

Consideration of Appointment of New Committee Members to the Eligibility & Disciplinary Advisory Committee

Summary of Request: Consider the appointment of two new committee members, Ms. Deborah Simmons and Ms. Christine Rios-Irizarry, to the Eligibility & Disciplinary Advisory Committee. Ms. Simmons's and Ms. Rios-Irizarry's curriculum vitae are attached hereto as "Exhibit A".

Historical Perspective: The Board approved the formation of the Eligibility & Disciplinary Advisory Committee in January, 2006 to review and make recommendations to the Board regarding the Board's eligibility and disciplinary processes. Since its original formation, the Eligibility & Disciplinary Advisory Committee has been periodically asked to evaluate and make recommendations to the Board regarding various eligibility and disciplinary issues, including the Board's most recent charge at the April, 2009 Board meeting.

Ms. Simmons is an expert in nursing error and "just culture", a concept of managing and preventing human error through means other than punishment, such as the integration of systems engineering, human factors, and the law. Her qualifications, knowledge, and experience would be a valuable asset to the Eligibility & Disciplinary Advisory Committee.

Ms. Christine Rios-Irizarry has been nominated by the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) to replace Ms. Karen Malloy as its representative on the Eligibility & Disciplinary Advisory Committee, due to the fact that Ms. Malloy has transitioned from TAVNE. Ms. Rios-Irizarry is a faculty member at St. Philips College and is a member of the TAVNE Board. Her qualifications and expertise would add tremendous value to the Eligibility & Disciplinary Advisory Committee.

22 TAC §211.6(f)(2), regarding *Committees of the Board*, permits the Board to amend committee memberships as needed. Further, §211.6(f)(1)(D) provides that the membership of the Eligibility and Disciplinary Advisory Committee will be comprised of ...other members approved by the Board.

Staff Recommendations:

Board Action: Move to approve the appointment of Ms. Deborah Simmons and Ms. Christine Rios-Irizarry as new members of the Eligibility & Disciplinary Advisory Committee, effective immediately.

Debora Simmons RN, MSN, CCRN, CCNS

3825 Harkey Road
Pearland Texas 77584
Home: 281 610 7028
Email: DeboraTx@aol.com

Profile

Researcher, educator and critical care clinician with expertise in patient safety and healthcare quality committed to safe and reliable healthcare delivery.

Licensure

Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas RN 1988, Advanced Practice Nurse 1999 #544858

Certification

1990-Critical care nursing AACN - CCRN
1999-Advanced practice certification for Clinical Nurse Specialists in acute and critical care AACN-CCNS
2006-Mediator, A A White Dispute Resolution Center, University of Houston
2008-Master Facilitator Patient Safety Education Project

Education

Doctoral program present, Texas Woman's University, expected completion date May 2010
Masters in Science Degree University of Texas Houston Health Science Center, Clinical Nurse Specialist role in Critical Care, 1999
Bachelors Science in Nursing Texas Woman's University, 1990 with honors
Associate Degree Nursing San Jacinto College, Pasadena Texas, 1987 with honors

Appointments

National level:

Safe Medication Use Expert Committee, United States Pharmacopoeia, 2005-2010,
The official public standards-setting authority for all prescription and over-the-counter medicines. Projects: standardization of labeling and packaging, environmental standards for areas of medication administration, standards for ubiquitous connectors. www.usp.org

Board of Directors and Founding Advisor, Consumers Advancing Patient Safety,

A consumer-led nonprofit organization formed to be a collective voice for individuals, families and healers who wish to prevent harm in healthcare encounters through partnership and collaboration. www.patientsafety.org

Advisory Board, Consumer Medication Safety, <http://www.consumermedsafety.org>,
The first consumer medication reporting site in the United States and a division of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices.

