

**REPORT ON THE STREAMLINING OF THE
INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONAL NURSING EDUCATION
PILOT PROGRAMS APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Review the report on the streamlining of the Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Programs Application and Approval Process for informational purposes.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

- Section §301.1605 of the Texas Occupations Code, which was enacted by Senate Bill 718, 78th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, authorized the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) to approve and adopt rules regarding pilot programs for the innovative application in the practice and regulation of professional nursing.
- At the April 2005 meeting, the Board:
 - Proposed the adoption of Chapter 227, Pilot Programs for Innovative Application to Professional Nursing Education, which became effective July 4, 2005;
 - Approved the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Programs consistent with the proposed new Chapter 227 and offered a proposal process to encourage the development, implementation and study of innovative approaches will support the efforts of nursing education programs to train and graduate competent, safe registered nurses; and
 - Approved Midwestern State University (MSU) Baccalaureate Nursing Educational Program as a pilot program to the Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program.
 - MSU Pilot Program utilized BSN nurse mentors as “faculty extenders” in the clinical simulation lab.
 - The project provided an opportunity to use faculty efficiently through the development of a regional interdisciplinary simulation center shared by a health care system, an associate degree nursing program, and a baccalaureate school of nursing.
 - Preliminary research findings allowed for a successful education rule (Rule 215) change that now allows BSN faculty to be utilized in clinical simulation labs.
- The Texas BON consistently receives requests for flexibility and creativity from nursing educational programs wanting to explore new approaches to nursing education, but to date MSU has been the only nursing educational program requesting to conduct a professional nursing education innovative pilot program requiring an exception to the current Texas BON rules and receiving Texas BON approval to conduct the pilot program.
- In November 2007, Board staff revised the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Programs and proposal process, now titled, Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Programs Application and Approval Process (See Attachment), in an effort to streamline the overall process and encourage nursing educational programs to consider creative and innovative strategies to increase admissions and enrollment.
- In December 2007, an application and proposal was received from Victoria College, Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program, for an Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program. This application and proposal will be considered by the Texas BON at the January 2008 Board Meeting (See Agenda Item 3.2.7.)

PROS AND CONS:

Pros

The revised and streamlined application and proposal process for Texas BON-approved pilot programs in professional nursing education programs may:

- Contribute to the development of alternative avenues to increase admission into programs of nursing, address the nursing faculty shortage, and address the nursing shortage overall;
- Elicit creative approaches for evidence-based nursing education; and
- Provide a stimulus for Texas BON rule revision and/or development.

Cons

None noted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information report. No action by the Board is recommended.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAMS

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) is accepting applications for pilot programs designed to evaluate the efficacy and effect of innovative applications in professional nursing educational programs to promote the graduation of competent, safe registered nurses in the State of Texas. The Texas BON is requesting the submission of applications and proposals as authorized by section 301.1605 of the Texas Occupations Code, enacted by Senate Bill 718 in the 78th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. The Texas BON has adopted new chapter 227, 22 Texas Administrative Code, pursuant to Senate Bill 718. Chapter 227 was originally proposed in the May 13, 2005, issue of the *Texas Register* and was adopted without comment or changes. The effective date of chapter 227 is July 5, 2005.

The mission of the Texas BON is to “protect and promote the welfare of the people of Texas by ensuring that each person holding a license as a nurse in the State of Texas is competent to practice safely.” The Board fulfills its mission through the regulation of the practice of nursing and the approval of nursing educational programs. The Texas BON approval of nursing educational programs safeguards the preparation of nurses by assuring that students incorporate standards of nursing into their practice through the utilization of sound educational principals. Additionally, in order to maintain standardization and consistency, Texas nursing educational programs must ensure that the curriculum and program outcomes prepare students to demonstrate the *Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, (DELIC)*.

Although regulation by the Texas BON calls for standardization and consistency in promoting quality, safe, and competent nursing care, the current healthcare environment often necessitates change, innovation and flexibility by healthcare providers and administrators. Studies from the Institute of Medicine indicate that educational programs for healthcare professionals must be responsive to this dynamic healthcare environment, an environment that is reacting to an increased use of technology, ongoing staffing shortages and an aging patient population. These and other competing factors in the healthcare environment demand the assurance that healthcare services are safe, effective and based on evidence of best outcomes.¹ The Texas BON’s mission to ensure these protections is facilitated through activities that promote collaboration and communication with stakeholders.

