

Nurse Licensure and APRN Compact Revisions

Summary

This is an informational item to update the Board on recent efforts to amend the Nurse Licensure Compact with the intent of encouraging wider adoption by states.

Historical Perspective

APRN Compact

The Executive Officers and legal counsels of states who have passed the APRN Compact and states interested in joining the APRN Compact met over the past two years to draft a new APRN Compact, rules and Uniform Licensure Requirements to conform to the national APRN Consensus Model and to add enforcement and rule making provisions to strengthen the Compact, see: https://www.ncsbn.org/Consensus_Model_for_APRN_Regulation_July_2008.pdf

The new draft APRN Compact was presented by the Texas BON Executive Director at the August 2014 NCSBN Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly. Although the NCSBN Board of Directors initially recommended adoption, a decision was made prior to the meeting to postpone a vote to align the new draft Nurse Licensure Compact with the APRN Compact and vote on both documents together.

Nurse Licensure Compact

At the 2013 NCSBN Mid-Year meeting, the executive officers (EOs) of Boards of Nursing requested a meeting to discuss the future of licensure models. Two major licensure models currently exist in the U.S. for nursing: a single state model and the mutual recognition model implemented through the Nurse Licensure Compact. The group noted increasing interest in a national model of licensure related to improving access to care through telehealth. The growing number of insured through the Affordable Care Act and the aging population were major drivers of this interest. Members of Congress and stakeholders such as the telecommunications industry proposed legislation on alternative national licensure models. The NCSBN Board of Directors directed the Executive Officer Leadership Council to review the barriers to broad adoption of the NLC and make recommendations for changes. A series of meetings began in July 2013 facilitated by Leonard Marcus, Ph.D., the Director of the Program for Health Care Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at the Harvard School of Public Health and Co-Director of the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative. Dr. Marcus pioneered development of the *Walk in the Woods*, a negotiation and conflict resolution exercise. He is experienced in high-level national negotiations. The purpose of these meetings was to frame the issues related to nursing licensure and achieving resolution to the differences in nursing licensure regulation.

The final recommendations were to amend the Nurse Licensure by including a set of Uniform Licensure Requirements for a multistate license and to incorporate the amendments made to the APRN Compact including strengthened compact administration, enforcement and rulemaking.

Delegate Assembly Adopts Resolution to Support Interstate Practice

Revisions to the Nurse Licensure Compact and APRN Compact were conducted separately and therefore contained different language. The Board of Directors recommended a resolution at the 2014 Annual meeting that publically reaffirmed NCSBN's commitment to facilitating interstate practice while allowing time for review and harmonization of the two Compacts. The resolution can be reviewed at:

https://www.ncsbn.org/Interstate_Practice_DA_Resolution.pdf

The Board of Directors then appointed three committees to complete this work: the Compact Revision Team responsible for drafting the documents, a Legislative Strategy Team, and a Financial Impact Team. Because the Executive Director of the Texas Board of Nursing was involved in the drafting of the APRN Compact, she was asked to participate on the Compact Revision Team. A tentative timeline anticipates a possible special called meeting of the Delegate Assembly at Mid-Year to consider adoption of both Compacts.

Staff Recommendation

Informational item. No action necessary.