

### **Consideration of Request for Charges**

#### **To the Task Force to Study Implications of Growth in Nursing Education Programs in Texas to Continue Data Collection and Information Gathering related to Clinical Learning Experiences**

##### **Summary of Request:**

Consider Staff's request for the Board to approve and issue new charges to the Task Force to Study Implications of Growth in Nursing Education Programs in Texas related to continuing the work of the Task Force as indicated in their report and recommendation to the Board at the January 2013 meeting.

##### **Historical Perspective:**

- In consideration of the growth in the number of vocational and professional nursing education programs in Texas, as well as the annual growth in program enrollments and graduations, the Board approved the establishment of a Task Force to study the implications of this growth at the October 2011 meeting.
- The Board approved nominations for a Task Force Chair and members to represent nursing practice and education constituents.
- The Task Force provided a report to the Board at the January 2013 meeting outlining the work during the previous year. The Task Force had studied four major issues facing nursing education:
  - Availability of Clinical Learning Experiences
  - Inadequate Number of Qualified Nursing Faculty
  - Workforce Issues Related to Readiness of Nursing Graduates for Employment
  - Need for Testing and Development of Emerging Models of Nursing Education and Practice
- The Task Force recommended Board approval of the report and future direction for the Task Force to:
  - Engage in further data collection and information gathering related to clinical learning experiences to define parameters for the optimal clinical experience in nursing programs;
  - Develop elements for consideration for the dashboard data; and
  - Develop definitions for critical elements such as patient care clinical hours.
- The Task Force had produced several products, such as guidelines for nursing education programs, and plans for the dashboard (of nursing program performance measures) to be included on the Board of Nursing web page. In addition, questions on the Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) were broadened to gather more details related to clinical hours required in direct patient care.
- The requested charges relate to the ongoing issue of availability of adequate clinical learning experiences.
- The Task Force is scheduled to meet on:
  - Tuesday, November 5, 2013
  - Friday, February 7, 2014
  - Friday, April 25, 2014
  - Friday, June 6, 2014

**Pros and Cons:**Pros:

- The charges place more emphasis on quality of clinical learning experiences rather than quantity of hours required.
- Information gathered will provide more guidance to nursing education programs about excellence in clinical instruction and best practices.
- An analysis of the use of hands on patient care across all programs will offer an opportunity for all programs to reevaluate their requirements.

Cons:

- There is always the risk of misusing the data.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to issue two charges to the Task Force to continue data collection and information gathering related to clinical learning experiences:

- Develop a guideline describing optimal clinical instruction in prelicensure nursing programs.
- Provide an analysis of findings from the 2013 NEPIS related to required clinical hours in prelicensure nursing programs.