

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (ACE) REPORT**

### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The report is two-fold:

- presentation of an update regarding the status of ACE activities for informational purposes; and
- consideration of staff recommendation regarding the nomination/appointment of a new committee member.

### **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

- At the April 2006 Board meeting, the Board issued a charge to ACE regarding Board approval of nursing education programs outside of Texas' jurisdiction including, but not limited to:
  - Studying the issues involved in the Board approving nursing education programs outside Texas' jurisdiction currently operating in Texas or desiring to operate in Texas.
  - Recommending new rules and regulations addressing Board approval of nursing education programs outside Texas' jurisdiction currently operating in Texas or desiring to operate in Texas.
  - Reviewing rule language for clarity and consistency between Rule 214 and Rule 215 and making recommendations regarding Rule 219
- ACE addressed the first two charges issued at the April 2006 Board meeting, but because of Sunset requirements, the ACE will begin address of the remaining charge, reviewing rule language for clarity and consistency between Rule 214 and Rule 215 and making recommendations regarding Rule 219, beginning at the ACE meeting scheduled on June 13, 2008.
- At the July 2006 Board meeting, the Board issued three (3) new charges to ACE including, but not limited to:
  - Recommending possible rule revision to clarify Board expectations in distance education for nursing education programs.
  - Recommending possible rule revision to clarify the role of simulation in clinical learning experiences.
  - Recommending possible limitations or a revised process for resubmitting a proposal for a new nursing education program after the original proposal is denied by the Board.
- ACE has addressed all of the three (3) new charges issued to ACE at the July 2006 Board meeting.
- As a result of the Sunset Commission's report to the Texas Legislature, House Bill 2426 was passed into law and became effective on September 1, 2007.
- At the July 2007 Board meeting, the Board issued a three-point charge to ACE related to the agency's Sunset Implementation Plan, including statutory changes and management actions, as follows:
  - Reviewing and revising the education rules, policies, and procedures to ensure that the rules, policies, and procedures do not exceed the Board's responsibility to certify minimum competence to enter the profession of nursing;
  - Recommending to the Board a process to allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma nursing programs; and
  - Recommending to the Board allowing Board approval of nursing education programs for a period longer than one year.

One additional charge was added, as follows: Evaluating the number of program hours for vocational nursing (VN) education programs outlined in Rule 214.

- Recommendations addressing the three-point charge to ACE related to the agency's Sunset Implementation Plan were presented to the Board at the January 17-18, 2008 Board Meeting.
- At the January 2008 meeting, the Board approved appointment of six (6) new members to the ACE and authorized board staff to refer nominations for new ACE members to the Education Liaison Committee (ELC) and the Board President for Interim Approval when these nominations are received during the intervals between regularly scheduled Board Meetings.

**REMAINING CHARGES TO BE ADDRESSED BY ACE:**

- Reviewing rule language for clarity and consistency between Rule 214 and Rule 215 and making recommendations regarding Rule 219; and
- Evaluating the number of program hours for vocational nursing education programs outlined in Rule 214.

**ACE ACTIONS SINCE JANUARY 17-18, 2008 BOARD MEETING:**

The ACE met on February 28, 2008 and during the meeting:

- Eileen Deges Curl, PhD, RN, representative for the Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs (TADDPNP) was elected chairperson.
- Board staff presented an update on the progress toward implementing the Jurisprudence Examination, Sunset charges, an update on ACE progress toward meeting Sunset recommendations and addressing Board charges, and a report on the five fraudulent VN programs in the state that are under investigation by the Texas Workforce Commission.
- Nancy Spector, PhD, RN, Director of Education at the National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) presented information on National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Studies on Practical Nursing Evidenced-Based Nursing Education and national trends in vocational nursing education (VN).
- Donna Carlin, MSN, RN, Program Director of Professional Programs, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, gave a presentation regarding THECB requirements for program hours in THECB approved VN education programs and reported on the progress on the Senate Bill 139 study of nursing curriculum in the state.
- Nancy Maebius, PhD, RN, representative for VN Programs in Career College and Schools, discussed background of the issue of vocational nursing education program hours.
- Board staff presented information on the demographic breakdown of the BON-approved VN programs, rule requirements in Rule 214 related to nursing of children and maternity, and a clarification of options for the clinical experiences in pediatrics and obstetrics.
- ACE discussed the issues regarding the evaluation of the number of program hours for vocational nursing education programs outlined in Rule 214 and voted that:
  - Program hours remain the same until additional information is available;
  - Dr. Maebius will get more information from TAVNE regarding the nature of the questions;
  - Board staff will get information for ACE about other state requirements for VN program hours; and
  - Janet Noles, PhD, RN, representative for the Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education (TOBGNE), will examine NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the last five years related to total clinical and theory hours.
- ACE discussed the rule requirements in Rule 214 related to nursing of children and maternity, and a clarification of options for the clinical experiences in pediatrics and obstetrics and voted that rule clarifications related to pediatric and obstetric clinical experiences be placed under Frequently Asked Questions on the web site immediately.

- The ACE members determined that the next meeting be scheduled for June 13, 2008.

**ACE MEMBERSHIP:**

Nomination for a New Member:

- On February 11, 2008, a nomination was received on from the Texas Organization for Nurse Executives (TONE) for Kendra Slatton, MSN, RN, CNE, to be appointed to the ACE.

**PROS AND CONS:**

Pros:

- Board staff review of the completed biographical data form for the nominated individual that indicated the nominated individual is qualified to serve as a member on the ACE.
- The nominated individual, having previously served as a member of the ACE, has experience in the role of a ACE member.
- The members of the Education Liaison Committee (ELC) and the Board President reviewed the nomination and unanimously recommended appointment of Kendra Slatton, MSN, RN, CNE, to be a member of ACE as the representative for TONE.

Cons:

The one (1) remaining vacant membership slot will need to be filled as soon as possible.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Board move to accept the nomination for Kendra Slatton, MSN, RN and approve the appointment of Ms. Slatton to be the representative for TONE on the ACE as recommended by the ELC and the Board President.