

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (ACE) REPORT

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

This report is an update regarding the status of ACE activities and is presented for informational purposes.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- At the April 2006 Board meeting, the Board issued a charge to ACE regarding Board approval of nursing education programs outside of Texas' jurisdiction including, but not limited to:
 - Studying the issues involved in the Board approving nursing education programs outside Texas' jurisdiction currently operating in Texas or desiring to operate in Texas.
 - Recommending new rules and regulations addressing Board approval of nursing education programs outside Texas' jurisdiction currently operating in Texas or desiring to operate in Texas.
 - Reviewing rule language for clarity and consistency between Rule 214 and Rule 215 and making recommendations regarding Rule 219
- ACE addressed the first two charges issued at the April 2006 Board meeting, but because of Sunset requirements, ACE planned to begin address of the remaining charge, reviewing rule language for clarity and consistency between Rule 214 and Rule 215 and making recommendations regarding Rule 219, beginning at the ACE meeting scheduled on June 13, 2008.
- At the July 2006 Board meeting, the Board issued three (3) new charges to ACE including, but not limited to:
 - Recommending possible rule revision to clarify Board expectations in distance education for nursing education programs.
 - Recommending possible rule revision to clarify the role of simulation in clinical learning experiences.
 - Recommending possible limitations or a revised process for resubmitting a proposal for a new nursing education program after the original proposal is denied by the Board.
- ACE has addressed all of the three (3) new charges issued to ACE at the July 2006 Board meeting.
- At the July 2007 Board meeting, the Board issued a three-point charge to ACE related to the agency's Sunset Implementation Plan, including statutory changes and management actions, as follows:
 - Reviewing and revising the education rules, policies, and procedures to ensure that the rules, policies, and procedures do not exceed the Board's responsibility to certify minimum competence to enter the profession of nursing;
 - Recommending to the Board a process to allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma nursing programs; and
 - Recommending to the Board allowing Board approval of nursing education programs for a period longer than one year.
 - One additional charge was added, as follows: Evaluating the number of program hours for vocational nursing (VN) education programs outlined in Rule 214.
- Recommendations addressing the three-point charge to ACE related to the agency's Sunset Implementation Plan were presented to the Board at the January 17-18, 2008 Board Meeting.

- During the ACE meeting on February 28, 2008, the issues regarding the evaluation of the number of program hours for vocational nursing education programs outlined in Rule 214 were discussed and the members determined that the program hours would remain the same until additional information was presented at the next ACE meeting.
- ACE met on June 13, 2008 and also participated in a conference call on June 24, 2008.

REMAINING CHARGES TO BE ADDRESSED BY ACE:

- Reviewing rule language for clarity and consistency between Rule 214 and Rule 215 and making recommendations regarding Rule 219; and
- Evaluating the number of program hours for vocational nursing (VN) education programs outlined in Rule 214.

ACE ACTIONS SINCE THE APRIL 17-18, 2008 BOARD MEETING:

ACE met on June 13, 2008 with all the ten (10) ACE members, one (1) Board member, and several Board staff in attendance, and during the meeting:

- Various reports were presented including:
 - Mary Beth Thomas presented information on Criminal Background Checks on students and a brief report on the status of the Jurisprudence Examination;
 - Nancy Maebius presented an update on the nature of the questions posed by Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) regarding the number of hours in VN programs and conveyed that the TAVNE members did not have any specific recommendation for changes in the number of hours;
 - Robbin Wilson presented a report on the requirements from other state boards of nursing for required VN program hours; and
 - Janet Noles presented a report on the relationship of required clinical hours to NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the last five years. ACE members requested that Dr. Noles pursue an examination of the relationship of required theory hours to NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the last five years and present a report of the findings at the next ACE meeting.
- ACE members began the review of Rule 214 and Rule 215 and made recommendations to the Board for proposed amendments to the rules.
- ACE members determined that a conference call would be conducted on June 24, 2008 to complete the review of the remaining sections of Rule 214 and 215 for proposed amendments to the rules (See Agenda Item, 7.8.).
- ACE members also determined that the next meeting of ACE would be scheduled for September 10, 2008 in anticipation of new charges being issued to ACE from the Board.

ACE members participated in a conference call on June 24, 2008 with nine (9) of the ten (10) ACE members, two (2) Board members, and Board staff in attendance.

- ACE completed the review of the remaining sections of Rule 214 and 215 and made recommendations to the Board for proposed amendments to the rules (See Agenda Item, 7.8.).
- ACE did not recommend a change in the current number of required theory (classroom) and clinical hours for VN programs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

There is no staff recommendation for Board action. This report is for informational purposes only.