

## **Report on Communication Activities With Nursing Education Programs**

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

### **Informal Informational Session**

On May 15, 2018, Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, Nursing Consultant for Education, conducted a two-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 process for establishing new pre-licensure nursing education programs and the essential elements of the proposal. Attendees are provided an opportunity to meet the Nursing Consultants for Education and network with other individuals who are developing proposals. Twenty-two people representing 10 potential new vocational, associate, and baccalaureate degree nursing programs attended the workshop. Dr. Ayars presented an overview of the Board functions, a brief review of Board Education Rules 214 and 215, and discussed the proposal process in detail. Attendee feedback was appreciative of the information session. Nursing Consultants for Education plan to host the next informal information session on September 21, 2018.

### **Deans, Directors, and 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. This is a two-part process. At the time of approval, Board Staff provide a new dean/director/coordinator with an electronic version of the *Nursing Education Program Director Orientation Module*, which provides basic content regarding Rules 214 and 215. Completion of this module is required prior to attendance at the 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, and Coordinators Orientation was held in the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas on June 22, 2018. The session complemented and enhanced 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. Additionally, participants were awarded Continuing Education hours for attending the full-day orientation.

The June orientation session was attended by 26 deans, directors, and coordinators from professional and vocational nursing education programs throughout the state. The Education Consultants presented various topics, such as an overview of the Board; Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS); Education Rules; Clinical Learning Experiences; Clinical Preceptors; Simulation; Program of Study; and Total Program Evaluation. Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the process for mandatory criminal background checks for students

enrolled in pre-licensure nursing education programs. Anthony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, presented information about the Petition for Declaratory Order. The day concluded with a Question and Answer session.

Participant evaluations of the session were encouraging with attendees sharing comments, such as, *"Very helpful! I am glad I came."*, *"The Q&A and updated information that is presented is extremely valuable!"*, and *"Excellent experience - wealth of knowledge"*. Appreciation for the opportunity to hear the Education Consultants explain their role and share available resources was another comment. Additional comments regarding the Self-Study Module provided excellent preparation for the material covered in this session. The next face-to-face orientation session will be held September 21, 2018.

### **Self-Study Conference Calls**

Rule 214.4(c)(2)(B) stipulates that the first time a nursing program has an NCLEX® passing score of less than 80% for first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates, a Self-Study Report (SSR) is written and submitted to Board Staff by a specified deadline. In April 2018, the Education Consultants held a conference call with one vocational nursing education program that had 2017 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates below 80%. The call allowed the Program Director and faculty an opportunity to ask questions about development and completion of the SSR. The Program Director and faculty were appreciative of the meeting with the consultants. Upon receipt of the Self-Study Reports, the Nursing Consultants for Education read each report and respond to each program with a letter of acknowledgment, including suggestions or comments specific to corrective actions, as well as responding to requests for additional information.

### **Nursing Education Department Newsletter**

The purpose of the electronic education newsletter is to update program directors and faculty, facilitating open communication between nursing education programs and Nursing Consultants for Education. Responses received from program directors are positive, with appreciation voiced to Board Staff for the information shared in recent issues. (See Attachment #1).

In June, the Nursing Consultants for Education released the latest edition of the electronic newsletter to all pre-licensure nursing education programs in Texas. The newsletter contains items related to education, and operations of nursing education programs. Topics shared included information regarding the blue card and criminal background checks; a sampling from the 2017 NEPIS regarding clinical hours; the Next Generation NCLEX; changes to Rule 214 regarding clinical/classroom hours; RN-to-BSN programs in public community colleges; and continuing nursing education offerings from the Board.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an informational report. No action is required.