



RN UPDATE

The mission of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas is to protect and promote the welfare of the people of Texas by ensuring that each person holding a license as a registered professional nurse in the State of Texas is competent to practice safely. The Board fulfills its mission through the regulation of the practice of professional nursing and the accreditation of schools of nursing. This mission, derived from Chapters 301, 303 & 304 of the Texas Occupations Code, supersedes the interest of any individual, the nursing profession, or any special interest group.



FBI Background Checks Required of Candidates for RN Licensure by Endorsement and Initial Graduation Effective September 1

HB 2208*, enacted during the 78th Regular Texas Legislative Session, authorizes the Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE) to conduct criminal background checks on candidates for Texas Registered Nurse (RN) licensure. In order to obtain background checks, applicants for RN licensure will be required to complete two fingerprint cards that will be sent to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for analysis through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) criminal records system. The new requirement, effective September 1, 2003, applies to RNs licensed by jurisdictions other than Texas and to graduates seeking licensure by examination.

The new procedure for obtaining an application packet is to visit the **Forms Section** of the **BNE web site** located at www.bne.state.tx.us. Applicants should download either the Endorsement or the Examination Application.

Endorsement

Upon receiving the endorsement packet which will include blank fingerprint cards, applicants need to complete the application. Applicants should then contact their local police department or DPS office to arrange completion of the fingerprint cards. They may charge a fee ranging from \$10.00 to \$25.00 for performing this service. The law enforcement personnel assisting with the completion of the card will then sign the fingerprint card. The application, fingerprint card and fee (\$164.00) are then returned to the BNE Office. The BNE will issue a one-time temporary permit good for twelve weeks. Upon receiving the application, fingerprint card and fee, the BNE will immediately send the fingerprint card to DPS for processing. If applications are received by the BNE with the fee but without the fingerprint card, the fee will be returned and processing of the application will be delayed until the fingerprint card and the fee arrive together. DPS requires approximately two to four months in order to process the fingerprint cards. Endorsement applicants are strongly encouraged to provide all information relating to criminal history to the BNE.

Discovery of criminal conviction information not disclosed on the endorsement application may result in: BNE denial of Texas licensure, disclosure of discovered information to other licensing boards and/or additional fees for further investigation by BNE Enforcement Division staff. After the BNE receives satisfactory criminal background reports, a Texas RN license may be issued (if no other eligibility issues are determined to impact safe nursing practice).

Examination

Nursing school students in their final year should request the BNE examination application packet at least 90 days prior to graduation. The completed application and fingerprint cards should be returned to the BNE with the \$104.00 processing fee as soon as possible. Students who have a criminal history, i.e. deferred adjudication, DWI, DUI, etc., are strongly encouraged to begin the eligibility determination process as soon as possible. Students will be delayed in taking the NCLEX-RN® exam until an eligibility determination is made. For more information on the eligibility determination process, visit the BNE web site.

Graduate Nurse permit letters will not be sent to RN applicants until the BNE receives and processes: satisfactory criminal history reports, the completed application, an affidavit of graduation from the nursing program and the applicant's photo. Criminal history reports are valid for one year.

* *The bill also authorized background checks for current registered nurses upon renewal of their licenses; this will be implemented at a later date.*

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A Word from the Executive Director



Kathy Thomas, MN, RN

Boards of Nursing and Vocational Nursing to Merge in February 2004

House Bill 1483, which combines the jurisdiction of the Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE) and the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners (BVNE) under a single Board of Nursing, was signed into law by Governor Perry on June 20, 2003. Texas joins 45 other states who have combined boards of nursing. The four remaining states with separate boards and acts for RNs and LPNs/LVNs are California, Louisiana, Georgia, and West Virginia.

This bill also creates a single licensing act for RNs and LVNs. The current Licensed Vocational Nurse Act, found in Chapter 302 of the Texas Occupations Code, is a title-control act that requires an LVN to be licensed to use the title "LVN." The Nursing Practice Act for RNs (Chapter 301 of the Occupations Code) is a practice-control act that requires anyone who uses the title or engages in the practice of nursing to be licensed. This latter regulatory approach prohibits unlicensed persons from engaging in the practice of nursing. House Bill 1483 creates a practice-control act for both RNs and LVNs.

Nursing practice is on a continuum from those duties performed by less educated and experienced nurses to those performed by nurses with more education and experience. From a public policy perspective, it makes sense that a single board and a single licensing act regulate nursing practice across that continuum, providing more consistency in policy and regulation.

