

Report on Communication Activities With Nursing Education Programs

This report describes the participation of Nursing Consultants for Education (EC) of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON) in activities to promote communication with the Texas pre-licensure nursing education programs and constituents.

Self-Study Conference Calls

Rule 214.4(c)(2)(B) stipulates that the first-time a nursing program has a passing score of less than eighty (80) percent for first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates a Self-Study Report (SSR) is to be written and submitted to Board Staff by a specified deadline. In the 2014 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate year (January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014), seven (7) pre-licensure vocational nursing education programs had a first-time examination pass rate below the benchmark of eighty (80) percent. During May 2015, Board Staff hosted thirty (30) minute conference calls with each of the seven (7) Program Directors and their respective faculty. During each call, Program Directors and faculty were provided the opportunity to share their findings of ongoing evaluation and ask any questions. Program Directors and faculty freely asked questions about the process and were enthusiastic in sharing their findings. Each SSR, due July 15, 2015, will be reviewed by the EC and a response letter provided to each program acknowledging receipt. The response letter will include any suggestions or comments specific to corrective actions as well as any requests for additional or clarifying information.

This activity continues to be highly worthwhile. Program Directors and faculty had already begun the in-depth program analysis and shared with the EC's their results. Program Directors expressed appreciation for the support and direction from the ECs, confirming that the call was a positive experience for them. Consultants for Nursing Education had the opportunity to not only become more familiar with their assigned programs, learning of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges but also to forge stronger, empowering relationships.

New Deans/Directors/Coordinators Orientation

Board Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education and Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education require that a newly appointed dean, director, interim dean or director, or coordinator of a nursing education program attend a face-to-face orientation provided by Board Staff. At the time of appointment and approval, a new dean/director/coordinator receives an electronic version of the *Nursing Education Program Director Orientation Module* from Board Staff. The learning module provides basic content regarding Rules 214 and 215. Completion of the module is required prior to attendance at a face-to-face orientation workshop, the second part of the orientation process for new program administrators.

A face-to-face, day-long session of the Deans/Directors/Coordinators Orientation was held in the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas on June 17, 2015. The session complements and enhances the self-paced orientation module, providing an opportunity for participants to further their knowledge of Rules 214 and 215 through staff presentations, question and answer segments, and group discussions.

The June workshop was attended by twenty-eight (28) deans, directors, and coordinators from professional and vocational nursing education programs throughout the state. Texas BON EC's presented a myriad of topics, including: an overview of the Texas Board of Nursing, Education Guidelines, Clinical Learning Experiences, Program of Study, and Total Program Evaluation. Mark Majek, Director of Operations, introduced the operations staff and discussed the mandatory criminal background check process for students enrolled in pre-licensure nursing education programs. The Director of Enforcement, Anthony Diggs, reviewed the declaratory order process.

Participant evaluations of the session were extremely positive with attendees expressing appreciation for the information and support from Board Staff. Some participants suggested that a two-day workshop would provide for more in depth information. The next workshop will be scheduled in fall 2015.

Informal Informational Session

On June 30, 2015, Dr. Virginia Ayars, EdD, RN, CNE, and Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN, Consultants for Nursing Education, conducted a two (2) hour informational session for individuals interested in starting a pre-licensure nursing education program in Texas in Room 102 of the William P Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. The purpose of the informal information session is to present and discuss the essential elements of the proposal for new pre-licensure nursing education program process. Participants are provided an opportunity to meet the Education Consultants and network with other individuals who are in the process of proposal development. Nine (9) individuals representing seven (7) potential new vocational, associate and baccalaureate degree nursing programs attended the workshop. The Education Consultants presented an overview of the Board functions, a brief review of Board Education Rules 214 and 215, and discussed the proposal process in detail. Participant feedback was very positive. Several attendees personally thanked Board Staff for the session information. Education Consultants plan to host another informal information session in late 2015 or early 2016.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational report. No action is required.