

Consideration of Request to Recognize the National League for Nursing as an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education

Summary of Request:

The purpose of this agenda item is to request the Board to consider adding the National League for Nursing (NLN) to the list of recognized providers of continuing nursing education that a nurse may use to meet the continuing competency requirements for licensure renewal.

Historical Perspective:

The Texas Nursing Practice Act (Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 301, et. seq.) authorizes the Board to recognize, prepare, or implement continuing competency programs for license holders and may require participation in continuing competency programs as a condition of renewal of a license. The programs may allow a license holder to demonstrate competency through various methods including: (1) completion of targeted continuing education programs; and (2) consideration of a license holder's professional portfolio, including certifications held by the license holder [301.303]. Board Rule 216.2 states "the purpose of continuing competency is to ensure that nurses stay abreast of current industry practices, enhance their professional competence, learn about new technology and treatment regimens, and update their clinical skills. Continuing education in nursing includes programs beyond the basic preparation which are designed to promote and enrich knowledge, improve skills and develop attitudes for the enhancement of nursing practice, thus improving health care to the public."

The Board maintains a list of Board recognized credentialing agencies and providers of continuing nursing education (CNE). This list published on the Board website includes:

- [American Association of Nurse Practitioners \(AANP\);](#)
- [American Association of Critical-Care Nurses \(AACN\);](#)
- [American Association of Nurse Anesthetists \(AANA\);](#)
- [American College of Nurse Midwives \(ACNM\);](#)
- [American Nurses Credentialing Center \(ANCC\);](#)
- Category I Continuing Medical Education (for APRNs only);
- Colleges and Universities in the United States of America;
- [Emergency Nurses Association \(ENA\);](#)
- [National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service \(NAPNES\);](#)
- [National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners \(NAPNAP\);](#)
- [National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses \(NFLPN\);](#) and
- [Other State Boards of Nursing.](#)

Some of these organizations, in turn, approve other CNE providers. For example, most of the state nursing associations such as the Texas Nurses Association (TNA), and many of the nursing specialty organizations are accredited through the ANCC to approve both individual CNE

programs and also approve providers of CNE programs. Thus, these programs would be accepted. In addition, the Board also recognizes the Licensed Vocational Nurses Association of Texas (LVNAT) and the Texas League of Vocational Nurses (TLVN) as providers of CNE.

Current Perspective:

Board Staff received an electronic communication on June 18, 2018 from the NLN requesting that the NLN be considered for Board recognition as an approved provider of CNE for Texas nurses. The request is provided in Attachment A. Of note, the Board approved the Certified Nurse Educator certification offered by the NLN as a certification that meets the continuing competency requirements for licensure renewal at the April 2018 Board meeting.

Board Staff Analysis:

The NLN has a long history of not only establishing standards for nursing education, but also for providing professional development for nurses nationwide. Among some of the notable NLN offerings are the NLN Leadership Institute, the Annual NLN Education Summit, and several other conferences, workshops, and webinars. The NLN is currently credentialed as an approved provider of CNE by the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET). Staff's review of the IACET credentialing process affirmed that the process is rigorous and maintains high standards that approved providers must meet in order to earn and maintain provider approval status. IACET was founded in 1990 and launched its certified provider program in 1992. The mission of IACET is "to advance the global workforce by providing the standard framework for quality learning and development through accreditation."¹ While IACET accreditation is offered to providers of continuing education to disciplines in addition to nursing, there are several health related organizations who hold IACET accreditation. The NLN is currently accredited as a provider of continuing education by IACET through November 30, 2019.²

Staff Recommendation:

Move to approve the National League for Nursing as a recognized provider of continuing nursing education that a nurse may use to meet continuing competency requirements for licensure renewal.

References

¹International Association of Continuing Education and Training (2018). Mission and Background. Retrieved from <https://www.iacet.org/about-iacet/mission-and-background/>

²International Association of Continuing Education and Training (2014). Certificate of Accreditation for the National League for Nursing. Retrieved from <https://www.iacet.org/resources/accredited-providers-list/>



June 18, 2018

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460
Austin, TX 78701-3944

Dear Ms. Thomas,

We recently learned that the National League for Nursing (NLN) is not recognized by the Board as an approved CE provider. We respectfully request consideration be given to grant us recognized status so that we may continue to serve your state's constituents and our Texas-based members.

The NLN has been at the forefront of advancing evidence-based competencies and upholding the highest standards of excellence in nursing education and ongoing professional development for 125 years. The NLN's contributions towards promoting excellence are widely adopted and integrated into a broad range of educational and health care settings. Included among them are the NLN Excellence Model[®], the NLN Hallmarks of Excellence[®], and, most notably, the NLN Academic Nurse Educator Certification Program, which grants the CNE[®] credential. In 2014 the NLN founded the NLN Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA) as an independent division of the organization charged with accrediting nursing programs that meet the highest standards for the preparation of a caring and competent nursing workforce.

The NLN's professional development activities provide many and varied paths to helping nurses in education and practice teach in complex educational and health care systems. The NLN uniquely aligns education and practice, enhances leadership development for senior administrators and those who aspire to lead, and promotes diversity and inclusivity through its professional development offerings.

As a long-time provider for continuing education through the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET), the NLN offers CE credits for all its faculty development programs, from the annual Education Summit, to the one-year programs of the NLN Leadership Institute, to an extensive array of conferences, workshops, and online webinars. All NLN offerings undergo a meticulous review and vetting process in accordance with both the rigorous standards set by IACET and also in accordance with our own standards for excellence and quality.

In 2017 the NLN served 3,000 individuals through nearly 100 individual offerings and awarded 25,000 individual credits to nurse educators from around the country and the global community at-large.

Texas represents a large segment of the NLN's 40,000 members and we have long taken pride in serving the state and its constituents through the provision of quality professional development offerings.

We are requesting that the NLN be considered for blanket approval to award Board-approved CE credits that Texas residents may apply towards their licensure requirements.

We are happy to provide additional information as needed to facilitate and expedite this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice B. Brewington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice Brewington, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chief Program Officer