

**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 Texas nursing education programs and constituents.

Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE)

October 29-31, 2014, Nursing Consultants for Education attended the TAVNE conference held in San Antonio at the Omni Hotel. The conference was attended by more than 300 program directors, coordinators and faculty of vocational nursing education programs from across the state. Kristin Benton, Director of Nursing (DON), 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. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the relevance of the topics, as well as the opportunity to dialogue with Board Staff.

Conference Calls with Programs

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(A)(i) states “A warning may be issued to a program when: the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates...is less than 80% for two (2) consecutive examination years...”. In the 2014 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate year, eighteen (18) pre-licensure professional nursing education programs experienced an examination pass rate of first-time candidates below the benchmark of eighty (80) percent for two (2) consecutive years. 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 hosted a conference call with each of the eighteen (18) programs to discuss the approval change process and provide an opportunity for program directors and administration to ask questions. A letter outlining the process was sent to each program director following the conference call. Programs were invited to submit a response letter that would be included in the January 2015 Board Report.

This activity proved to be both highly positive and worthwhile. Many program directors expressed appreciation for the support and direction from the education consultants, validating that the call was a positive experience for them. As with the conference calls made to programs required to submit a self-study, Nursing Consultants for Education again had the opportunity to

not only become more familiar with Texas nursing education programs, learning of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges but also to forge stronger, empowering relationships.

Meeting with Standardized Testing Vendors

During the month of December 2014, the Consultants for Nursing Education met with representatives from ATI Nursing Education and Elsevier Review and Testing (HESI). The meetings provided an opportunity for the consultants to dialogue with the company representatives about their mission and philosophy and their recommendations and directions for use of their testing products. Both meetings were highly informative, enabling the consultants to have a clear understanding of the company goals for their product users, including students.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

These are informational reports. No action is recommended.