The merger of the two boards will take place February 1, 2004. The Boards are working cooperatively now and expect a smooth transition next year. The BNE and BVNE had shared resources and space prior to the passage of this legislation. Both Boards are on the same floor of the Hobby Building in Austin and share a reception area. Pursuant to a legislative directive in the 2001 Legislative Session, the Board of Nurse Examiners developed a program to migrate the LVN Board's licensure data to a new database housed and managed by the BNE. The database became operational September 1, 2003. These factors, and the Boards' common work – licensure, accreditation of nursing programs, and enforcement of the acts -- will contribute to successful consolidation of the agencies. In April 2004, this newsletter will have a new name and will be distributed to both RNs and LVNs. The BNE's website will also be expanded to include information and resources on the regulation of both types of nurses.

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS...

In this issue, we will be introducing you to one of the newest Board Members appointed by Governor Rick Perry on May 9, 2003. Governor Perry appointed three RN members to the Board. In this issue, we will meet Thomas Barton of Pampa. In January, we will profile your other new members, Brenda Jackson of San Antonio and Blanca Rosa Garcia of Corpus Christi.



The Board of Nurse Examiners
for the State of Texas

BOARD MEMBERS

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*President, representing
Advanced Practice
Nursing Education,
Galveston*

Marcelo Laijas, Jr.
*Vice-President, representing
Consumers, Floresville*

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*representing Nursing Practice,
Pampa*

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*representing ADN Programs,
Corpus Christi*

Brenda Jackson, PhD, MSN, RN
*representing BSN Programs,
San Antonio*

Phyllis Caves Rawley, CPC
*representing Consumers,
El Paso*

Executive Director

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN

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NCSBN Re-elects Texas BNE Employee as Director of Area III

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), during its annual Delegate Assembly meeting held in Alexandria, Virginia, reelected Mark Majek, MA, PHR, an employee of the Texas State Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE), as Director of Area III.

Area III includes the states of: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Texas. His work on behalf of the NCSBN has included serving on the NCSBN Nursys Advisory Panel, Phase II User Group for Nursys, and the Information System Users Group.

Mr. Majek is Director of Operations for the BNE. He has served with the Texas State Human Resource Association and was past chair. Additionally, he is active in the Small State Agency Task Force, serving as chairperson in previous years. He is also active with the Texas State Business Administrators Association. He has been an employee of the BNE since 1987. In his current position, he oversees agency finances, information systems, human resources, and supervises staff in accounting services, data processing, mail operations and purchasing. Mr. Majek received a Master of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Corpus Christi State University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government from the University of Texas at Austin.

The BNE is pleased that Mr. Majek continues to provide a voice representing the interests of Texas and the Area on the NCSBN's Board of Directors.



National Council of State Boards of Nursing Board of Directors pictured after election of members held August 5-8, 2003: Front Row (left to right): Mark Majek (Texas), Area III Director; Donna Dorsey (Maryland), President; Gregory Harris (Arizona), Area I Director. Back Row (left to right): Myra Broadway (Maine), Area IV Director; Mary Blubaugh (Kansas), Area II Director; Sandra Evans (Idaho), Treasurer; Marcia Hobbs (Kentucky), Vice President; Polly Johnson (North Carolina), Director-At-Large. Not pictured: Marjesta Jones (Alabama), Director-At-Large.



Summary of Actions

A Regular meeting of the Board of Nurse Examiners was held July 24-25, 2003 in Austin. The following is a summary of Board actions taken during this meeting.



Rule Revisions

Amendments were proposed to Rule 217.18 relating to Registered Nurse First Assistants in the August 15, 2003, issue of the *Texas Register*. Staff are reviewing comments received during the comment period.

Effective August 4, 2003, existing chapter 222 relating to Advanced Practice Nurses was repealed and a new chapter 222 was adopted on an emergency basis. Proposed repeal of current chapter 222 and adoption of new chapter 222 on a permanent basis was published in the September 26, 2003, issue of the *Texas Register*. The 30-day comment period will end on October 27, 2003.

Effective September 1, 2003, amendments were adopted on an emergency basis to § 223.1 relating to Fees. Amendments were proposed and adopted to section 223.1 effective October 8, 2003, as published in the October 3, 2003, issue of the *Texas Register*.

Education Actions: July 24-25 Meeting

Determination of Accreditation Status

*Continued full accreditation with commendations, recommendations and requirements

Kilgore College - ADN

*Continued initial accreditation with commendations, recommendations and requirements

Texas Christian University-Harris School of Nursing - APN

Discussion of Other Education Matters

*Approved proposal to develop a new nursing program

*Cy-Fair College, North Harris Montgomery Community College District - ADN
Texas A&M International University, Canseco School of Nursing - APN*

*Denied proposal for an innovative approach to nursing education
University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost - ADN

*Approved petition of waiver of qualifications for Acting Director
Weatherford College - ADN

*Approved petition for Faculty Waiver
*Angelo State University - ADN
Central Texas College - ADN*

*Approved request for extension of waiver for Interim Dean
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio - BSN

*Approved proposal to establish multiple Distance Education Initiatives
*El Centro College - ADN
Trinity Valley Community College - ADN*

