

## **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 16, 2017, 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 essential elements of the proposal for new pre-licensure nursing education program process. Participants are provided an opportunity to meet the Nursing Consultants for Education and network with other individuals who are in the process of proposal development. Twenty-three individuals representing 11 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. Participant feedback was positive, thanking Board Staff for offering the information session. Nursing Consultants for Education plan to host the next informal information session on October 10, 2017.

### **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 appointment and 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 the module is the first part and is required prior to attendance at the 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 16, 2017. 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 24 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; Total Program Evaluation; and Designing a Toolkit. Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the process for mandatory criminal background checks for students enrolled in pre-licensure nursing education programs. John DeLaRosa, Investigator- 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, "*Great in-service*", "*This was wonderful! Very informative!*", and "*Helps me with ideas to improve and enhance our program*". Appreciation for the opportunity to hear the Education Consultants explain their role and share available resources was also shared. Additional comments regarding the Self-Study Module, which is completed prior to the face-to-face session, provided excellent preparation for the material covered in this session. The next face-to-face orientation session will be held September 22, 2017.

### **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 May and June 2017, the Education Consultants held conference calls with six (6) vocational nursing education programs that had 2016 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates below 80%. The calls allowed Program Directors and faculty an opportunity to ask questions about development and completion of the SSR. Program directors and faculty were appreciative of the meetings with the consultants. Upon receipt of the Self-Study Reports, the Nursing Consultants for Education read each report and responded 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 teaching strategies that result in deep learning; the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's request for applications for the Nursing Innovation Grant Program; the special research section on the NCLEX; evaluation standards for online education; an update

on the Advisory Committee on Education; the upcoming NCLEX Regional Workshop; APRN Tidbits; and Nursing Peer Review and Safe Harbor.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an informational report. No action is required.



# Nursing Education Newsletter

Texas Board of Nursing

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## Greetings from the Education Consultants

*A word from the Editor, Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC (our FROG Expert)*



**Find, Reflect, Organize, & Generate news = FROG**

The Texas Board of Nursing Education Consultants have prepared this newsletter for information purposes for programs. Please share with the nursing faculty in your school.

### **Contact Information for the Education Team:**

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## Did you know? Every Program Has an Assigned Consultant?

When you have an education question, who do you call? Your Education Consultant. She is the person at the Board of Nursing (BON) who knows your program best. The phone numbers are direct lines to our offices. If no answer, please leave a message.



Many calls from Directors begin with: "I have a student...." Our conversations are confidential and we can refer you to the appropriate rule or provide information about common ways to handle situations. Our first response will probably be: "What is your policy?" "What is the college policy?" "Will the administration support your decision?"

Webmaster questions or phone calls to the BON are directed to appropriate staff for responses. If a question comes in from a student, faculty, or citizen about your program, the question will be directed to your consultant.

## Upcoming Education Events

### Quarterly Board Meeting

The next Quarterly Board Meeting is July 20-21, 2017 at the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. Board Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Texas Board of Nursing website under the **News** heading.

### Deans, Directors, and Coordinators Orientation

The next Deans, Directors, and Coordinators Orientation is scheduled for Friday, June 16, 2017.

Please contact Jackie Ballesteros for more information at (512) 305-6850

### Contact Us

Education Questions  
(512) 305-6816

Education FAQs

Texas Board of Nursing  
333 Guadalupe  
Suite 3-460  
Austin, Texas 78701

[www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov)

## Teaching Strategies That Result in Deep Learning



One of the most important things educators do is to help students acquire deep learning. This is broad, long-lasting knowledge - not memorization. Deep learning is taking old knowledge that is easily recalled and applying it to new situations.



Good instructors use simple language, reduce content overload, and focus on what is learned - rather than what is taught. Deep learning applies to more than just NCLEX questions and course evaluations as students:

- Learn quickly
- Retain knowledge
- Reflect
- Compare
- Apply
- Act

### ACTIVE LEARNING

What I hear, I forget

What I see, I remember

What I do, I understand



Learning activities that are interactive, dynamic, engaging, and student-centered can still be time efficient and theoretically sound. They can also be creative, simple, fun, and effective, and used in combination with lecturing to embed new knowledge. The possibilities are endless.

If you have learning strategies that you wish to share, please send them to [susan.lee@bon.texas.gov](mailto:susan.lee@bon.texas.gov) to include in future newsletters.

