

### **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.

#### **Army Practical Nurse Annual Training Event**

On September 24, 2005, Dr. Virginia Ayars and Sandi Emerson, Nursing Consultants for Education (EC), presented at the Army Practical Nurse Annual Training Event held in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The BON has served as the central approval authority for all U.S. Army Practical Nurse courses continuously since 1985. The EC's presentation covered various topics, including an overview of the Texas Board of Nursing, education updates, trends in education, and resource information for program directors. The presentation was well received by the thirty (30) participants who represented the program directors and faculty from the six (6) locations at which the Army Practical Nurse Course is offered.

#### **Deans/Directors/Coordinators Orientation**

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 a face-to-face orientation provided by Board Staff. At the time of appointment and approval, Board Staff provide a new dean/director/coordinator with an electronic version of the *Nursing Education Program Director Orientation Module*. 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.

A face-to-face, day-long session of the Deans/Directors/Coordinators Orientation was held in the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas on September 25, 2015. The session complemented and enhanced 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 September orientation session was attended by forty-eight (48) deans, directors, and coordinators from professional and vocational nursing education programs throughout the state. Texas BON ECs presented a myriad of topics, including: an overview of the Board, a Toolkit for Preparing for a Survey Visit, discussion of Education Guidelines, and review of the regulations governing Clinical Learning Experiences, Program of Study, and Total Program Evaluation. Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the mandatory criminal background check process for students enrolled in pre-licensure nursing education programs.

Participant evaluations of the session were extremely positive with attendees expressing appreciation for the information and support from Board Staff. Several participants commented favorably on the approachability and availability of the EC's. The next face-to-face orientation session will be held in spring 2016.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an informational report. No action is required.