MEET YOUR BOARD: Thomas Barton, MSN, RN, Represents RN Practice for BNE



Thomas Barton, MSN, RN

Name:	Thomas Barton, MSN, RN
Current Position:	CNO, Pampa Regional Medical Center
Past Positions:	Previously served on the Board at La Pinon, a rape/crisis trauma recovery center in Las Cruces, NM. Also served on the Board of Occupational Therapy for the State of New Mexico. For the past 10 years has been employed in progressive leadership roles in acute care settings, primarily in Emergency Services.
Educational Background:	Diploma in Nursing - Cabarrus Memorial School of Nursing in Concord, North Carolina; MSN in Nursing Administration from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee
Professional Affiliations:	Emergency Nurses Association, Texas Organization of Nurse Executives, and the American Organization of Nurse Executives
Family:	Wife, who is also a Registered Nurse, and one daughter

What was it that motivated you to pursue this position with the Board of Nurse Examiners?

It may seem trite, but I wanted to get involved in my profession, and the direction that it takes in the state in which I am licensed.

What do you think that you bring to the Board?

I think that I can furnish the Board with the rural hospital perspective. I also feel that I can represent practice as I am involved with the issues of nursing on a daily basis.

What goals do you have for yourself while serving as a member of the Board of Nurse Examiners?

I want to contribute to the decision-making process as it affects practice in Texas.

Is there anything specific you'd like to say to the readers of *RN Update*?

I am grateful to Governor Perry for appointing me, and encourage the nurses in Texas to become involved in their profession.

What do you see as the most important issues affecting the regulation of professional nursing?

I think that the issues facing nursing are varied. They include the nursing shortage, and maintaining the highest quality of care in the face of shortages. I also think that nurses must maintain our profession and be vigilant that we do not dilute the professional responsibilities in attempts to solve the scarcity of nurses.

How do you see the role of the RN changing as the nursing shortage becomes more of a problem?

Obviously, delegation of appropriate tasks increases. The nurse of today needs to seek a balance between his/her workload and maintaining his/her contact with the patient.

Please describe your perception of how the RN fits into the whole healthcare community.

My nursing education was highly based upon the concept of holistic care. With the economic demands that are placed on healthcare providers, this concept rushes to the forefront. Nursing is certainly not just hospital-based any longer.

Is there anything that the Board should be doing to better meet the demands of professional nursing in Texas?

I am fairly new to this state. My residency spans less than one year. To date I have found the Board to be responsive and prompt in my interactions with them. Aside from this, I have not had the opportunity to identify anything that could be done better.

In your experience, how has professional nursing changed over the years?

We have come from a paper documenting profession to the introduction of computers and beyond. Regulations have also increased as we have all tried to ensure that our patients receive the highest quality of safe care.

How can RNs better serve the people of Texas?

As a profession, there are far too few of us that are involved. Not only must we serve on boards, we must also be involved in our communities.

Legislative Report - 78th Regular Texas Legislative Session

The 78th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature concluded June 2, 2003, with passage of a number of bills relevant to the practice of nursing in Texas. The following is a brief summary of some of the bills impacting the practice of nursing in Texas.

Subject Area(s)	Bill Number\Author	Implementation Date	Impact
Bioterrorism Continuing Education (CE) Requirement	HB 1483 - Allen	CE to be collected June 1, 2006 through June 1, 2007	Adds CE requirement relating to bioterrorism.
Criminal Background Checks	HB 2208 - Allen	September 1, 2003	Authorizes criminal background checks for candidates for Texas RN licensure by endorsement or examination and current licensees. Licensure fee increased. (see article on page 1)
Dementia CE Requirement	HB 776 - Naishtat SB 1549 - Nelson	September 1, 2003	Institutions providing care to dementia patients to provide 1 hour of CE relating to dementia care per year to nurses.
Mandatory Reporting of Adverse Events by Hospitals	HB 1614 - Truitt	June 20, 2003	Requires hospitals to report adverse events annually & conduct root cause analysis of events.
Office of Patient Protection - Health Professions Council (HPC)	HB 2985 - Capelo	September 1, 2003	Establishes Office of Patient Protection within HPC. Authorizes added license fees for funding of Office. Funding issues still to be resolved in special sessions.
Organ Donation Education Program	SB 160 - Nelson	September 1, 2003	As funds permit, TDH to develop educational program on organ donation for use in nursing school curriculum.
Operating Room Nurses	HB 2131 - Zedler	September 1, 2003	Allows RNs in hospital settings to directly assist in surgery until 2007 with provisions for those in rural hospitals beyond that date. (see article on p. 6)
Pilot Studies of Innovative Nursing Practice Applications & Continued Competence, Various Measures relating to RN Practice	SB 718 - Madla	June 20, 2003	Authorizes BNE to conduct competency-related pilot studies and reporting of errors. Other subject areas include: RN insignias, minor incidents, usage of nurse title, evaluation of system errors, safe harbor provisions and application of ergonomic principles in hospital settings.
Prescriptive Authority for Advanced Practice Nurses	HB 1095 - Capelo	May 20, 2003	Allows physicians to delegate authority to prescribe Schedule III - V controlled substances to APNs and PAs
Schedule II & III Controlled Substance Use and Abuse Education, Poison Control Center	SB 144 - Averitt	September 1, 2003	Once each biennium, BNE to provide license holders information regarding Schedule II and III controlled substances and poison control centers.
Shortage of Nurses	HB 3126 - Truitt	June 20, 2003	Authorizes larger TEXAS grants to nursing students and increased renewal fee to fund Nursing Workforce Data Center.
Single Board of Nursing	HB 1483 - Allen	Single Board - February 1, 2004, Implementation already in progress	Creates combined Board of Nursing consisting of BNE and BVNE, creates single licensing act for RNs and LVNs. (see article on page 2)

