

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.

Informal Informational Session

On July 22, 2014, an Informal Informational Session was held at the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas in Tower III, Room 102 for individuals interested in starting a pre-licensure nursing education program in Texas. The informal session is the first step in the process for individuals interested in starting a nursing education program.

The purpose of the Informal Information Sessions is to present and discuss the essential elements of the proposal development process. Additionally, participants are provided an opportunity to visit with the Consultants for Nursing Education, and network with other individuals in the process of proposal consideration and development.

Twenty-eight (28) individuals representing twenty-eight (28) potential new vocational, associate degree, and baccalaureate degree nursing education programs attended the two (2)-hour workshop. Nursing Consultant for Education, Dr. Virginia Ayars provided detailed information regarding the proposal development and submission process, as well as BON Education Rules 214 and 215.

A question and answer session was conducted at the conclusion of the workshop. Participant feedback was very positive, and the Consultants for Nursing Education plan to host another Informal Information session in late Spring 2015.

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 or director, or coordinator of a nursing education program attend the next scheduled orientation provided by Board Staff. At the time of appointment and approval, a new dean/director/coordinator receives an electronic version of the *Nursing Education Program Director Orientation Module* from Board Staff. The learning module provides basic content regarding Rules 214 and 215. Completion of the module is required prior to attendance at a face-to-face orientation workshop, the second part of the orientation process for new program administrators.

On August 22, 2014, a face-to-face day long session of the Deans/Directors/Coordinators Orientation workshop was held in Room 102 of the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. The face-to-face workshop complements and enhances the self-paced orientation module, providing an opportunity for participants to further their knowledge of Rules 214 and 215 through staff presentations, question and answer segments, and group discussions.

The August workshop was attended by forty-three (43) deans, directors, coordinators, and school administrative staff from professional and vocational nursing education programs throughout the state. Two (2) Board Staff members also attended as part of their orientation process to the department. Texas BON Consultants for Nursing Education presented a myriad of topics, including: an overview of the Texas Board of Nursing, Education Guidelines, Total Program Evaluation, Concept-Based Curriculum, and Clinical Learning Experiences. Additionally, Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the process of the mandatory criminal background check for students enrolled in pre-licensure nursing education programs. Anthony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, reviewed the declaratory order process.

Participant evaluations of the session were extremely positive with many attendees expressing appreciation for the information and support from Board Staff. The next workshop will be scheduled for Spring 2015.

Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs (TADDPNP)

On October 3, 2014, the Consultants for Nursing Education attended the TADDPNP conference held in Austin at the Omni Hotel. The conference was attended by deans and directors of professional nursing education programs from across the state. Representatives from the Board, Kristin Thomas, Director of Nursing, Mark Majek, Director of Operations, and Dr. Janice Hooper, Lead Consultant for Nursing Education presented updates and timely information specific to pre-licensure programs and Board processes. Audience response to the presentations was highly positive. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the relevance of the topics, as well as the opportunity to dialogue with Board Staff. The next TADDPNP meeting is scheduled for February 2015.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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