

**STATUS REPORT RELATING TO  
STREAMLINING OF THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING  
INITIAL APPROVAL PROCESS FOR NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

This is a status report relating to the relating the streamlining of the Texas Board of Nursing' (BON) initial approval process for nursing education programs.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

- The Sunset Advisory Commission Report to the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature, May 2007, under Recommendations, Change in Statute 1.4 states "Require the Board to streamline its initial approval process for nursing education programs."
- House Bill (HB) 2426 Section 301.157(d-5) requires that "The board shall streamline the process for initially approving a school of nursing or educational program under this section by identifying and eliminating tasks performed by the board that duplicate or overlap tasks performed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Texas Workforce Commission."
- House Bill (HB) 2426 Section 301.157(d-6) requires that "The board, in cooperation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission, shall establish guidelines for the initial approval of schools of nursing or educational programs. The guidelines must:  
(1) identify the approval processes to be conducted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Texas Workforce Commission;  
(2) require the approval process identified under Subdivision (1) to precede the approval process conducted by the board; and  
(3) be made available on the board's internet website and in a written form."

**ACTIONS TO DATE:**

- Texas BON staff conducted meetings with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) beginning in December 2006 with a goal of identifying duplicative processes between the Texas BON's new program approval process and the TWC new school/college/program approval process.
- BON staff conducted meetings with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) beginning in June 2007 with the goal of identifying duplicative processes between the Texas BON's new program approval process and the THECB program approval process.
- In August 2007, BON staff developed a matrix table to facilitate a comparison of the steps in the Texas BON's new program approval process for both Rule 214 and 215 versus the steps in the TWC and THECB approval processes.
- The respective matrix table was emailed to both agencies, TWC and THECB, in September 2007, with instructions for TWC and THECB staff to review the table and indicate areas in the Texas BON approval process that are reviewed as part of the current TWC or THECB approval process for new nursing educational programs.
- When the completed matrix table was received from both TWC and THECB, BON staff began discussion of the information with TWC and THECB staff.

- In February 2008, BON staff developed a draft table outlining the delineated areas of approval responsibility designated by each agency and this table was sent to TWC and THECB for review and comment.
- BON staff have begun analyzing the comments received from TWC and THECB and additional meetings with TWC and THECB will be needed to further analyze this information.

**FUTURE ACTIONS:**

- Once an extensive review and analysis of the information on the draft table outlining the delineated areas of approval responsibility designated by each agency is completed, BON will draft a final delineation table outlining of the overall responsibilities for each agency.
- Once this final delineation of overall responsibilities is determined, BON can develop specific approval processes and education guidelines for both new nursing vocational nursing educational programs and new professional nursing educational programs.
- Once the Texas BON new program approval processes and education guidelines are approved, they will be made available to the public on the Texas BON web site.

**PROS AND CONS:**

**Pro -**

- The actions to date provide a foundation for development of an overall streamlined approval process for new nursing educational programs with delineated responsibilities for each of the agencies, the Texas BON, THECB, and TWC, involved in the approval processes.
- Board staff anticipate that in addition to eliminating duplicative approval steps among the Texas BON, TWC, and THECB, the new Texas BON specific new program approval processes and education guidelines will:
  - reduce the amount of required written information that the applicant must provide;
  - allow the applicant to complete standardized tables for providing required data; and
  - allow the applicant to submit copies of documentation required in the TWC or THECB approval processes in order to meet certain requirements in the Texas BON approval process.

**Cons -**

- The rules and processes at TWC, THECB and other agencies related to new nursing educational program approval may change periodically.
- Periodic review of the Texas BON rules and processes related to new nursing educational program approval will need to occur to ensure that any changes in the rules and processes at TWC, THECB and other agencies related to new nursing program approval are addressed appropriately

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is for information purposes only. No action is required.