The Texas Nurses Association, in collaboration with key stakeholders including the Texas BON, convened a task force to outline strategies that would promote creative applications for nursing educational programs to meet the challenges presented by today’s healthcare environment. The resulting initiative calls for innovation as a framework for accomplishing this goal and provides specific recommendations from the task force.² To help support these and other types of educational innovations, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board created the Nursing Innovation Grant Program. Under this grant program schools of professional nursing were awarded grants for the purpose of developing new activities and projects that promote innovation in the education, recruitment and retention of both nursing students and qualified faculty.³

The Texas BON consistently receives requests for flexibility and creativity from nursing education programs wanting to explore new approaches to nursing education. Consequently, the Texas BON is offering an application and proposal process that will encourage the development, implementation and study of innovative applications that support the efforts of nursing educational programs to graduate competent, safe nurses. It is anticipated that the research generated from these creative and innovative approaches will result in improvement in the quality and delivery of nursing education and subsequent replication of innovative strategies throughout the State of Texas.

For consideration as an innovative professional nursing education pilot program the following must be submitted to the Texas BON for review and evaluation:

1. Application Form, page 4 of this document
2. Explanation of Requested Exceptions, page 5 of this document
3. Proposal Form (Sections I-V of this document) or a copy of a research grant proposal submitted to another entity, i.e., HRSA, THECB
4. Additional Supporting Documentation (Optional), Section VI of this document.

Submit the documents to the address below:

Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

The Executive Director will screen each application and proposal submitted to ensure that it is consistent with the intent of this request for applications and proposals and adheres to the requirements of the request as outlined in this document. The application and proposal will then be forwarded to the Education Division for review. The Education Division will have at least 12 weeks from receipt of the application and proposal to review the application and proposal and provide recommendations about the application and proposal based on the criteria outlined in this document and the Education Guidelines, "Application for an Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program." A copy of the Texas Board of Nursing – Staff Application and Proposal Evaluation Form is included on pages 10-11 of this document. The Education Division recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Director for placement on Board agenda for consideration during a public meeting conducted in a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Applicants will be notified if the proposed pilot program is approved, denied or action on the proposed pilot program is deferred. If approved, the applicant will be sent a contract to sign in accordance with the terms of Board approval. Once the Texas BON executes a contract with the participant, the participant may initiate the innovative professional nursing education pilot program.

1. Institute of Medicine (2003). Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality
2. Texas Nurses Association Nursing Education Redesign Task Force (2005) The Need for Innovation in Nursing Education in Texas. Texas Nurses Association
3. Nursing Innovation Grant - Category D (NIGP-D). Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

INSTRUCTIONS TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

Application Form

Each application for approval of an Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program must include a completed “Application Form” and the attached “Explanation of Exceptions(s) Requested” table located on pages 4 and 5 of this document.

***Note:** If the proposed pilot program does not require an exception or waiver from the current Texas BON rules and regulations, the proposed pilot program **does not** meet the criteria for approval as an Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program.

Proposal Form

Each application for approval of an Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program must include either a:

1. Completed “Proposal Form” located on pages 6-9 of this document, or
2. Copy of a research proposal submitted to another entity, i.e., HRSA, THECB.

Staff Application and Proposal Evaluation Form

Board staff will evaluate the application and the proposal using the “Texas Board of Nursing – Staff Application and Proposal Evaluation Form.”

Board staff suggests that applicants use the evaluation form to review the completed application form, the completed Proposal Form or the copy of the research proposal, and any optional supporting documentation to ensure that all required criteria have been addressed. If the Proposal Form was not completed and a copy of a research proposal submitted to another entity was included instead, and there is any required criterion that was not addressed in the research proposal, please include an addendum to the research proposal that addresses the missing required criteria.

APPLICATION FORM TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONAL NURSING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

Title of Proposed Pilot Program:

Date Application Submitted:

Proposed Pilot Program Contact:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Institution:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Primary Participant (Dean or Director):

Title/Credentials:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Are you requesting an exception to Rule 215, Professional Nursing Education, adopted under Chapter 301 or Chapter 303 that related to the practice of professional nursing, including education and reporting requirements for registered nurses? Yes ____ No ____

If "Yes", **COMPLETE** the attached "Explanation of Exception(s) Being Requested" table.

If "No", **STOP**. The proposed pilot program does not require a waiver from the current Texas Board of Nursing (BON) rules/regulation and therefore, does not meet the criteria for approval as an Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program.

I affirm that the application and accompanying documents are accurate and complete in accordance with the Texas BON requirements.

Signature of Primary Participant (Dean or Director)

Date

Signature of President/Dean of Governing Institution

Date

Complete the Table below related to the exception(s) being requested for the proposed pilot program. If additional space is needed to answer this question, attach additional pages with the table.

