

## **Report on Implementation of the Knowledge, Skills, Training, Assessment and Research (KSTAR) Pilot**

### **Summary of Request:**

This agenda item is for information purposes only to update the Board on the implementation of the KSTAR Pilot Program for Nurses.

### **Historical Perspective:**

In October 2013, the Board approved a two-year pilot program with Texas A&M Health Science Center Rural and Community Health Institute (RCHI) and the College of Nursing (CON) to offer the KSTAR program for nurses with practice violations that result in a disciplinary sanction of a warning and below. Knowledge, Skills, Training, Assessment and Research (KSTAR) is a comprehensive program that utilizes an individualized assessment of the nurse with practice breakdowns, to design a personalized remedial education plan aimed at correcting any knowledge deficits that may exist. Monitoring and follow-up are built into the program.

The KSTAR pilot program enrolled its first cohort of nurses in November 2014. In April 2015, Board Staff informed the Board of pilot leadership turnover at the Texas A&M Health Science Center RCHI and the CON that prompted a delay in program progress and concerns regarding the future of the pilot. Staff from RCHI presented a commitment to continuing the program and conducting research to evaluate the effectiveness of KSTAR Nursing with BON and CON faculty at the April 2015 Board meeting. The Board approved continuation of the KSTAR Pilot Program and directed Board staff to continue to offer KSTAR as an alternative method of discipline to a maximum of four additional nurses per month who meet inclusion criteria.

At the July 2015 quarterly Board meeting, Board Staff provided the Board with updates to the pilot leadership team including the addition of Debra Matthews, PhD, RN, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Texas A&M Health Science Center CON and Dr. Susan Moreland, MSN, PhD, RN, HACP, KSTAR Nursing Program Manager and plans to reapply for approval to the Texas A&M Health Science Center Institutional Review Board to conduct the research aspect of the pilot.

Since the July 2015 Board meeting, RCHI Staff shared with Board Staff that a contract has been established to secure CON faculty participation in the KSTAR Nursing assessments including simulation, individualized teaching plans, evaluations, and biweekly teleconferences with Board Staff to discuss participant progress and any program issues. Board Staff continue to meet biweekly via teleconference with the RCHI KSTAR team and now, CON faculty to discuss implementation of the pilot. These teleconferences provide for team discussion of pending Board referrals, nurse participant progress including review of assessment reports, individual education plans and final assessment reports.

In October 2015, the Board approved a 2-year extension of the pilot to continue through October 2017. The KSTAR Nursing RCHI, CON and BON team submitted an application to the Texas A&M Health Science Center Institutional Review Board to conduct research to evaluate the effectiveness of the KSTAR pilot that was approved on November 17, 2015. In January 2016, the Board approved Board Staff to offer a referral to the KSTAR Nursing program by agreed order to up to eight (8) nurses per month who meet eligibility criteria.

**Current Perspective:**

As of April 13, 2016, forty three (43) agreed Board orders for the KSTAR program have been ratified. Additionally:

- Forty one (41) nurses have enrolled in the KSTAR Nursing program;
- Twenty three (23) nurse participants have successfully completed the program;
- Thirteen (13) nurse participants are in the process of completing the program;
- Five (5) nurse participants were referred back to the Board; and
- Two (2) nurses failed to enroll in the KSTAR Nursing program.

The KSTAR Nursing pilot program team continues to meet by teleconference biweekly to discuss program progress, review progress reports, track pending referrals, and address any issues that arise.

**Recommended Action:** This is a non-action item for information and discussion only.