

Consideration of Report on the Oversight of the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Summary of Report

The Board passed a motion at the July 2014 Board meeting directing staff to conduct a formal study of the advantages and disadvantages of increasing or changing oversight of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies. The study is in process.

Historical Perspective

In 2003, in response to growing concern about Texas' nurse shortage, the Texas Legislature created the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) under the governance of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC). SHCC is in the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The TCNWS serves as a resource for data and research on the nursing workforce in Texas. This includes collecting and analyzing data on nurses in Texas in regard to educational and employment trends, Supply and demand trends, nursing workforce demographics, and migration of nurses. The Center is funded by nurse licensure fees.

In 2004, the Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Advisory Committee (CNWSAC) was added to the structure of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council and serves as a steering committee for the TCNWS. This is a 21-member committee with representation from nursing and healthcare organizations, employers of nurses, state agencies, nurse researchers, nurse educators as well as a consumer member. The CNWSAC is charged with guiding the accuracy of reporting nursing workforce data and research results; developing priorities and an operations plan for the Center; providing policy recommendations to assure an adequate nursing workforce for the State of Texas; and identifying other issues concerning nursing professionals in Texas that need further study.

The issue of oversight of the Center has been discussed by the Board staff, the Center staff and other stakeholders since the its inception. Options for the location of the Center have included SHCC, the Board of Nursing, and a university. The Center's location in SHCC was thought to be consistent with SHCC's mission related to health care workforce and the resources available through the Center for Health Statistics and Health Professions Resource Center, also housed in DSHS.

In 2011, Board staff negotiated a new contract with DSHS to address concerns about the funding of the Center. The contract included funding merit raises and negotiated salaries, purchasing, equipment and software, temporary contract staff, participation in and attendance at the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers. That contract was amended in 2013 to reflect the additional funding authorized by the by 83rd Legislature in Senate Bill 1, VIII-38. (**See Attached**).

Since the April Board meeting, staff have met with staff from the Center and the Texas Nurses Association to discuss resources for the Center. At this time, no additional funding is requested. The Center is fully staffed and reports have been timely and accurately prepared.

The Executive Director has a meeting scheduled prior to the July Board meeting with Pam Lauer, MPH, Program Director, TCNWS and Ann Barnett, MS, Health Providers Resource Branch, Center for Health Statistics to further discuss resource needs. Board staff recommends that the Board request authorization to pass-through all funds collected for the Center through licensure fees

rather than the current limit through a line item in the budget. This will be discussed under item 1.4. At this time staff believe oversight is adequate but will continue to monitor this with the staff from the TCNWS and provide a final report at the October Board meeting.

Pros: BON and TCNWS staff have worked cooperatively throughout the Center's history. BON staff have raised concerns with administration concerning funding issues and received positive response.

Cons: There are challenges in oversight of the Center within its larger organization that has many competing priorities.

Staff Recommendation: None at this time. This item is for information purposes only. A final report will be presented at the October board meeting.

INTERAGENCY CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING AND
THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

WHEREAS, the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) is a state agency authorized to accredit, examine and license nurse education and practice in Texas. It is a legislative set goal of the BON to implement strategies to increase the number of competent licensees in the State of Texas.

WHEREAS, the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (Center) was authorized under Chapter 105 of the Texas Health and Safety Code under governance of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) to serve as a resource for data and research on the nursing workforce in Texas. The Center collects and analyzes data on nurses in Texas in regard to education and employment trends, supply and demand trends, nursing workforce demographics and migration of nurses.

WHEREAS, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) provides administrative services to the Center and SHCC, including contract and financial services. DSHS is an agency responsible for using health care data to improve services and guide health related decisions. DSHS assists SHCC to oversee the functions of the Center.

WHEREAS, the BON is authorized under Section 301.155(c), Occupations Code, to assess a surcharge for each license holder who renews in order to fund the duties and obligations of the DSHS to implement Chapter 105, Health and Safety Code, and the Center.

WHEREAS, the General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, VIII-38 (June 17, 2013) provides that the BON shall establish an Interagency Contract with the DSHS to provide funding for the Center of \$411,550 each year in the biennium.

NOW, THEREFORE, the BON and DSHS enter into the interagency contract for the purpose of funding the Center:

1. Purpose of the Contract

The purpose of the contract is for the BON and the DSHS to memorialize and confirm obligations outlined in the General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, VIII-38 (June 17, 2013) to establish an interagency contract to provide funding for the Center of \$411,550 each year from the BON's appropriations in the biennium for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

2. Total Amount of the Contract

The total amount of the contract is \$823,100.00.

3. Term of Contract

The term of this contract shall be from September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2015.

The term of this contract shall be automatically extended for two (2) one-year terms unless sixty days prior to the contract's term, or any subsequent term, either party gives written notice that they wish to renegotiate this contract.

4. Authority

This contract is entered under the authority of Chapter 771, Texas Government Code, Texas Interagency Cooperation Act. Additionally, the contract is authorized by General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, VIII-38, June 17, 2013; Chapters 104 and 105, Texas Health and Safety Code; and Section 301.155(c), Texas Occupations Code.

5. Duties

A. For each year of the 2014-15 biennium the BON will pay DSHS monthly installments of \$34,296 for each of the first 11 months and \$34,294 for the 12TH month.

B. DSHS will use the money only for the purpose of funding the Center and for no other purpose, as follows:

i. Fund the salaries of Health Professions Research Branch (HPRB) manager, CNWS program director, and staff that directly carry out the operation of the Center including merit raises based upon meritorious performance and to be able to negotiate a salary within a designated salary range for a posted position when offering the position to a qualified applicant.

ii. Purchase, lease, or contract for supplies, equipment, computer hardware and software, user licenses and services that are needed and will be directly used by the Center.

- iii. Fund the costs to be part of the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers, including the costs to permit attendance at conferences and meetings that contribute to the development of the Center's staff and purposes of the Center. It is agreed that such funding will not be subject to non-workforce center related travel restrictions.
- iv. Cover the cost for temporary contract staff and consultants that are needed, will be directly used by the Center, and will support and/or enhance the Center's operation.

C. Budget development and oversight of expenditures will be done by HPRB manager and CNWS program director.

- i. Detailed accounting of expenditures report will be submitted by CHS director, HPRB manager and CNWS program director to the Board of Nursing (BON) and CNWS Advisory Committee every year by October 1.

By: Bob Burnett 6/27/13
Signature of Authorized Official Date
Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies
Center for Health Statistics
Department of State Health Services
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

By: Katherine Thomas 7/4/13
Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN Date
Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

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1-888-963-7111 • www.dshs.state.tx.us
TTY: 1-800-735-2989

June 27, 2013

Dear Contractor:

Enclosed are two originals of your Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Interagency Contract. **Please sign both originals, keep one for your files and return one original to me as soon as possible.** Changes made to any portion of the documents are considered a counter-offer and are not valid without DSHS written concurrence.

PLEASE NOTE: Return one original of the agreement in its entirety to the address below. Documents returned to any other address may result in contract delays.

Mailing Address for Regular Mail:

Client Services Contracting Unit MC 1886
Department of State Health Services
PO Box 149347
Austin, TX 78714-9347
Attention: Debbie Hightower

Physical Address for Overnight Mail:

Client Services Contracting Unit MC 1886
Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756
Attention: Debbie Hightower

Please reference the DSHS contract and attachment number in all future correspondence. If you have questions, please contact Debbie Hightower at 512-776-6220 or via email at debbie.hightower@dshs.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Burnette".

Bob Burnette, Director
Client Services Contracting Unit

Enclosures