Other Laws of Interest

Advanced Directives: SB 1320 - Nelson, effective 9/1/03, relates to honoring of DNR orders on charts, procedure for readmission of patients who previously completed the ethics process, DNR orders for minors.

Immunizations: HB 1920 - Capelo, effective 9/1/03, relates to provider education programs to increase immunization rates; HB 1921 - Capelo, effective 9/1/03, relates to one-time consent for inclusion in immunization registry; HB 2292 - Wohlgenuth, effective 9/1/03, relates to refusal based upon "conscientious objection."

Postpartum Depression: HB 341 - Uresti, effective 9/1/03, relates to resources available to provide assistance with parenting and postpartum depression, distribution of, and retention of documentation in medical record.

The Board of Nurse Examiners is currently responding to enacted legislation through passage of new agency rules, fee changes, and licensing procedural changes. For the full text of the bills included in this report, visit www.capitol.state.tx.us.

Board Proposes Revisions to Rule 217.18, relating to RNFAs

HB 803, passed in the 77th Legislative Session (2001), amended the Nursing Practice Act by adding Section 301.1525. The section defined a “nurse first assistant” as a registered nurse who is certified in perioperative nursing by an organization recognized by the Board and has completed a nurse first assistant program approved by an organization recognized by the Board. The new section also granted the Board authority to develop rules relating to RNFAs. Rule 217.18 was proposed in response to this legislation.

In the 78th Regular Legislative Session (2003), HB 2131 further amended the Nursing Practice Act by adding Sections 301.1526 and 301.1527. The new sections of the Nursing Practice Act provide an alternative for RNs who do not meet the minimum criteria to function as RNFAs to “directly assist” in surgery. The new sections create a definition for “direct assisting” by listing functions that may/may not be performed by RNs in this role. It should be noted that Section 301.1526, relating to certain RNs who directly assist in surgery, is only in effect from September 1, 2003, through January 1, 2007. Section 301.1527, relating to certain RNs who directly assist in surgery in small hospitals, does not become effective until January 1, 2007.

During its July 2003 meeting, the Board discussed these amendments to the Nursing Practice Act, and proposed amendments to Rule 217.18 that reflect these changes. The proposed amendments to the rule were published in the August 15, 2003, issue of the *Texas Register* and were open for public comment for a period of thirty days. The proposed revisions are written in language that is virtually identical to the language stated in Sections 301.1526 and 301.1527 of the Nursing Practice Act. Staff anticipate that the Board will review any comments received during its October 2003 meeting.

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Approved as Credentialing Agency for Type I Continuing Education Activities

At the July 2003 Board meeting, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) requested that the Board recognize its process for credentialing continuing education providers and programs as meeting the requirements for Type I continuing education activities. All registered nurses are required to complete a minimum of 20 contact hours of continuing education (CE) each biennium in order to renew their RN licenses. If the RN is also authorized to practice as an advanced practice nurse, the 20 contact hours must be targeted for the advanced practice role and specialty area. If the advanced practice nurse also has prescriptive authority, an additional five contact hours targeted for pharmacotherapeutics must be completed.

Continuing education activities are further divided into two categories: Type I and II. Type I hours are those hours that include nurses as the target audience, have a mechanism(s) in place to assess that goals and objectives have been met, and have been reviewed by an external credentialing body recognized by the Board. Continuing education activities that have not been formally approved by a recognized credentialing body may be considered acceptable for Type II credits. No RN, including an advanced practice nurse, may have more than ten Type II contact hours per biennium.

AANP was not included in the original list of recognized credentialing bodies whose CE-provider approval process is recognized for Type I credit. As the demand for targeted continuing education activities increases, particularly for advanced practice nurses, many entities are utilizing the AANP's credentialing process for approval.

