

REPORT ON BNE NEW DEAN, DIRECTOR, AND COORDINATOR ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS FOR 2007-2008

SUMMARY:

Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education and Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education require that a newly appointed dean, director, interim dean, interim director, or coordinator of a nursing education program attend the next scheduled orientation provided by the Board staff. A new dean, director or coordinator orientation is usually scheduled once or twice during the academic year by Board staff.

Board staff conducted one formal new dean, director or coordinator orientation sessions during the 2007-2008 report year on April 25, 2008. Fifty-six (56) individuals attended.

The purpose of the orientation program was to provide an overview of the organization and function of the Board of Nursing, rules and regulations which guide nursing education programs, other rules which impact nursing students and nursing educators, and the initial licensing application process. An online portion of the orientation has been available for two academic years for completion by attendees prior to the face-to-face meeting in Austin. The face-to-face orientation on April 25, 2008 was presented in a workshop format where attendees participated by working through education situations in group process. This gave the new program directors/coordinators hands-on experience in using the education guidelines. Board staff also provided an update on current issues and/or proposed rule changes which affect nursing education programs. Attendees received CEU's for their participation.

Evaluations of the orientation indicated that most participants indicated that the program objectives were completely met. Positive comments on the evaluations included "It was very nice to interact with other 'newbies;' Enjoy anything that clarifies, enhances, reinforces the NPA; Enjoyed the day; Networking was great." Helpful suggestions from participants are listed:

- include a new director from the previous orientation to talk about their experiences as a new director
- sponsor a state-wide deans and directors mentoring program
- provide more examples of curriculum mapping
- would like more information on differentiation of VN and RN programs, scope of practice, DELC, NCLEX
- create an online chat room where faculty could communicate with BON
- put more training and updates on BON web page
- include less lecturing and more dialogue in the orientation
- have more question and answer time

Participants also expressed an interest in workshops that focus on integrating new technology into curriculum and getting rid of "sacred cows." One director suggested developing a task meeting to assist new directors in evaluations, competencies, and test writing. Some attendees found the material too heavy for one day while others said it could have been covered in one-half day.

The next orientation workshop will be scheduled in Spring 2009. The online orientation has continued to provide a valuable orientation to new and experienced directors/coordinators of nursing programs as well as interested faculty members. It is readily accessible on the BON web page and is updated when there are rule changes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information report. No action is recommended.