Governing Council and Advisory Committee, Master Facilitator, Patient Safety Education Project (PSEP)
A high-impact, conference-based education dissemination project based at the Buehler Center on Ageing at the Kellogg School of management at Northwestern University. <http://patientsafetyeducationproject.org/>

Expert Committee, American Association of Medical Instrumentation and International Organization for Standardization
AAMI/QM (US TAG for ISO/TC 210) and AAMI/QM/WG 05 (US Sub tag for ISO/TC 210-IEC/SC 62D JWG4) expert committee writing new standard for small bore catheters in healthcare

National Advisory Council – Robert Woods Johnson “Pipeline to Placement” Project

American Association of Critical Care Nurses – Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist examination reviewer

State level:

Texas Nurses Association, Regulatory Task Force 2006-2007

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board-Advisory Committee on RN Nursing Education, 2008-2010

Texas Alliance for Patient Safety, 2007-2010

Texas Nurses Association, Practice Committee 2007-2009

Advisory Board:

Nursing Alert and Medication Safety Alert, Institute of Safe Medication Practices

Consumer Medication Safety, Institute of Safe Medication Practice, website www.consumermedsafety.org.

Professional Experience

Research Scientist, 2009 to present, Texas A and M University Health Science Center, Rural and Community Health Institute, half time

Responsible for reporting systems for rural and community centers, data analysis

Associate Director, 2008 to present, Patient Safety Education Project, at the Buehler Center on Aging, Health & Society at Northwestern University

Member of Buehler Center's Internal Scientific Review Committee on Aging Research

Adjunct Clinical Faculty Texas Woman's University 2002 –present, teaching clinical nursing in acute care settings

Associate Director, 2002 to 2008, The Institute for Healthcare Excellence at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and the University Of Texas Center Of Excellence for Patient Safety Research and Practice.

Responsible for design, analysis, implementation and operations of a voluntary anonymous close call reporting system in UT and other hospitals

(www.utccrs.org) with 65,000 reports in the database

- Researched and developed usability guidelines for the reporting system
- Managed focus groups on reporting and created customer interface for aggregate and individual reports
- Developed severity and response matrix
- Developed and delivered educational programs for participating hospitals
- Negotiated and managed multi center IRB affiliations and reviews
- Created an in house incentive program for reporting with Joann Mick – received the National Patient Safety Foundation award for the program

Member of the technology data core for The University of Texas Center of Excellence for Patient Safety Research and Practice

- Responsible for data analysis and reporting
- Reviewed data and results for multiple projects

Responsible for facilitating research agreements with outside institutions and academic centers (Established joint quality research initiative with Texas A and M and other academic medical centers)

Consultant to numerous hospital projects regarding safety and process improvement initiatives

Program Director and Analyst: The Healthcare Alliance Safety Partnership- an innovative non punitive error reporting program for registered nurses, the first non punitive healthcare error reporting program in the United States. www.texashasp.org

- Designed investigation methodology synthesizing IOM recommendations
- Performed investigations and presented results
- Responsible for meeting regulatory requirements
- Wrote research proposal for Board of Nursing and IRBs in multiple institutions
- Negotiated, wrote and managed multiple partnerships with participating hospitals
- Reported findings to public meetings of the Board of Nurse Examiners

Researched and developed in house incident reporting system in current use

- Created matrix of reporting fields
- Surveyed current knowledge of reporting mechanisms
- Developed architecture for reporting database

- Created closed loop response for area specific reports

Clinical Director of the Clinical Safety and Effectiveness course – a quality program based on the Intermountain Healthcare ATC for training clinicians in quality, safety and project management with a project completed in a 6 month timeframe.

- Created curriculum and evaluation tools
- Coordinated facilitators for high impact physician led teams
- Taught “ High Integrity Politics Course” to senior leadership

Member of the University of Texas System Patient Safety Committee

- Proposed PSO structure
- Evaluated Disclosure policies
- Created educational presentations for legal departments regarding reporting and use of incident data

Clinical Nurse Specialist, 2001-2002, The Methodist Hospital: Advanced Practice Nurse for the Heart Service line of The Methodist Hospital, Houston Texas

Responsible for professional staff development, acute and critical care clinical practice standards, nursing practice standards, education, consultation and research.

Established collaborative telemedicine program with the Methodist Visiting Nurses Association for congestive heart failure and chronic disease management.

Research Coordinator for the Acute Decompensated Heart Failure Registry (ADHERE Registry)

Responsible for teaching cardiology content for in house education

Member of the Patient Safety Sub Committee, Medications Use and Formulary Committee, Medication Outcomes Committee, Center for Professional Excellence and DeBakey Heart Center Operations Committee.

