order to ensure that select educational standards are met by a proposed new hospital-based diploma nursing educational program equitable to standards that are required for other professional nursing educational programs administered by governing institutions accredited by SACS, Board staff developed a crosswalk table outlining these select SACS standards. The goal was to determine whether those SACS standards are addressed in some way by either the Texas BON or TWC, as part of the Texas BON or TWC current new program approval processes. This crosswalk was emailed to TWC staff for completion.
- On September 25, 2007, ACE met by conference call to discuss draft language regarding proposed licensing/approval eligibility criteria for a proposed new hospital-based diploma nursing program, the crosswalk table of SACS standards that TWC staff completed, and the current requirements in the Texas BON approval process for new professional nursing educational programs.
- ACE determined during the above meeting that the select SACS standards, not addressed in the TWC approval process, are already included as part of the current BON approval process for professional nursing education programs or could be included in the new streamlined Texas BON overall new program approval process (See Agenda Item 7.10.7.) ACE further determined that the recommended approval process should include requirements that the controlling agency (hospital or consortium of hospitals) of a proposed new hospital-based diploma nursing program:
 - meet the recommended licensing/approval eligibility criteria (See Attachment);
 - acquire approval from TWC for the proposed program;
 - submit to the Texas BON, in addition to the current required proposal documentation, a mission statement for the controlling agency (hospital or consortium of hospitals), organizational charts for the controlling agency, and documentation of financial support (budgets) for the proposed program; and
 - submit to the Texas BON a written plan addressing the legislative mandate that all nursing diploma programs in Texas must have a process in place by 2015 to ensure that their graduates are entitled to receive a degree from a public or private institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB and at a minimum, entitle a graduate of the diploma program to receive an associate degree in nursing (See Agenda Item 7.10.8.)

FUTURE ACTIONS:

When the new streamlined Texas BON overall approval process to establish a new nursing education program is developed by Board staff for both new vocational nursing educational programs and new professional nursing educational programs (See Agenda Item 7.10.7), a specific approval process and an education guideline for approval of a new hospital-based diploma nursing program will be developed.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros -

- The proposed process addresses the Sunset Advisory Commission Recommendation, Management Action 1.8, that states “The Board should develop a process to allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma programs.”
- The licensing/approval eligibility criteria to be met by the controlling agency (hospital or consortium of hospitals) of a new proposed diploma nursing program will ensure that federal/state licensing/approval requirements are met.
- The actions to date provide a foundation for development of a specific approval process and an education guideline for approval of a new hospital-based diploma nursing program as a by product of the overall streamlined approval process for approval of new nursing educational programs in Texas.

Cons -

None noted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to approve the proposed process allowing for Board approval of a new hospital-based diploma program as a part of the future overall streamlined approval process and education guidelines that will be developed.

Proposed Language:

Licensure by the Texas Department of State Health Services for Hospitals and Approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Approval or Accreditation by a CMS-Approved Organization

“The proposal for a new hospital-based diploma nursing education program shall include documentation that the hospital or consortium of hospitals is/are:

1. Licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and
2. Either -
 - A. approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or
 - B. accredited by a CMS-approved organization.”