

Consideration of Developmental Disability Nurses Certification Approval

Summary of Request:

The Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association (DDNA) offers a certification in Developmental Disabilities for LVNs and for RNs. Staff seeks the Board's approval to add the two certifications offered by this organization to the list of approved certifications to increase the options for LVNs and to add an approved certification in a specialty not addressed by any of the currently approved certifications.

Historical Perspective:

The certifications offered by DDNA were examined while evaluating available training courses in relation to the LVN on-call pilot mandated by SB 1857 during the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session. The certifications are not approved by either of the certification accreditation agencies: Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) and National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). However, in order to attain the certification, the requirements are substantively similar to requirements of other certifications that are approved by ABSNC as there is a requirement for 4000 practice hours in the specialty within the 5 years immediately prior to taking the certification examination. The certification exam was updated for the RN in collaboration with HESI (now Elsevier Publishing) and the certification exam for the LVN was developed in collaboration with HESI for the LVN.

For recertification the requirements for continuing nursing education (CNE) are based on number of practice hours with no CE requirement less than 25 CE in the two year certification renewal, thus exceeding the requirements for continuing competency for nurses in Board Rule 216.3 (20 CNE in the licensure cycle).

Renewal	
Practice Hours	CNE Specific to specialty
≥ 1,000 hours/2 years	25 CNE
500 – 999 hours/2 years	40 CNE
0 - < 500 hours/2 years	60 CNE

There are currently two Board approved certifications available for LVNs.

Cons:

Certification requires membership in DDNA, a professional association. The certifications are not approved by a certification accreditation agency.

Pros:

Approval would provide a certification for nurses in a specialty that is not available through other channels and an additional certification option for LVNs.

Staff Recommendations:

Move to approve the addition of the two certifications offered by the DDNA to the approved certifications for demonstrating continuing competency.