Vice President of Clinical Operations-Intelligent Diagnostics Inc, 2000-2001 -

Software Development Company creating proprietary artificial intelligence software based on Bayesian probability theory for symptom management and triage

Responsible for all clinical operations including development and supervision of quality assurance, consultants, software development and public interface

Responsible for product design and implementation reviews

Designed and performed focus group testing of software with contracted physicians

Contracted vendor services including integration of ASP model disease management

Responsible for research team of physicians, computer scientists, nurse practitioners and registered nurses (28)

Designed and implemented retrospective and prospective clinical trials, focus groups and market analysis

Developed policy and procedure to comply with HIPPA and security standards for medical records online

Authored, researched and reviewed patient interactive education

Presented to clients, board members and shareholders

Director of Accreditation and Educational Programming The Health Channel™/ Baylor College of Medicine, 1999-2000-a satellite distribution 24-hour day/ 7 day a week distance education for Physicians, Nurses and Allied health professionals distributed to 1400 member hospitals

Managed collaborative efforts between commercial and academic institutions

Managed curriculum development teams and staffing for education tracks

Responsible for planning, producing, accrediting original continuing education for healthcare professionals provided in video, Internet and satellite broadcast
Direct responsibility for contracted services and copyright
Responsible for ACCME and ANA compliance for accredited continuing education
Responsible for Allied Health accreditation for continuing education
Contracted content from academic consortium of contributors including large teaching institutions (University of Texas Houston Health Sciences School of Nursing, University of Ohio, Duke University, Columbia University, Mayo Clinic and Cedars Sinai)

Critical Care Charge Nurse, 1997-1999-ICU San Jacinto Methodist hospital
Managed shift priorities and staffing for 28 bed intensive care unit

Responsible for patient inter institutional transport
Managed scheduling for intensive care staff
Responded to in house code blue and lead team prior to physician arrival

Supervisor and Nurse Clinician Cardiology, Luke's Episcopal Hospital, 1991-1996

Supervised staff of 12 in Non-invasive Cardiology including Exercise Physiologists, RNs, MDs and Echocardiographers.

Developed Outcomes Critical Pathways for Congestive Heart Failure and Stroke
Implemented the Metabolic testing lab for Oxygen Uptake, started program for assessment of functional capacity in Congestive Heart Failure, Left ventricular assist, pacemaker, congenital and pulmonary hypertensive patients.
Evaluated testing protocol developed physician algorithm for selecting most efficient and appropriate tests for Non-invasive Cardiology.
Member CPR committee for hospital, evaluated code response, policy and procedure, new protocols.
Independently ran exercise stress tests including transplant, CHF, AICD, and FHA pilot fitness tests and pacemaker protocol.
Developed educational programs for Transesophageal Echo and Cardiac sonography for outreach educational programs.
Responsible for patient management, budget, research and quality assurance.

Publications

Video Productions: Today's Nurse Series for Baylor College of Medicines "The Health Channel":

Thriving vs. Surviving (nominated for ANA media award)
Malpractice
Peer Review
Care for the Caregiver: The Impaired Nurse
Thermoregulation of the Newborn
Glucose Homeostasis in the Newborn
Respiratory Assessment of the Newborn
Dermatology Emergencies
Special Event: Medication Errors: One hospital's story (nominated for ANA and AHA media award)

Simmons, D, The View from the Sharp End published in Patient Care Management, Aspen publishers, 2000

Sherwood, G, Thomas, E, Simmons, D and Lewis, T (2002) Teamwork Model to promote Patient Safety in Critical Care, Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America.

Simmons, D and Dune, L (2002) Everyday thoughts: Harnessing the thought process toward a practical framework for increasing critical thinking and reducing error, Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America.

Simmons, D, (2002) The Blind men and the elephant: a fable for patient safety, Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America.

Simmons, D, (2004) Core Curriculum for Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing: Patient Safety Chapter, Elsevier Saunders Press.

Simmons, D. and Etchegaray, J, (2004) Close Call Reporting, online course, National Patient Safety Foundation.