The AANP's request was originally reviewed by staff prior to its consideration by the Board. Staff analyzed the Academy's credentialing process based on the requirements for acceptable continuing education activities outlined in Rule 216.4. They also compared the AANP's process with that used by other credentialing agencies currently recognized by the Board, including other agencies that credential providers of continuing education activities targeted for advanced practice nurses. The Board considered this information and voted to recognize the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners' process for credentialing continuing education providers and programs as meeting the requirements for Type I continuing education activities. The Board's decision will assist advanced practice nurses, particularly nurse practitioners, with meeting the targeted continuing education requirements necessary for maintenance of their authorizations to practice.

New Guidelines Adopted for Refresher Course/Extensive Orientation for APNs With Inactive Status

Rule 221.10(c) requires that advanced practice nurses with inactive status for whom more than four years have lapsed since completion of the advanced practice educational program or who have not practiced in the advanced practice role during the previous four years successfully complete a refresher course or extensive orientation that includes a supervised clinical component. Such courses may only be offered to individuals who otherwise meet current requirements for authorization to practice as an advanced practice nurse in Texas. The requirement for a refresher course or extensive orientation was included in the rule for the purpose of providing assurance to the Board and the public that the advanced practice nurse who is returning to practice after a period of inactivity is competent to provide safe, effective care within the full scope of the advanced role and specialty.

Since this requirement has been in place, many advanced practice nurses with inactive status have contacted board staff to request guidance in planning these experiences. Few advanced practice organizations offer formal refresher courses, so many advanced practice nurses with inactive status must complete an extensive orientation in order to meet eligibility criteria for reactivation of the advanced practice authorization. The lack of somewhat standardized guidelines for advanced practice nurses with inactive status presents difficulty for both the advanced practice nurse and individuals who seek to assist them by providing these learning experiences.

These concerns were shared with the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee, and they developed guidelines in response to this concern. The guidelines are sufficiently detailed so that the advanced practice nurse with inactive status may have a better understanding of the purpose of the experience and the minimum expectations of the Board. The guidelines are general in nature to apply to all roles and specialties, yet they allow room to individualize experiences based on the advanced practice nurse's specific learning needs. The guidelines were adopted by the Board in July 2003 and may be reviewed on the BNE web site at www.bne.state.tx.us.

APN Advisory Committee Update

The Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee met in Austin on September 15, 2003, to continue working on its current charges from the Board. The committee gave further consideration to the development of standardized criteria for review of new and existing national certification examinations recognized for advanced practice nurses. The Committee also discussed a request from Contemporary Forums to consider its pharmacotherapeutics continuing education offering as meeting the requirements for advanced practice nurses seeking prescriptive authority who need a course in pharmacotherapeutics. The committee is scheduled to meet again in December 2003.

Board Meeting Dates: 2003

October 23-24

Board Meeting Dates: 2004

January 22-23

April 22-23

July 22-23

October 21-22

HPC Offers Toll-Free Number for Complaint Forms

The Health Professions Council has a toll-free phone number for obtaining complaint forms to report inappropriate actions by Texas-licensed health professionals including Doctors, Physician Assistants, Therapists, RNs, and LVNs. The number is: **1-800-821-3205**.

VOLUNTEER FOR A PEER

You can make a difference. "TPAPN saved my life." Become a part of nurses helping nurses by calling the Texas Peer Assistance Program for nurses at 1-800-288-5528.

