

## **Nurse Licensure Compact Update**

### **Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)**

The mutual recognition model of nurse licensure allows a nurse to have one license (in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states (both physically and electronically), subject to each state's practice laws and regulations. Under mutual recognition, a nurse may practice across state lines unless otherwise restricted. In order to achieve mutual recognition, each state must enact legislation or regulation authorizing the Nurse Licensure Compact. States entering the compact also adopt administrative rules and regulations for implementation of the compact. Once the compact is enacted, each compact state designates a Nurse Licensure Compact Administrator to facilitate the exchange of information between the states relating to compact nurse licensure and regulation. On January 10, 2000, the Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) were organized to protect the public's health and safety by promoting compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each party state through the mutual recognition of party state licenses. The Executive Director of the Texas Board of Nursing serves as the Compact Administrator for Texas. She is also the APRN Member-at-Large on the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA-EXEC).

### **NLCA Meetings**

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) meet via teleconference once every other month and face to face twice a year.

The Executive Committee meets monthly by teleconference.

The NLCA met for a face to face meeting at the mid year meeting of NCSBN. The Strategic Plan and NLCA-NCSBN relationship were discussed.

### **NLCA Strategic Plan**

The revised/updated Strategic Plan was discussed at the mid year meeting and further edits/additions are being made. The final Plan will be presented at the next NLCA conference call meeting. I will update the Board when the new Strategic Plan is finalized.

### **NLCA-NCSBN Relationship**

Legal opinions were discussed as well as political issues of concern. Specifically NCSBN leadership commented that their two main concerns are 1) decisions which are made by NLCA and which affect the entire membership body should have adequate input from non-compact states, and 2) lack of communication between NLCA and non-compact states when NLCA goes into a non-compact state for NLCA-related activity. Discussion also included "What is independent decision-making and what is interdependent?" The NLCA-EXEC and NCSBN Board of Directors will continue to meet to resolve outstanding concerns.

## **Participating States**

Missouri adopted the NLC this summer; an implementation date is to be determined. The Compact has been adopted by 24 states.

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 23 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. Missouri passed the Nurse Licensure Compact in May 2009 and will implement in the summer of 2010. Nurses licensed in Missouri with Texas addresses and licensed in Texas with Missouri addresses have been notified of Compact requirements concerning primary state of residence.

For future reference on the Nurse Licensure Compact, refer to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing web site at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/156.htm>

## **Texas Compact Statute and Rules**

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at:

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/npa2.html#4-001>

The Texas Administrative Rules for the Compact can be found at this page by clicking on BON Rules and Regulations and navigating to Chapter 220.

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/rr.html>