Martin, S.K., Etchegaray, J.M., Simmons, D., Belt, W. T., & Clark, K. (2005). Development and implementation of The University of Texas Close Call Reporting System. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Patient Safety Compendium

Simmons, D. (2005) Patient Safety and Sedation, Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America, Volume 17, Issue 3, 279-285

Etchegaray, J, Thomas, E., Geraci, J., Simmons, D. Martin, S, Differentiating Close Calls from Errors: A Multidisciplinary Perspective (September 2005) Journal of Patient Safety, 1 (3)

“Safe Connections for Patients” policy statement endorsed by American Nurses Association House of Delegates (2006)

Safe Systems, Safe Patients: Common Connectors Pose a Threat to Safe Practice." Texas Board of Nursing Bulletin, 37(2):6-7, April 2006

Beyea, S., Simmons, D., & Hicks, R. (2007). Caution: Tubing misconnections can be deadly. AORN, 85(3) 633-635.

Simmons, D. (January, 2007) The Nursing Perspective: Labels. Paper presented at the Public Meeting on Improving Patient Safety by Enhancing the Container Labeling for Parenteral Infusion Drug Products. Bethesda, MD on January 11, 2007.

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/meeting/parenteral/simmons.pdf>

Thomas, M., Simmons, D., Graves, K., & Martin, S. (June 2007) Practice Regulation Partnerships: The Pathway to Increase Safety in Nursing Practice, Healthcare Systems and Patient Care. Nurse Leader.

Simmons, D, Phillips, M, Grissinger, M. & Becker, S. (May, 2008) Error-Avoidance Recommendations for Tubing Misconnections When Using Small Bore Connectors: A Statement by the USP Safe Medication Use Expert Committee. Joint Commission Journal of Quality and Patient Safety

Guenther, P., Simmons, D., Hicks, R., Crowley, J., Joseph, S., Croteau, R., Gosnell, C., Pratt, N., & Vanderveen, T. (May, 2007) Enteral Feeding Misconnections: A Consortium Position Statement. Joint Commission Journal of Quality and Patient Safety

Simmons, D., Graves, K., and Mick, J. (2008) 20,000 Close Call Reports: Lessons from the University of Texas Close Call Reporting System. In Henriksen K., Battles J. B., Keyes M. A., Grady M. L., (eds). Advances in patient safety: New directions and alternative approaches. Vol. 1. Assessment. AHRQ Publication No. 08-0034-1. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Guenther, P, Simmons, D & Hicks, R. Why We Do What We Do JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutrition. 2008 32: 586-587

Simmons, D. (2008) "Lessons Learned: An Interim Report on the First 3 Years of the Healthcare Alliance Safety Partnership." Texas Board of Nursing Bulletin, 39(3):6-7, July 2008

Simmons, D. & Graves, K. (2008) Tubing Misconnections - A Systems Failure with Human Factors: Lessons for Nursing Practice Urol Nurs. 28(6):460-464.

Simmons, D., Graves, K. & Flynn, E. (2009) Threading Needles in the Dark: The Effect of Physical Work Environment on Nursing Practice, Critical Care Nursing Quarterly, 32:2, April-June.

Select Presentations

Simmons, D., (2001) Medication errors, the nurse and the elderly, presented at University of Texas Houston Health Science Center, Center on Aging

Simmons, D., (2001) Error Recognition and Risk Reduction in Healthcare, presented as a workshop for the National Teaching Institute of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

Simmons, D., (2002) Creating a New Paradigm for Healthcare, presented at the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, Washington, D.C.

Simmons, D., (2002) Medication Errors as an indicator of the nursing shortage, presented at the American Nurses Association, Philadelphia, PA

Simmons, D., (2002) Creating a Nursing Intranet and Responding to Americas other Drug problem: Using technology to report, reduce and prevent medication errors, American Nurses Association

Simmons, D., (2002) Patient Safety for Small and Rural Hospitals, presented at Bryan College Station for The Texas Hospital Association

Simmons, D., (2003) Close call Reporting and Error Reduction, Texas Nurses Association-Houston Chapter, Houston, Texas.

Simmons, D. Creation of a Close Call Reporting System Through a Multidisciplinary Consensus Building Exercise (2003) , Sigma Theta Tau International Convention, Indianapolis, In

Simmons, D., (2003) Error 101: Why good people make bad mistakes, presented for the distinguished nurse lecture series, Jewish Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky.

Throckmorton, T., Etchegaray, J.M., & Simmons, D. (2004). Barriers to incident reporting: Attitudes, knowledge, and demographics. Presented at the ANA 2004 Biennial Convention, June 29, 2004, Minneapolis, MN.

Simmons, D., (2005) Understanding Errors to Improve Patient Safety, Texas Hospital Association, Webinar series.

