

REPORT RELATING TO REVIEW AND REVISION OF BOARD EDUCATION RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

This is an informational report regarding the Board's compliance with the Sunset Management Recommendation 1.6 that the Board should review and revise its education rules, policies and procedures to ensure they do not exceed the Board's responsibility to certify minimum competence to enter the profession of nursing.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

To date, the Board has undertaken several actions to ensure that its governance is limited to activities that relate to minimum educational competencies. These activities include:

- January 2007, implemented new rules empowering the deans/directors of nursing educational programs with the option of granting faculty waivers for prospective nursing faculty not meeting current required nursing faculty qualifications.
- February 2007, adopted new rules that more clearly delineate the flexibility of clinical faculty ratios which allow 1 faculty up to 24 students.
- February 2007, adopted new rules allowing all qualified registered nurses to function as Clinical Teaching Assistants, resulting in a larger pool of faculty extenders available for employment by nursing educational programs.
- February 2007, adopted new rules eliminating faculty-to-student ratios in all clinical learning experiences except those involving direct patient care.
- April 2007, adopted a new process that will allow a career school/college to submit a proposal for a new professional nursing educational program and gain approval while awaiting regional accreditation.
- April 2007, adopted a new process that will allow for approval of nursing programs outside of Texas' jurisdiction to conduct clinical learning experiences in Texas.
- December 2006 - June 2007, conducted meetings with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to begin a process to streamline the Board's initial approval process for nursing educational programs by eliminating duplication between the Board, the TWC and the THECB processes. The goal is for collaborations to reduce duplicative processes in the approval of new nursing educational programs with the ultimate goal of memorandums of understanding with each agency, delineating specific responsibilities in the approval process for each agency. Additional meetings will continue the process of delineating specific responsibilities for each agency.
- June 2007, conducted conference calls with the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and Board staff are in the process of developing a comparison crosswalk specific to Rule 214 and Rule 215 with the ultimate goal of developing a process for the review and approval of national nursing accrediting agencies.

Activities that are being discussed at the October Board meeting include:

- Recommendations to the Board to allow for Board approval of nursing educational programs for a period longer than one (1) year.
- Implementation of a process to discontinue Board approval of nursing educational programs that do not lead to initial RN licensure.

These and other Board activities to address Sunset recommendations were presented to the ACE committee for their input. The committee voted to accept these activities as meeting the intent of Sunset Recommendation 1.6. The Board should review and revise its education rules, policies and procedures to ensure they do not exceed the Board's responsibility to certify minimum competence to enter the profession of nursing.

Pros: The ACE voted that the activities outlined by board staff meet the intent of the Sunset recommendations regarding the review and revision of educational rules, policies and procedures.

Cons: Further revisions may be needed to the Board's education rules, policies and procedures as the Board reviews and evaluates its Sunset process.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational report. No Board action is required.