

Report on Communication Activities With Nursing Education Programs

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

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

On February 5, 2016, the Consultants for Nursing Education attended the TADDPNP conference held in Austin at the Omni Hotel. The conference was attended by deans and directors of professional nursing education programs from across the state. Representatives from the Board, Kristin Benton, Director of Nursing; Mark Majek, Director of Operations; and Virginia Ayars, Nursing Education Consultant, presented updates and timely information specific to pre-licensure programs and Board processes. Audience response to the presentations was positive. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the relevance of the topics, as well as the opportunity to dialogue with Board Staff. The next TADDPNP meeting is scheduled for October 2016.

Deans, Directors, and 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. This is a two-part process. 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*, which provides basic content regarding Rules 214 and 215. Completion of the module is the first part and is required prior to attendance at the orientation workshop, the second part of the orientation process for new program administrators.

A face-to-face, day-long session of the Deans, Directors, and Coordinators Orientation was held in the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas on February 12, 2016. 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 February orientation session was attended by thirty-nine (39) deans, directors, and coordinators from professional and vocational nursing education programs throughout the state. The Education Consultants presented various topics, such as 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 process for mandatory criminal background checks for students enrolled in pre-licensure nursing education programs. Anthony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, presented information about the Petition for Declaratory Order.

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 Education Consultants. The next face-to-face orientation session will be held June 24, 2016.

Self-Study Conference Calls

Rule 214.4(c)(2)(B) stipulates that the first time a nursing program has an NCLEX® passing score of less than eighty (80) percent for first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates, a Self-Study Report (SSR) is written and submitted to Board Staff by a specified deadline. In February and March 2016, the Education Consultants held conference calls with thirteen (13) vocational nursing education programs that had 2015 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates below eighty (80) percent. The calls allowed Program Directors and faculty an opportunity to ask questions about development and completion of the SSR. Program directors and faculty expressed appreciation for the meetings with the consultants. Upon receipt of the Self-Study Reports, the Nursing Consultants for Education will read each report and respond to each program with a letter of acknowledgment, including suggestions or comments specific to corrective actions, as well as responding to requests for additional information.

NCLEX Regional Workshop

On April 1, 2016, a National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) Regional Workshop for Educators was held at the J.J. Pickle Research Center in Austin, Texas. A one (1) day workshop was offered to faculty, deans, and directors of Texas Professional and Vocational Nursing Education Programs. The workshop agenda included an explanation of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Practice Analysis process and how the results are applied to updating the NCLEX test plans; explanation of the steps of the NCLEX item development process; and illustration of the basic principles of Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT). The afternoon portion of the workshop was devoted to item-writing, including discussion of NCLEX alternate item formats. Participants had the opportunity to work in small groups, formulating test questions using alternate formats and applying principles of item-writing. The workshop concluded with an explanation of the various NCLEX reports available to nursing education programs and a discussion of how these may be utilized to enhance program and student development.

The Austin workshop was well attended, with participation from more than 100 program deans, directors, coordinators, and/or nursing faculty from professional and vocational nursing education programs across the state. The two (2) NCSBN workshop presenters, Rachel Reichman, MA, BS, Test Development Associate, and Nicole Williams, MSN, RN-BC, Nursing Content Manager, were appreciated and well-received by the participants.

The informal and anecdotal workshop evaluations were very positive. Attendees of the day-long workshop reported a greater understanding of the NCLEX process and how best to incorporate the test plan in student testing. Many attendees thanked the Nursing Consultants for Education for offering this workshop to Texas nurse educators.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational report. No action is required.