Simmons, D. (November 2005) The Healthcare Alliance Safety Partnership; A Model for Examining Errors Made by Nurses **Sigma Theta Tau International 38th Biennial Convention, Indianapolis, In.**

Simmons, D. (2005) Error 102: Understanding Errors in Nursing Practice, The Texas Association of Infection Control Practitioners, Austin Texas

Simmons, D. (2005) Understanding Errors to Improve Patient Safety, Texas Nurses Association District 9 Legal update, Houston, Texas.

Simmons, D., (2005) Safe Systems -Safe Practice- Safe Patients, The Greater Houston Partnership, Go for the Gold Annual Meeting. Houston, Texas.

Etchegaray, J.M., Dorai, VK, Simmons, D., Graves, K., Fischer, W.G., Yao, C., & Martin, S. (2005). User reactions to the University of Texas Close Call Reporting System. Poster presented at Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's 2005 Annual Patient Safety and Health Information Technology Conference, June 6 – 10, 2005. San Diego, Ca.

Martin, S.K., Fischer, W.G., Etchegaray, J.M., Simmons, D., Dorai, VK, Yao, C., & Graves, K. (2005). The University of Texas Close Call Reporting System. Poster presented at Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's 2005 Annual Patient Safety

and Health Information Technology Conference, June 6 – 10, 2005. Washington, DC.

Martin, S. K., Simmons, D., Etchegaray, J.M., Fischer, W.G., Graves, K. (2005). Healthcare Alliance Safety Partnership, Poster presented at Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's 2005 Annual Patient Safety and Health Information Technology Conference, June 6 – 10, 2005. Washington, DC.

Throckmorton, T., Etchegaray, J.M., & Simmons, D. (2005) Barriers to error reporting: The role of individual and organizational factors. Poster presented at Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's 2005 Annual Patient Safety and Health Information Technology Conference, June 6 – 10, 2005. Washington, DC.

Graves, K, Simmons, D. Etchegaray, J.M. (2006). Overcoming Barriers to Error Reporting: Individual, Organizational and Regulatory Issues. Presentation at 18th Annual Society for Health Systems Conference, February 10-12, 2006. San Diego, CA.

Murray, R., Simmons, D., & Graves, K. (2006). Benefits and Challenges Consumer Reporting. Focus Group at the first Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) workshop on Patients for Patient Safety, May 10, 2006. San Francisco, CA.

Simmons, D. Process Approach to Reducing Errors (September 2006) Child Health Corporation of America, Kansas City, Mo

Simmons, D. (November 2006) Medical Misconnections. Presentation at the Houston Organization of Nurse Executives Fall Meeting. Houston, TX.

Simmons, D. The ABC's of Peer Review: Systems Analysis of Errors (September 2007) Houston and Austin, Texas

Simmons, D., Galley, M., Graves, K. (2007) Two Day Training in Human Factors, Causality, Investigation Techniques, and the HASP Process. January 11 & 12, 2007. Austin, TX.

Simmons, D. The Nursing Perspective, Improving Patient Safety by Enhancing the Container Labeling for Parenteral Infusion Drug Products (January, 2007) FDA Public Hearing, Bethesda, MD

Simmons, D., Martin, S., Murray, R. (February 2007) Applying Lessons from Aviation to Healthcare: Close Call Reporting to Reduce Errors, UTCCRS Demo, and Lessons Learned with Cause Mapping and the Healthcare Alliance Safety Partnership at VHA, Dallas, TX.

Simmons, D. (March 2007) UTCCRS Demonstration and Discussion of Common Medical Connectors. Responding to Medical Device Incidents Focused Colloquium. Houston, TX.

Simmons, D. Graves, K., Martin, S. (May 2007) Safe Systems, Safe Practice, Safe Patients – The Healthcare Alliance Safety Partnership (HASP) Poster presentation at National Patient Safety Foundation Annual Congress, Washington D.C.

Simmons, D. Medication Errors Update (June 2007) Harris County Hospital District Nursing Conference Houston, Texas

Simmons, D. A Systems Approach to Errors (February 2008) presented at Adventist Healthcare System, Charleston, N.C.

