

## **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.

### **Education Department Quarterly Newsletter**

Launched in June 2014, the Education Department Newsletter is designed to provide periodic updates on current issues to pre-licensure nursing education programs and the community of interest (See Attachment #1). Education Consultant Dr. Gayle Varnell serves as editor of the publications that are distributed electronically to all Board approved professional and vocational nursing education program deans, directors, and coordinators. The nursing program chairs are requested to disseminate the documents to nursing faculty and administration. Additionally, the Education Department Newsletters are available on the Board website. The response to this outreach activity has been overwhelmingly positive.

### **Changes in Approval Status Conference Calls**

Rule 215.4(c)(3)(A)(i) sets forth that 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. Outcomes of the 2015 NCLEX-RN® examination year (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015) indicate seven (7) pre-licensure professional nursing education programs had a pass rate of first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates below the benchmark of 80% for the second consecutive year. During December 2015, Board Staff hosted thirty (30) minute conference calls with each of the seven (7) Program Directors and administrators. During each call, Program Directors were advised that agenda items regarding a change in approval status, from Initial to Initial with Warning or Full to Full with Warning, would be placed on the January 2016 Board meeting consent agenda. They were invited to send letters of response, articulating recent initiatives designed to improve 2016 NCLEX-RN® pass rates, to be attached to the individual program reports for Board member consideration. Program Directors asked questions about the process and all acknowledged they were comfortable with the change in approval status reports being placed on the January 2016 Board meeting consent agenda.

### **Informal Informational Session**

On December 10, 2015, Sandi Emerson and Dr. Virginia Ayars, Education Consultants, conducted a two (2) hour information session for individuals interested in submitting an application for approval of a new pre-licensure nursing education program in Texas, in Room 500, Tower II of the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. The purpose of the Informal Information Session was to present and discuss the nursing education program proposal

essential elements and the approval process. Establishing a nursing education program requires specific expertise, as well as appropriate resources, in order to be successful. Participants were provided an opportunity to visit with the Education Consultants and network with other individuals in the process of proposal development. Seven (7) individuals representing four (4) potential new nursing education programs, including vocational, associate degree, and baccalaureate degree, attended the workshop. The Education Consultants presented an overview of the Board functions, a brief review of Board Education Rule 214. Vocational Nursing Education and Rule 215. Professional Nursing Education, and discussed the proposal process in detail. Participant feedback confirmed that the event was highly beneficial. The Education Consultants plan to host another Informal Information Session later in 2016.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an informational report. No action is required.