## For Recognition of Greatness . . .



Dr. Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN

*Congratulations on this wonderful accomplishment!*

*Dr. Kristin K. Benton completed her DNP from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
Well done!*



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## Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Released Request for Applications for Nursing Innovation Grant Program

Dr. Rex Peebles, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Quality and Workforce at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), announced a new Request for Applications (RFA) for the Nursing Innovation Grant Program (NIGP) on April 25, 2017. The grant competition, *Building Simulation and Skills Lab Capacity 2018-2019*, solicits applications that propose to develop simulation and skills labs to expand capacity of nursing programs that prepare students for initial licensure as registered nurses (RNs). Proposed projects shift clinical hours from traditional patient care situations to simulation activities, while enhancing students' clinical competencies and faculty proficiency in simulation instruction.



An eligible applicant is a program approved by the Texas Board of Nursing that prepares students for initial licensure as RNs at Texas public institutions of higher education and Texas independent higher education institutions, as defined in Texas Education Code 61.003. A nursing program currently designated as having Conditional Approval by the Texas Board of Nursing is not an eligible applicant. Programs awarded a grant under the 2017-2018 NIGP RFA are not eligible to submit an application under the 2018-2019 RFA.

Application deadline for the grant competition is July 20, 2017, 5:00 p.m. CDT. The THECB anticipates announcing grant awards by November 15, 2017. The grant period will begin on or about January 1, 2018, and conclude on December 31, 2019.

The RFA is available on the THECB website, <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/NIGPApp>. Questions about the grant competition should be emailed to the NIGP program contact at the THECB, Fu-An Lin, Program Director, at: [NIGP@thecb.state.tx.us](mailto:NIGP@thecb.state.tx.us).

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## Special Research Section on the NCLEX

Please advise your students that beginning in July 2017 NCSBN will present a Special Research Section as part of the NCLEX-RN<sup>®</sup> administration of the examination. By participating in the Special Research Section, candidates will be making valuable contributions to the future development of NCSBN examinations as well as to the enhancement of the nursing profession.

The Special Research Section will be given to select candidates taking the NCLEX-RN<sup>®</sup> and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. This section will be administered following the regular exam and will not count as part of the NCLEX score. Candidates may take the entire allotted six hours to complete the NCLEX. All questions on the NCLEX-RN<sup>®</sup> examination and the Special Research Section are confidential.





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## Evaluation Standards for Online Education

Most nursing programs include online education by offering total online didactic courses, select online courses, or inclusion of online aspects in courses. Because of the importance of technology today, it may be a disservice for a program to NOT include online enhancement.

The Texas Team Education Committee, in response to the charge to “develop a faculty student distance learning model using technology,” prepared a guideline to assist nursing programs in developing and maintaining quality online courses. This guideline is accessible on the BON website ([www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov)) under *Education, Guidelines, Distance Education*. The link includes a power point presentation providing salient points in the guideline.

The guideline includes a checklist adapted from *Quality on the line: Benchmarks for success in internet-based distance education* that may assist programs to evaluate the quality of their online education.

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## Advisory Committee on Education Update

Board Staff wish to welcome the newest members of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE):

Alyce Ashcraft, PhD, RN, CNE, FNGNA, ANEF, representing the Texas League for Nursing; Korbi Kidd Berryhill, MSN, RN, CRRN, representing the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators; and Cheryl Livengood, MSN, RN, representing the Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs.

With the 85<sup>th</sup> Regular Legislative Session winding down, Board Staff are gearing up for a busy interim that will focus on carrying out the recommendations of the Texas Sunset Commission. At the April 2017 quarterly Board meeting, the Board issued three new charges to ACE:

1. Advise on development of rules to define substantially equivalent education standards for the purpose of ensuring out-of-state nursing education programs are substantially equivalent to Board standards;
2. Advise on development of rules to provide a clear pathway to initial licensure for graduates of out-of-state programs the Board determines are not substantially equivalent to Board standards for Texas programs; and
3. Review the use of standardized exit examinations as a graduation requirement by approved pre-licensure nursing education programs and advise the Board regarding policy recommendations.

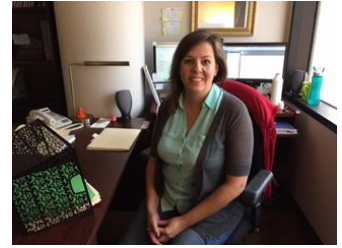
Here is a link to the full April 2017 Board report that offers more background on each of the three charges: [http://www.bne.state.tx.us/pdfs/board\\_meetings\\_pdfs/2017/April/5-2-3-b.pdf](http://www.bne.state.tx.us/pdfs/board_meetings_pdfs/2017/April/5-2-3-b.pdf)

Once meeting dates for ACE are set, they will be posted on the Board website and on the Texas Register.



## APRN Corner by Nicole Buckingham, BSN, RNC-LRN Program Supervisor, Advanced Practice Licensure

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### APRN Tidbits- Current Practice Requirement

In order to attain and maintain an APRN license in Texas, one of the requirements is current practice in the role and population focus area.