Simmons, D. The ABC's of Peer Review: Systems Analysis of Errors (2008) presented in Abilene, San Antonio and Houston, Texas

Simmons, D., Errors: How to, (September, 2008) Waterman Hospital Executive Retreat, Orlando, Florida

Simmons, D., Patient Safety Research: Caveats and Pearls, (May, 2009) Memorial Hermann Hospital, The Woodlands, Texas

Simmons, D., Safety First: Implementing Safe Enteral Feeding Practices at the Bedside, (May, 2009) National Teaching Institute for the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, New Orleans, La

Simmons, D., Threading Needles in the dark: the work environment of nursing, (June, 2009) The University of Texas School of Nursing, Houston, Texas

Research Activities

Descriptive study of differentiating errors and close calls, Primary Investigator with Eric Thomas, MD, (University of Texas-Houston Medical School) and Sharon Martin, M.Ed., and Jane Geraci, MD, (The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center) - The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Protocol Number RCR04-0448.

Understanding barriers to nurse incident reporting, Co-Chair with Terry Throckmorton, PhD, and Jason Etchegaray, (The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center) - The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Protocol Closed.

Understanding the frequency of close call reports, Co-Chair with Eric Thomas, MD. (University of Texas-Houston Medical School) and Jason Etchegaray, Vaithianathan Dorai, PhD, Wayne Fischer, PhD, and Sharon Martin, M.Ed. (The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center) - The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Protocol Number ID03-0120

Program Evaluation of the Healthcare Alliance Safety Partnership Project with Jason Etchegaray, Debora Simmons, Vaithianathan Dorai, and Sharon Martin (The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center) - The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Protocol Number 2005-0251

Public Testimony

Simmons, D. (January 11, 2007) *The Nursing Perspective: Labels*. FDA Public Hearing on Improving Patient Safety by Enhancing the Container Labeling for Parenteral Infusion Drug Products. Bethesda, MD.

Simmons, D. (2007, March 21). *Testimony supporting House Bill 2158: Cultures of Safety*. Testimony at the meeting of the Public Health Committee of the Texas State House of Representatives. Retrieved April 5, 2007 from <http://www.house.state.tx.us/committees/broadcasts.php?session=80&committeeCode=410>

Simmons, D. (2007, March 20). *Testimony supporting Senate Bill 993: Cultures of Safety*. Testimony at the meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Texas State Senate. Retrieved April 5, 2007 from <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/avarchive/?yr=2007&lim=50>

Simmons, D. (2007, April 18) *Testimony supporting the Proposed Position Statement on Nursing Work Hours*. Testimony at the Public Hearing of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas. Austin, Texas

Simmons, D (2007, May 14) *Testimony supporting Senate Bill 993: Cultures of Safety*. Testimony at the meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Texas State Senate.

Simmons, D (2009, April 7, 2009) *Testimony in opposition of HB 1397 and SB 3230: Relating to establishing the equivalency of competency-based nursing education programs in other states that meet standards of quality equivalent to nursing education programs approved by the Texas Board of Nursing*. Senate Chamber, Austin, Texas. Retrieved April 10, 2009.

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/Senate/commit/c610/c610.htm>

Awards and Honors

Sigma Theta Tau, Virginia Henderson Fellow

The Methodist Hospital Nursing Innovation Award, 2002

University of Texas Houston Health Science Center School of Nursing 30th anniversary 2002 –Distinguished Alumnae

The Texas Nurses Association “Outstanding Nurse 2003”

2006 Texas Nurses Association: “Emerging Leader in Research” award

Virginia Chandler Dykes Scholarship Recognition Award, Texas Woman’s University
2007

Sigma Theta Tau, Beta Beta chapter, Outstanding Doctoral Student, 2007

The National Patient Safety Foundation: Stand Up For Patient Safety Management
Award, The Good Catch Program with Joann Mick, 2007

Cheers Recognition Award, 2008, Institute for Safe Medication Practices

Professional Memberships and Associations

American Association of Critical Care Nurses

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Beta Beta Chapter and
Zeta Pi Chapter

Texas Nurses Association

American Nurses Association

University of Texas Alumni Association

The Society of Critical Care Medicine

Additional training and Continuing Education

Risk Assessments

Error Event Analysis

Human Factors

Systems Analysis: Cause Mapping and

Root Cause Analysis

Just Culture

Peer review

Policy Development

Strategic Planning

Curriculum evaluation and development

Online Education Formats

Facilitation

Mediation



July 1, 2009

Mr. James Johnston

Board of Nurse Examiners

333 Guadalupe Street Suite 3-460

Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Johnston:

It is with regret that I inform you that Ms Karen Malloy has transitioned from TAVNE. However, I take pleasure in nominating Ms. Christine Rios-Irizarry as the TAVNE representative on the Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee. Ms. Rios-Irizarry is a faculty member at St. Philips College and a member of the TAVNE board.