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The following registered nurses had disciplinary action taken against their licenses. If you would like to receive additional information regarding the disciplinary action that has been imposed, please send your request to the Board of Nurse Examiners, Enforcement Division, P.O. Box 430, Austin, Texas, 78767-0430.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>DATE OF ACTION</u>
Abdullahi, Shadia Omar	683211	License Revoked	August 12, 2003
Amelunxen, Franchesca Carolina	598377	Remedial Education	July 22, 2003
Aldridge, Patricia Ann	661396	Warning with Stipulations	September 9, 2003
Arce, Rosa	656075	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Arciniaga, Chung H.	666458	Reprimand with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Aulie, Kamera	643104	Suspended	August 12, 2003
Bazazzadegan, Julia Elaine	250724	License Revoked	September 9, 2003
Beal, Stefanie	637922	Remedial Education	August 25, 2003
Benton, Sharon I.	234671	Reprimand with Stipulations	September 9, 2003
Berry, Kathy J.	512692	Remedial Education	June 23, 2003
Blevins, Linda Jan	562405	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Brooks, Sarita Gay	569516	License Revoked	August 12, 2003
Burrell, Patricia Ann	686647	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Butler, Walter Edwin	602685	Reprimand with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Castle, Jolene	547051	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Cogdell, Kimberly Elizabeth	530120	Warning with Stipulations	September 9, 2003
Conner, Nanette Renee	687579	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Courson, Linda Dale	562198	Suspended	September 9, 2003
Davis, Lisa Michelle	665455	Warning with Stipulations	September 9, 2003
Davis, Clayton Kendall	594258	Enforced Suspension/Probation	July 24, 2003
Dawkins, Glenda Kay	249776	Remedial Education	June 10, 2003
Dillander, Anthony Glenn	678106	Remedial Education	June 3, 2003
Edelman, Donald A.	620830	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Erskine, Cathy Diane	554326	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Estephan, Debra L.	625189	Remedial Education	July 22, 2003
Eubanks, Jennifer Elaine	582309	Suspended	September 9, 2003
Evans, Dorothea La Rue	633656	Remedial Education	June 11, 2003
Flowers, Nancy J.	250441	Reprimand with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Ford, Kimberly Dawn	582233	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Frank, Brenda J.	534004	Suspend/Probate	September 9, 2003
Friesen, Nancy Louise	607518	Reprimand with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Garcia, Aime	684629	Enforced Suspension/Probation	September 9, 2003
Gay, Gloria M.	230164	Remedial Education	July 30, 2003
Geiser, Melanie	641834	Remedial Education & Fine	June 10, 2003
Gerbitz, Robyn Renee	619627	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Gibson, Judy Kay	244815	License Revoked	September 9, 2003
Goines, Nancy	640841	Enforced Suspension/Probation	August 12, 2003
Griffith, Linda Joy	650714	License Revoked	September 9, 2003
Hairston, Henry Clay	560188	Remedial Education	July 24, 2003
Hall, Mary Margaret	465414	Warning with Stipulations	September 9, 2003
Harkins, Betty Marie	554596	Suspended	August 12, 2003
Harris, Victoria Louise	223791	License Revoked	August 12, 2003
Hollar, Barbara Ann	533598	License Revoked	August 12, 2003
Hopson, Lori L. Pate	245003	Suspend/Probate	August 12, 2003
James, Carolann	651667	Reprimand with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Kahn, Beatrice Margarete	558897	License Revoked	August 12, 2003
Keithley, Sheri Dlynn	688570	Warning with Stipulations	September 9, 2003
Kerr, Kristin Ann	619130	License Revoked	September 9, 2003
Kwiatkowski, Timothy Edward	600063	License Revoked	September 9, 2003
Kyllonen, Doris M.	608543	Remedial Education	June 26, 2003
Larock, Sherry	627676	Remedial Education	June 23, 2003
Lester, Gina R.	619155	Reprimand with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Little-Caesar, Hope Yvonne	531020	Remedial Education	September 15, 2003
Marrs, Vonnie Lee	603068	Remedial Education	July 1, 2003
Martinez, Obara Aleece	555236	Remedial Education	August 18, 2003
Mathis, John David	673613	License Revoked	August 12, 2003
Matlock, Kelly	659771	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
McLeod, Melinda Faye	653335	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Medlock, Shalitris Renee	593198	Suspended	August 12, 2003
Meyers, Kathleen Marie	545244	Reprimand with Stipulations	August 12, 2003

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- continued from previous page

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>DATE OF ACTION</u>
Mikolon, Gaye Ellen	564017	Enforced Suspension/Probation	August 12, 2003
Miller, Doris L.	250077	License Revoked	August 12, 2003
Miller, Nancy L.	541407	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Nkanga, Emem Effiong	686312	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Padron, Sara Ann	578137	Reprimand with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Palanek, Jeanette Marie	576563	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Papari, Janice Marie	566536	Limited License with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Patterson, Mary Moe	672024	License Revoked	September 9, 2003
Polizzi, Johnnie Belinda	561404	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Poplawski, Maryann	653772	Remedial Education	September 9, 2003
Powers, Hilary Lynn	605091	Limited License with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Quinlan, Mary S.	517910	Reprimand with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Radford, Jr., Marvin Lester	684435	Remedial Education	July 23, 2003
Randall, Teresa Faye	610259	Enforced Suspension/Probation	July 24, 2003
Ruiz, Cheryl Ann	655407	Warning with Stipulations	September 9, 2003
Schramek, Heather	656347	Enforced Suspension/Probation	August 12, 2003
Seelke, Marilyn Sue	596820	Enforced Suspension/Probation	August 12, 2003
Shannahan, Judith Ann	578394	Remedial Education	July 8, 2003
Sharp, Deborah S.	508604	Enforced Suspension/Probation	September 9, 2003
Shaw, Karen I.	541501	Reprimand with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Smith, Deborah Elizabeth	691372	Remedial Education	July 1, 2003
Smith, Michelle Louise	569988	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Spieth, Jr., Byron Earl	521375	License Revoked	August 12, 2003
Stacy, Allison	501578	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Stuart, Jane Ludden	685986	Remedial Education	August 11, 2003
Swofford, Teresa	628945	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Tano, Merly	609603	Suspended	September 9, 2003
Taylor, Marion S.	249619	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Thomas, Gloria Traci	552337	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Tice, Sue Ellen	541717	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Torregosa, Marivic	613853	Remedial Education	July 24, 2003
Trevino, Melissa Lynn	689147	Remedial Education	August 18, 2003
Trotter, Bettina H.	537294	Suspended	September 9, 2003
Vasandani, Kamal Ken	676955	Reprimand with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Venhaus, Alice	637476	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Vidrine, Gloria Gail	681885	Warning with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Walsh, Stacy Marie	605185	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Webb, Dennis R.	617096	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Wells, Michelle Dianne	546745	Enforced Suspension/Probation	August 12, 2003
West, Kathleen C.	243600	Remedial Education	July 31, 2003
Williams, Charolette Ann	596253	Remedial Education	July 9, 2003
Williams, Ethel H.	592811	Warning with Stipulations	September 9, 2003
Womack, Grace Elizabeth	647377	Limited License with Stipulations	August 12, 2003
Wood, Danielle Marie	572169	Reprimand with Stipulations	July 24, 2003
Wynn, Martha Ann	602415	Warning with Stipulations	July 24, 2003