Current Practice:

- Have a minimum of 400 hours in the role and population focus area
- Must be within the last 24 calendar months
- Required for renewal, reactivation, and initial APRN licensure

For applicants who completed their APRN program in the last 24 calendar months, this is not required. But what about graduates who completed the APRN program over two years ago and have never practiced? Board staff has seen an increase in applicants who do not have current practice and must complete these directly supervised hours under a six-month APRN permit.

Consider the APRN graduate who completed a program 26 months ago and has finally achieved national certification. This nurse must first apply for APRN licensure by paper and submit all essential documents demonstrating they meet all requirements for APRN licensure except current practice. Once the applicant finds an appropriate preceptor who can directly supervise a minimum of 400 hours in the role and population focus area, s/he would apply for the six-month APRN permit. Documentation of successful completion will be required for this applicant to be reviewed for full APRN licensure.

Current or former students who may be in this situation are encouraged to email [aprn@bon.texas.gov](mailto:aprn@bon.texas.gov) for more information.

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## NCLEX® REGIONAL Workshop on July 28<sup>th</sup>

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING  
[FOR NURSING FACULTY ONLY]

NCSBN Examinations department content staff conducts one-day, board of nursing-sponsored regional workshops for the purpose of providing information to educators who prepare students to take the NCLEX® examination.

**Friday, July 28, 2017, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm**  
**J.J. Pickle Research Campus: Commons Learning Center**  
**10100 Burnet Road – Commons Building #37, Austin, TX 78758**

Workshop objectives include:

- Identifying the NCSBN practice analysis process and explaining how the results are used to update NCLEX test plans;
- Illustrating basic principles of computer adaptive testing and describing standard setting;
- Explaining the steps of the NCLEX item development process;
- Identifying NCLEX alternate item formats;
- Demonstrating and applying principles of item writing; and
- Identifying the use and application of NCLEX® Program Reports and Candidate Performance Reports by nursing education programs.

*For information, contact Jackie Ballesteros at [jackie.ballesteros@bon.texas.gov](mailto:jackie.ballesteros@bon.texas.gov) or (512) 305.6850 at the Texas Board of Nursing – Nursing Department.*



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## Nursing Peer Review: Safe Harbor

Safe harbor provides protections to a nurse when the nurse's assignment could violate the nurse's duty to the patient(s) or that could cause the nurse to potentially violate the Nursing Practice Act (NPA) or Board of Nursing (Board) rules [Texas Occupations Code, Section [303.005\(b\)](#) and Texas Administrative Code [§217.20](#) (a)(15)]. There are several specific requirements related to safe harbor nursing peer review (SHNPR) and there are considerations for a nursing education program.

A SHNPR request must be in writing at the onset of the assignment that could violate a nurse's duty to a patient or that may be a violation of the NPA or Board rules. The minimum written information at the onset of the assignment includes the nurse's name and signature, the date and time of the request with location of assignment, the name of the person making the assignment, and a brief explanation of why SHNPR is being requested [Texas Administrative Code [§217.20](#) (d)(3)(A)]. This information must be supplemented at the end of the work period [Texas Administrative Code [§217.20](#) (d)(4)(A)]. The Board has developed forms to capture the information required at the onset of the assignment ([Quick Request Form](#)) and prior to leaving the assignment ([Comprehensive Request Form](#)).

Faculty in a nursing education program may have roles both on campus and with clinical sites. The clinical affiliation agreement may address which entity will conduct the SHNPR when the request is at a clinical site. The timelines are short for SHNPR [Texas Administrative Code [§217.20](#) (i)].

Further exploration of concepts within this article are located on the Board's website:

- BON Position Statement 15.14, *Duty of a Nurse in any Practice Setting*:  
[http://www.bon.texas.gov/practice\\_bon\\_position\\_statements\\_content.asp#15.14](http://www.bon.texas.gov/practice_bon_position_statements_content.asp#15.14)
- Safe Harbor Forms: [http://www.bon.texas.gov/forms\\_safe\\_harbor.asp](http://www.bon.texas.gov/forms_safe_harbor.asp):
- Safe Harbor Frequently Asked Questions:  
[http://www.bon.texas.gov/faq\\_peer\\_review.asp#t2](http://www.bon.texas.gov/faq_peer_review.asp#t2)

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## Response to Questions the Education Consultants Have Received?

We welcome any and all input to our newsletter. If there is anything that you are interested in learning about, please let us know. We are here to assist you and look forward to hearing from you.

The following is a question from one of our programs:

*What are schools doing that are best practices to promote transition from LVN to RN and from RN to BSN? We would like to hear from you on this topic for our next newsletter.*

E-mail your responses to Gayle Varnell, Education Consultant, at [gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov](mailto:gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov) and we will include your responses in our next newsletter.