Explanation of Exception(s) Requested		
<p>List citation(s) from Rule 215, Chapter 301, and/or Chapter 303, and/or another rule/regulation from which an exception is requested.</p>	<p>Explain the reason an exception is being requested.</p>	<p>If the Texas Board of Nursing grants a pilot program an exception to Rule 215, Chapter 301, and/or Chapter 303, and/or another rule/regulation, the applicant must demonstrate that the proposed pilot program provides consumers adequate protection.</p> <p>Explain how the proposed pilot program will ensure that safeguards are in place to address possible vulnerabilities to the public, including students, created by the proposed pilot program with regard to the delivery of safe and competent nursing care.</p>
<p>1. Rule 215, Chapter 301</p> <p>2. Chapter 303</p> <p>3. Other rule/regulation (list citation)</p>		

<p>Section I – Pilot Program Description Briefly answer the following questions.</p>
Why does the proposed pilot program need to be conducted?
What body of knowledge or research data/findings has influenced the development of the proposed pilot program?
What are the measurable outcomes for the proposed pilot program?
What is the time line for the proposed pilot program? Include implementation dates, pilot program termination dates, and significant milestones.
How will the proposed pilot program be financially supported?
What resources are available for continuing the pilot program if successful?
Is the pilot program supported by the governing institution? If yes, include a letter of support from the President or Dean of the governing institution.
Who will be the individuals conducting the proposed pilot program? List participant names, credentials, titles, qualifications, and roles/responsibilities.
<p>Section II – Methodology Briefly answer the following questions.</p>
What are the research objectives of the proposed pilot program?
What is the methodological design of the proposed pilot program?
What statistical methodology will be employed to determine whether the research objectives have been met?
How will data be collected in the proposed pilot program?
How will privacy of information be assured and HIPAA-related issues addressed, if applicable?
How will the proposed pilot program be evaluated, by whom, and under what conditions and frequency?
<p>Section III – Program Innovation Briefly answer the following questions.</p>
What is considered “innovative” in the proposed pilot program?
Will the innovative pilot program involve collaboration with other institutions? If yes, list all partners and a description of the involvement.
<p>Section IV – Controls to Maintain Quality Education Briefly answer the following questions.</p>
What effect will the proposed innovative pilot program have on students currently enrolled and on prospective students? Provide a description of the anticipated effects on students during the proposed pilot program. Provide a description of actions that will be utilized to address any negative effects on students. Include a projection of student enrollment numbers during the pilot program.
How does the proposed program directly and/or indirectly impact the enhancement of quality professional nursing education in Texas?
How will the findings resulting from the proposed pilot program be communicated to other nursing educational programs and healthcare institutions in the state of Texas?
<p>Section VI – Additional Supporting Documentation (Optional) Provide any of the following materials that will strengthen the application and proposal. Place a checkmark in the respective box if such materials will be included.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Letters of support <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliography <input type="checkbox"/> Information about preliminary data collected <input type="checkbox"/> Other – (Describe.)</p>

Texas Board of Nursing - Staff Application and Proposal Evaluation Form

**EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL
TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONAL NURSING EDUCATION
PILOT PROGRAM**

Title of Proposed Pilot Program:

Proposed Pilot Program Contact:

Phone:

Institution:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Primary Participant (Dean or Director):

PILOT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- Need is clearly defined
- Sufficient valid research/data to support the defined need is presented
- Development of the proposed pilot program is linked to a body of knowledge
- Measurable outcomes are identified
- Appropriate time line for proposed pilot program is included
- Financial support of the program is adequate
- Resources available for continuation of the proposed pilot program if successful are described
- Qualified skills, competencies, capabilities of proposed pilot program staff to meet needs are adequate

METHODOLOGY

- Meaningful research objectives are identified
- Methodological design is adequate to meet research objectives
- Statistical methodology is appropriate to meet research objectives
- Process and privacy of collecting data appears reasonable
- Qualified professional to evaluate data gathered from the proposed pilot program is identified
- Comprehensive plan to evaluate the program is explained

PROGRAM INNOVATION

- Program is innovative
- Collaboration and communication between the proposed pilot program and participating institutions is described

CONTROLS TO MAINTAIN QUALITY EDUCATION

- Effects on students currently enrolled and prospective participating in the program is explained
- Actions that will be utilized to address any negative effects on participating students is included
- Proposed pilot program is linked to the enhancement of quality professional nursing education
- Methods by which nursing educational programs and healthcare institutions in the state will be made aware of the results of the pilot program are described

Additional Criteria

1. Does the proposed pilot program address any exceptions requested to Rule 215, Professional Nursing Education, Chapter 301, and/or Chapter 303, and/or another rule/regulation (e.g., explained reason for requesting an exception, and provide a description of actions to ensure that safeguards are in place to address possible vulnerabilities to the public, including students, created by the proposed pilot program with regard to the delivery of safe, competent nursing care)?

Yes _____ No _____ Not Applicable _____

2. Is the proposed pilot program linked to the enhancement of quality professional nursing education in Texas?

Yes _____ No _____

If the answer to either of the additional criteria questions is “No” please mark the following box ÷

***Note to Executive Director: If the box above is marked, this innovative professional nursing education pilot program cannot be approved.**

COMMENTS:

Signature of Nursing Consultant for Education - Primary Reviewer

Date of Review

Signature of Nursing Consultant for Education - Secondary Reviewer

Date of Review