During a period of time from June 1, 2003, through September 17, 2003, two registered nurses were issued the sanctions of a Fine and Remedial Education for practicing professional nursing with a delinquent license and 25 registered nurses were issued the sanction of a Fine or a Fine with Remedial Education for failure to comply with Board Continuing Education requirements.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The following individuals have voluntarily surrendered their licenses to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DATE OF SURRENDER</u>
Blagg, Holly Gwen	680795	September 11, 2003
Byers, Bobbie Denise	639507	September 3, 2003
Capuano, Nancy Lee	564466	June 30, 2003
Cross, Sally Ann	558840	July 17, 2003
Forgette, Vickie R.	501590	August 11, 2003
Franklin, Cheryl	629967	September 5, 2003

VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

- continued from previous page

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DATE OF SURRENDER</u>
Ginther, Michael Joseph	662858	July 2, 2003
Johnson, Sharon Lynn	584952	July 14, 2003
Knightstep, Willis Hardy	232147	July 17, 2003
Landry, Diana Kay	626618	August 19, 2003
Lingner, John Dahney	589364	June 18, 2003
Long, Shirley	609951	June 4, 2003
Manceaux, Cathy Lynn	572719	July 2, 2003
Marshall, Kathryn Taylor	679426	August 20, 2003
Martin, Eddie June	249152	July 1, 2003
Martin, Jami Diane	573433	August 6, 2003
Masoner, Susan Ann	589443	July 8, 2003
Matthews, Mary Beth	253535	August 25, 2003
McEnturff, Carla J.	616350	June 10, 2003
Miller, Jeannie Michele	563291	July 9, 2003
Murphy, Michael Patrick	645644	August 20, 2003
Nabors, Delores	560123	August 6, 2003
Padgett, Billy Wayne	568317	September 11, 2003
Risinger, Charlotte Denise	583372	September 8, 2003
Thomas, Jennifer Mary	568652	August 18, 2003
Williams, William H.	614232	August 27, 2003
Wright, Robert William	659094	June 20, 2003

Insufficient Funds

As of September 18, 2003, the following nurses appear on the records of the Board of Nurse Examiners as debits for failure to respond to notices of returned checks. Should any of these nurses be employed or seeking employment with your agency/institution, please contact the Board's office. If any of these nurses are practicing in Texas as a registered nurse, they may be in violation of the Nursing Practice Act and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>
Brotherton, Susan	RN694922
Hiatt, Martha	TL88174
Hite, Donald	RN536116

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>
Johnson, Vickie	TL87956
Walls, Lillian	RN565105
Wilson, Cynthia	RN689573

E-Mail Notification Service Available for Newsletter Readers, Businesses, and Organizations

The Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE) would like to send you an e-mail notifying you when the latest BNE newsletter is available for reading and providing a link directly to the newsletter's location on the internet. This service will be available at no cost and will be sent out on a quarterly basis as soon as the newsletter is available for reading. The e-mail address that you provide will be used in the strictest confidence and will only be used for the purpose of informing you when the newsletter can be downloaded and providing a direct link to the newsletter's location.

If you would like to add your personal e-mail address or the e-mail address for your business or organization to the BNE's e-mail mailing list, simply send an e-mail indicating that you wish to receive the newsletter notification service to: webmaster@bne.state.tx.us.

NURSES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP DEVELOP THE NCLEX® EXAMINATION

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is responsible for developing the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® licensing examinations by utilizing contributions from nurse clinicians and educators. NCSBN encourages all nurses to become involved in the development of the exams by participating in the item (question) development program. Qualifications for participation are listed below.

