

Report on Communication Activities by the Texas Board of Nursing Consultants for Education

SUMMARY:

This report describes Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON) nursing consultants for education participation in activities to promote communication with the Texas nursing education programs.

New Dean, Director, and Coordinator Orientation Workshop

Board 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 Board Staff. At the time of approval, a new dean/director/coordinator receives an electronic version of the *Nursing Education Program Director Orientation Module* from Board staff. This learning module provides basic content regarding Rules 214 and 215. Completion of the module is requested prior to attendance at a face-to-face session, the second part of the orientation process for new program deans/directors/coordinators.

On March 19, 2014, a face-to-face session of the Deans/Directors/Coordinators Orientation module was held in Room 102 of the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. The face-to-face session complements and enhances the self-paced orientation module, providing the opportunity for participants to further their knowledge of Education Rules 214 and 215 through staff presentations, question and answer segments, and group discussions.

The March workshop was attended by fifteen (15) nurse educators, including deans, directors, coordinators, and faculty members, from Texas pre-licensure professional and vocational nursing education programs. The Nursing Consultants for Education and the Director of Nursing presented a myriad of topics, including: an overview of the Board, Rules 214 & 215, Education Guidelines, total program evaluation, and clinical learning experiences. Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the mandatory background check process, and Anthony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, reviewed the declaratory order process and presented updated information relating to enforcement issues. Laura Lewis, Executive Assistant, gave detailed instructions to the attendees on the affidavit of graduation process.

Evaluations of the session were extremely positive. All attendees indicated that the program objectives were met. A number of the participants expressed appreciation to the speakers for the information and support. Consultants for nursing education are considering adding a fourth (4th) workshop annually as the response to a smaller group setting was so positive. The next workshop is scheduled for August 22, 2014.

Self-Study Conference Calls

Rule 215.4(c)(2)(B) stipulates that the first-time a nursing program has a passing score of less than eighty (80) percent for first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates a Self-Study Report is to be written and submitted to Board staff by a specified deadline. In the 2013 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate year, thirty (30) pre-licensure professional nursing education programs had a first-time examination pass rate below the benchmark of eighty (80) percent. This number represents a significant increase of programs not meeting the Board stipulated benchmark of eighty (80) percent by four (4) to five (5) times from past years. Board staff decided to host a conference call with each program required to write a self-study report to discuss the process and provide an opportunity for program directors and faculty to ask questions. During February and March, the four (4) Consultants for Nursing Education conducted one (1) hour conference calls with each of the thirty (30) program directors and their respective faculty. During each call, program directors and faculty were provided the opportunity to share their findings of ongoing evaluation as well as

ask any questions. Program directors and faculty freely asked questions about the process and were enthusiastic in sharing their findings. Upon receipt of the self-study reports, the Nursing Consultants for Education will read each self-study and respond to the individual program with a letter of acknowledgment and include any suggestions or comments specific to corrective actions as well as any requests for additional or clarifying information.

This activity proved to be both highly positive and worthwhile. Many program directors expressed appreciation for the support and direction from the education consultants, confirming that the call was a positive experience for them. Nursing Consultants for Education had the opportunity to not only become more familiar with their assigned programs, learning of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges but also to forge stronger, empowering relationships.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for information only. No action is required.