

Consideration of Request For Charges To The Advisory Committee On Education

Summary of Request:

Consider Staff's request for the Board to approve and issue a new charge to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) regarding rule changes related to preceptors, petitions for waivers for faculty and director qualifications, proposal process for new nursing programs, approval of extension sites/campuses, online instruction, articulation agreements for ADN programs, and an inclusion of geriatric and end-of-life care in the professional nursing education curriculum.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- As a part of the regular review of rules, Board Staff have been reviewing Rule 214 *Vocational Nursing Education* and Rule 215 *Professional Nursing Education*. Areas in the rules identified for ACE to review include:
 - how preceptors are utilized in the state. Current discussions among nursing educators indicate that facilities are reporting preceptors fatigue and inability to take more students.
 - petitions for waivers of faculty and director: Current rules authorize directors of fully approved programs to issue faculty waivers if the program and proposed faculty meet minimum criteria. These rules allow flexibility for programs to maintain standards for qualified faculty while permitting faculty to be waived when their abilities are adequate to meet emergent needs in the programs. Deleting rules requiring petitions for faculty waivers to be presented to the Board seems timely since this process is rarely used. Including rules allowing programs to submit emergency petitions for Staff approval provides a buffer for urgent situations. In addition, seeking waivers for director qualifications has been discouraged to promote quality administration of nursing programs. Deleting rules allowing for petitions to waive director qualifications also seems timely since this waiver process may result in and/or contribute to substandard nursing programs, and is not the preferred method in approving a program director.
 - proposal process for new nursing programs: Wording is needed in the new proposal process requiring that the author of a proposal be a registered nurse with the same qualifications required of program directors, that the director be employed early in the proposal process, and that the proposed director be involved in the proposal development.
 - approval of extension sites/campuses: There have been a number of programs that have failed to meet the Board's standards for NCLEX pass rates but also plan to expand their programs. Board Staff would like ACE's input on whether it would be advisable for fully approved programs seeking to establish an extension site/campus to go through an approval process with Board Staff for the extension site/campus.
 - online instruction: With growth in online nursing education, programs should be required to ensure that online instruction provides the student with the same educational opportunities that are provided in the program's campus-based model.
 - articulation plans between ADN and BSN programs: Representatives from the state nursing education organizations spoke at the July 2011 Board meeting open forum regarding the 2010 IOM recommendation that 80% of registered nurses hold a BSN degree. They encouraged that the Board consider a requirement that the Board's rules require all ADN programs to establish articulation agreements with BSN programs.

- curriculum content on geriatric nursing and end-of-life care: Though Board rules for VN programs specifically require curriculum content in geriatric and end-of-life care, there is no requirement in the Board's rules for inclusion of this content in professional nursing education curriculum content: With the current focus on nursing care for the growing numbers in the aging population in the country, including required content on geriatric and end-of-life care in the professional nursing education curricula should be considered.
- These suggested changes support the Board's mission to protect the public and to ensure that nursing programs graduate nurses who can practice safely and competently.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- Gaining the perspective of the ACE members about these suggested rule changes adds to the credibility and practicality of the recommendations.
- The ACE members may also provide a stakeholder perspective in advising the Board regarding the effectiveness of these changes.

Cons:

None noted

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to issue one new charges to ACE to review potential rule revisions in the following areas:

- Possible rule revision related to the use of preceptors in nursing education.
- Possible rule revision to eliminate petitions for waivers for director qualifications, but allowing petitions for emergency faculty waivers to be submitted to Board Staff.
- Possible rule revision to strengthen requirements for the author of a new program proposal and for employment and involvement of a proposed director early in the proposal development.
- Possible rule revision to provide more purview over the establishment of extension sites/campuses.
- Possible rule revision to ensure that online instruction in nursing education programs provides nursing students with a quality education.
- Possible rule revision to include a requirement for all ADN programs to establish articulation agreements with BSN programs.
- Possible rule revision to include content on geriatric and end-of-life care in professional nursing education programs.