Serving on an NCLEX® item writing or review panel is an excellent opportunity to network with nurses from across the country, contribute to continuing excellence in nursing practice, and build new skills that are useful for professional growth.

Item development sessions are held throughout the year and include the item writing and item review panels. Item writing panelists are responsible for creating new test items that may later appear on one of the exams. Item review panelists examine both newly created and older items to help decide if the items are current and relevant to entry-level nursing practice.

All item development panels are held in Chicago, Illinois, and generally last 3-4 consecutive days. Panelists stay downtown in a deluxe hotel surrounded by the shopping and theater districts. Most travel and food expenses are covered and new panelists receive more than 30 CEUs for their participation.

For more information about the NCLEX-RN® item development program or to receive an application for the item development panels please call the NCSBN item development hotline at 312-525-3775 or visit our web site at www.ncsbn.org.

Workshop Update

***Overview of Current Regulations:
A Foundation for Safe RN Practice***

Two workshops addressing nursing jurisprudence issues are currently scheduled:

Laredo - October 16, 2003

Nacogdoches - November 6, 2003

The workshop has been approved for seven Type I contact hours. The workshop fee is currently \$90 for pre-registration and \$105 at the door.

Registration Information

Brochures/registration forms will be available via the BNE website with pre-registration accepted **six weeks** prior to the workshop. Preregistration is always encouraged since space is limited. Payment *must* accompany the registration form, so registration cannot be taken over the phone, by e-mail, or fax. If you are unable to download the brochure from our website, you may request one by contacting us. Our phone number for workshop information is (512) 305-6844 and e-mail address is Cara.Mueller@bne.state.tx.us

RN Delegation Information Packet Available

In response to the changes that took place last February to the Board’s Delegation Rules, BNE staff have compiled material for RNs on the subject of delegation. Information includes frequently asked questions, a conflict resolution model, a resource list, a bridge between the old and new delegation rules, and flow charts and tables illustrating the delegation process. The material is available to interested parties via the BNE website www.bne.state.tx.us. It is anticipated that the delegation information packet will be used by RNs and nursing administrators for educational and procedural activities to create greater clarity on delegation issues.

BNE HELPFUL NUMBERS

MAIN NUMBER.....(512) 305-7400
 -- 24 Hour Access
 -- License Verification
 -- General Information

OPERATIONS

CUSTOMER SERVICE.....(512) 305-6809
 -- License Renewals
 -- Endorsement/Reciprocity
 -- Continuing Education for RNs

ACCOUNTING SERVICES.....(512) 305-6853
 -- Returned checks
 -- Refunds
 -- Debits

SALES OF LISTS.....(512) 305-6848
 -- Computerized RN mailing lists or labels
 -- Publications

NEWSLETTER INFO.....(512) 305-6842

WEB Address.....www.bne.state.tx.us
 -- Refer e-mail inquiries to:
webmaster@bne.state.tx.us

ENFORCEMENT.....(512) 305-6838
 -- Complaint and disciplinary action inquiries
 -- Violations of NPA and rules and regulations
 -- Monitoring of disciplined RNs

PROFESSIONAL NURSING

ADVANCED PRACTICE.....(512) 305-6843
 -- APN application and
 Prescriptive Authority procedures
 -- Application Requests.....(512) 305-6867
 (Voice Box Only)

-- Initial Authorization to Practice
 -- Prescriptive Authority

EDUCATION & EXAM.....(512) 305-6818
 -- RN/APN nursing programs
 -- Distance Education Initiatives
 -- NCLEX-RN applications
 -- Graduate Nurse permits
 -- Declaratory orders

NURSING PRACTICE.....(512) 305-6844
 -- Nursing practice issues
 -- Legislation
 -- Workshop Information



The purpose of the *RN Update* is to disseminate information to registered nurses licensed by the State of Texas, their employers, health care providers, and the public concerning laws and regulations established by the Board of Nurse Examiners related to the safe and legal practice of professional nursing. The *RN Update* provides information on current issues and trends in nursing regulation, status of nursing education programs, information regarding licensure and nursing practice, and disciplinary action taken against licensees who violate the Nursing Practice Act.

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Office Hours and Location

The Office of the Board of Nurse Examiners is located in The William P. Hobby Building, located at the corner of 4th and Guadalupe in downtown Austin. The mailing address is: 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701-3944. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for designated holidays.

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Change of Address

Notification of change of address as required by Rule 217.7 can be by three different routes:
 1. Mail to: Board of Nurse Examiners, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701-3944 ;
 2. E-Mail to: webmaster@bne.state.tx.us ; or
 3. Fax to: Board of Nurse Examiners (512) 305-7401.

Notifications must include:

1. RN License Number, 2. Social Security Number, 3. Old and New Address, and
4. Your Name.

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