

## **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 NLCA held a face to face meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of NCSBN in August 2010.

The Executive Committee meets by teleconference monthly in the months that the full NLCA does not meet. The NLCA Executive Committee will hold a retreat in Phoenix, Arizona on December 3, 2010 to discuss implementation of the strategic plan.

### **NLCA-NCSBN Relationship**

We continue to have joint meetings of the NLCA-EXEC and the Board of Directors to discuss the future relationship between the Compact Administrators and the NCSBN. The Compact Administrators are meeting with Rick Masters, J.D., one of the authors of *The Evolving Use and Changing Role of Interstate Compacts: A Practitioner's Guide*, (American Bar Association, 2007). He is General Counsel at the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision, Special Counsel at Council of State Governments, and Attorney/Partner at Masters, Mullins & Arrington. Mr. Masters will consult with the NLCA on the organizational structure, review of the Articles of Organization, and improvements to policies and procedures. The NLCA and Board of Directors will continue their dialogue with respect to the future structure of the organization.

### **Participating States**

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 24 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

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>