

Report on Communication Activities With Nursing Education Programs

This report describes the participation of Nursing Consultants for Education of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON) in activities to promote communication with the Texas pre-licensure nursing education programs and constituents.

New Dean, Director, and Coordinator Orientation Workshop

Board Rules 214 Vocational Nursing Education and 215 Professional Nursing Education require that a newly appointed dean, director, interim director, or coordinator of a nursing education program attend a face-to-face 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.

On January 30, 2015, a face-to-face session of the Deans, Directors, and Coordinators Orientation was held in room 102 of the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. The day-long session complements and enhances the self-paced orientation module, providing attendees the opportunity to further their knowledge and understanding of Education Rules 214 and 215 through staff presentations, question and answer segments, and group discussions.

The January workshop attendees included thirty-four (34) deans, directors, coordinators, faculty members, and institutional administrators from Texas pre-licensure professional and vocational nursing education programs. The day's agenda included a myriad of topics, including an overview of the Board, Rules 214 and 215, Education Guidelines, total program evaluation, and clinical learning experiences. Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the mandatory criminal background check process, and Anthony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, reviewed the declaratory order process and presented updated information relating to enforcement issues.

Participant evaluations of the session were extremely positive. A majority of attendees indicated that all program objectives were completely met. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the information and support from Board staff. The next workshop will be held in late spring of 2015.

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

On February 6, 2015, consultants for Nursing Education attended the TADDPNP conference held in Austin at the Omni Hotel. The conference was attended by more than 300 program directors, coordinators and faculty of professional nursing education programs from across the state. Kristin Benton, Director of Nursing, Dr. Janice Hooper, Lead Consultant for Nursing Education, Dr. Virginia Ayars, and Dr. Jo Queen presented updates and timely information specific to pre-licensure nursing education programs and Board processes. Audience responses

to the presentations were highly positive with attendees expressing appreciation for the relevance of the topics, as well as the opportunity to dialogue with Board staff.

Excellence in Clinical Instruction in Pre-Licensure Nursing Education Workshop

On Friday, March 6, 2015, Board staff presented a one day workshop on clinical instruction excellence for nursing educators from vocational and professional nursing education programs throughout Texas. The workshop was well attended with over 200 educators present. Nancy Spector, PhD, RN, Director of Regulatory Innovations, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, gave the keynote address. Patricia S. Yoder-Wise, RN, Ed.D., NEA-BC, ANEF, FAAN, presented the history of the Task Force to Study Implications of Growth in Nursing Education Programs in Texas and Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, Lead Nurse Consultant for Education, presented Education Guideline 3.7.8.a *Promoting Optimal Clinical Instruction*. Throughout the workshop, exemplars of clinical instruction were presented by four (4) nurse educators from pre-licensure nursing education programs. In the afternoon, three (3) panels comprised of nursing faculty members, pre-licensure nursing students, and practicing nurses who work with all education levels of pre-licensure nursing students shared their responses to questions posed to them by Board staff. The workshop was enthusiastically received by over two hundred (200) nurse educator attendees, providing each educator an opportunity to network with colleagues and share clinical instruction best practices.

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 (SSR) is to be written and submitted to Board staff by a specified deadline. For the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate year, fifteen (15) pre-licensure professional nursing education programs had a first-time examination pass rate below the benchmark of eighty (80) percent. This number represents a fifty (50) percent decrease from the 2013 examination pass rate year. Based upon highly favorable outcomes from the 2013 conference calls, Board staff elected to continue hosting a conference call with each program required to write an SSR to discuss the process and provide an opportunity for program directors and faculty to share information about their program and ask questions. During February and March, the Consultants for Nursing Education hosted a one (1) hour conference call with each of the fifteen (15) program directors and their faculty. Program directors freely asked questions about the process and willingly shared information about program areas identified as needing improvements. Upon receipt and review of the SSR, the Consultants for Nursing Education will respond to individual programs with a letter of acknowledgement and include any suggestions or comments specific to corrective actions as well as any requests for additional information.

The conference calls proved to be highly positive, enabling the Consultants for Nursing Education to continue empowering relationships with program directors and nurse educators. The activity provided an opportunity for the Consultants for Nursing Education to become more familiar with the individual programs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational report. No action is required.