The biographical data form has been forwarded to Ms. Rios-Irizarry. She will return it to Ms. LoCastro.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Betty Sims'.

Betty Sims, RN, MSN, FRE

President, Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators

CHRISTINE RIOS IRIZARRY, BSN, RN

6115 Lauras Farm, San Antonio, TX 78244

210-573-0359

calexander13@mail.accd.edu

EDUCATION

Widener University School of Nursing
Bachelor of Science in Nursing: 1982

Area of Concentration: Nursing

AWARDS

Master Teacher Certification

May 2009 – May 2010

Teaching Excellence in Distance Education Certification

May 2008 – Present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

St. Philip's College

Adjunct Instructor - Pharmacology

2002, 2007

-Instructed entry level nursing students in pharmacology according to department syllabus

Adjunct Instructor – Fundamental Nursing

2003

-Instructed entry level nursing students in the clinical setting according to department syllabus

Adjunct Instructor – Medical –Surgical Nursing

2004, 2007

-Instructed senior nursing students in the clinical setting on an as needed basis

Adjunct Instructor – Professional Development

2006, 2007

-Instructed senior level nursing students in the final course necessary for career development

Adjunct Instructor – Maternal and Child Health

2007

Instructor – Vocational Nursing Education

2008-Present

-Provided didactic and clinical instruction to vocational nursing students at all levels of training in Pharmacology, Medical-Surgical Nursing, Maternal Neonatal Nursing, and Professional Development. Developed and successfully implemented a distance education course in Essentials of Medication Administration. Coordinated clinical experiences with area facilities for both the Vocational Nursing Program and the LVN-ADN Program.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

A-Med Home Health, San Antonio, TX

Clinical Administrator

March 2003 – March 2007

-Responsible for hiring and training new and existing staff in all principles of home health care. Developed and initiated the Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement program. Implemented the Outcome Based Quality Improvement program in conjunction with Texas Medical Foundation per Medicare guidelines. Provided in-service training to existing staff to improve overall quality of care. Provided orientation for new staff. Maintained records of training provided. Participated in collaborative forum as a presenter with Texas Medical Foundation. Instructed patients in health maintenance and prevention of illness/disease management.

Nix Home Health Care, San Antonio, TX

Director, Home Care

July 2001 – March 2003

-Responsible for hiring and training new and existing staff in all principles of home care. Provided in-service education and training on quality initiatives. Maintained educational records for all staff. Participated in agency preparation for accreditation through JCAHO. Instructed patients in health maintenance and prevention of illness/disease management. Supervised approximately 30 employees. Was a member of the hospital-wide Quality Improvement Committee.

Texas Department of Human Services

Complaint Specialist

August 1998 – August 2000

-Responsible for knowing, understanding, and interpreting the Federal and State regulations pertaining to Home Health Care. Received complaints from consumers throughout the State of Texas and initiated complaint investigations. Performed on-site home health agency surveys to insure regulatory compliance and the provision of quality care. Maintained records of all complaint investigations received and responded to the complainants with the resolution of the complaint. Participated in the integration of Home and Community Support Services Agencies and Texas Department of Human Services through team meetings and collaboration of services.

Texas Department of Health

Complaint Specialist

August 1997 – August 1998

-Attended the Basic Surveyor Training Course provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Responsible for knowing, understanding,

and interpreting the Federal and State regulations pertaining to the provision of health care services in the State of Texas. Worked collaboratively with other State agencies to insure the provision of quality care to Texas consumers and to insure compliance with applicable regulations. Received health related consumer complaints and initiated the appropriate complaint investigations. Maintained records of all complaint investigation activities and initiated follow up with delinquent facilities as needed. Responded to the complainants in writing with the resolution of the complaints.

LANGUAGES

English – native language

Spanish – read and understand at a novice level; speak minimally

MEMBERSHIPS

Texas Nurses Association

Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators – Executive Board
Member