

## **Report on Communication Activities with Nursing Educational Programs**

### **Overview:**

Education consultants conducted two meetings during the quarter: a new dean/director/ coordinator orientation workshop and an information session for new programs in the process of program proposal development. A summary is provided.

### **New Dean, Director, and Coordinator Orientation Workshop**

Texas Board of Nursing (BON) Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education and Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education require that a newly appointed dean, director, interim dean, interim director, or coordinator of a nursing program attend the next scheduled orientation provided by the Board staff. A new dean, director, or coordinator orientation is usually scheduled in the fall and spring by Board staff.

On August 13, 2010, the "Part II - Face-to-Face Session@ of the Deans/Directors/Coordinators Orientation was held in Room 102, Tower III of the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. Prior to attending the one-day meeting, participants were required to complete "Part I - Online Orientation to the Board Education Rules and Regulations.@ The online learning module was designed to provide core content regarding Rule 214 and Rule 215; whereas, the in-person workshop provided an opportunity for learners to apply knowledge through interactive, participatory activities.

The Austin workshop was attended by forty seven individuals (47) including not only the deans, directors, and coordinators of professional and vocational nursing programs throughout the state, but also potential directors as well as administrators and faculty members. Nursing Consultants for the Education Department presented the following topics: Overview of the Texas Board of Nursing, Fraudulent Nursing Programs, Rule 214 and 215, Education Guidelines, Clinical Evaluation Tools, Self Study Reports, Total Program Evaluation, Simulation, Clinical Teaching Assistants, and Lab Assistants. Additionally, Anthony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, and Earl Stearns, Supervising Investigator for the Eligibility Team, reviewed the petition for the declaratory order process, as well as provided updated information relating to enforcement issues.

Evaluations of the orientation were very positive, and the majority of attendees indicated that all program objectives were completely met. Additionally, the teaching methods/strategies, as well as the relevance of the overall objectives, were determined to be effective. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to network with other deans, directors, and coordinators from across the state. Education Consultants are currently planning to conduct another workshop in Spring 2011. The online portion is being updated and redeveloped into a self-study module to prepare directors for the face-to-face meeting.

### **Informal Informational Sessions:**

Subsequent to the increased number of inquiries to the Texas BON staff regarding the process of new program proposal development, Texas BON Education Consultants are conducting quarterly workshops for interested stakeholders. The purpose of these Informal Information Sessions is to present and discuss the essential elements of the proposal process. In addition, participants are provided an opportunity to meet the Education Consultants and network with other individuals who are in the process of proposal development.

An information session was held on August 18, 2010 in Room 500, Tower II of the William P. Hobby Building, Austin, Texas. Twelve (12) individuals representing six (6) potential new vocational and baccalaureate degree nursing programs attended the three (3) hour workshop. The Education Consultants

reviewed Board Education Rules 214 and 215, as well as the proposal process in detail. Additionally, Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the initial licensure process, criminal background checks and eligibility issues. A question and answer session was conducted at the conclusion of the workshop. Participant feedback was very positive, and the Education Consultants plan to host another Informal Information Session in February 2011. These sessions provide an efficient format to deal with the continuing interest in starting new nursing programs in the state.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information report. No action is recommended.