Texas Nurses Association Competency Task Force

Summary of Request: The purpose of this report is to update the Board on activities of the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) Competency Task Force.

Historical Perspective/Background Information:

The Texas Nurses Association has been conducting a review of continued competency for nurses through their Competency Task Force. Board staff have been participating in the committee meetings and periodic updates have been included in past board reports.

During the TNA House of Delegates, an overview of the work of the task force was presented to include:

- The purpose of the committee
- The philosophical framework to guide the development of the model
- Domains of nursing practice that should be reviewed
- Regulatory issues
- Context of care
- Options for validating competency

As an organization for registered nurses, TNA had focused on RN practice. Because of the interface with the board and possible regulatory directions for all of nursing, it was suggested that representatives involved in LVN practice/education participate in order to provide stakeholder input. The committee met on September 26, 27 with Rachel Gomez, Mark Majek and Mary Beth Thomas attending. The committee focused on three approaches to competency validation for nurses including performance appraisals that document nursing competency by approved organizations, evaluation of basic and specialized skills through an assessment center and development of an online portfolio that verifies approved competency development activities.

The committee's next steps include validating the model with key stakeholders (including the board) and test piloting the three approaches identified above. Presentations to the TNA board and this board have been included in the committee's plan for the year.

Pro's: The development of new methodologies to evaluate continued competency to ensure safe nursing practice is an ongoing issue of national debate and discussion. Texas is in the forefront in the development of innovative methodologies.

Con's: New methodologies to evaluate continued competencies may require additional funding and necessitate additional Board resources.

Staff Recommendations: None. This report is for information only.