

Report on Communication Activities by the Texas Board of Nursing Consultants for Education

SUMMARY:

This report describes participation of the education consultants in activities to promote communication and sharing of information with the Texas nursing programs.

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 education program attend the next scheduled orientation provided by Board staff. A new dean, director, or coordinator orientation is usually scheduled in the fall and spring.

On February 18, 2011, 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 Educational 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 twenty seven(27) individuals including not only the deans, directors, and coordinators of professional and vocational nursing education programs throughout the state, but also administrators and faculty members from some of the programs. Texas BON Education Consultants presented the following topics: Overview of Texas Board of Nursing, Fraudulent Nursing Educational Programs, Rule 214 & 215, Education Guidelines, Clinical Evaluation Tools, Self Study Reports, Total Program Evaluation, Simulation, Clinical Teaching Assistants, and Lab Assistants. Additionally, Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the initial licensing application process, and 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 overwhelmingly positive. 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. Several participants stated that, as a result of attending the orientation, they feel more confident in their new role, and comfortable in calling on their assigned education consultant for guidance in the future. Education Consultants are currently planning to conduct another workshop in early fall 2011.

Informal Informational Sessions:

Subsequent to the increased number of inquiries regarding the process of new program proposal development, Texas BON Education Consultants are conducting quarterly workshops for interested stakeholders. The purpose of these Informal Informational 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, as well as network with other individuals who are in the process of proposal development.

An informational session was held on February 24, 2011, at the Hobby Building in Tower II, Room 500. Twenty six (26) individuals representing thirteen (13) potential new vocational, associate degree, and

baccalaureate degree nursing programs attended the three hour workshop. Nursing Consultants for Education, Virginia Ayars and Robin Caldwell, reviewed 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. The feedback was very positive and the education consultants plan to host another Informal Informational Session in summer 2011.

Texas Association of Deans and Directors Of Professional Nursing Programs (TADDPNP):

On February 11, 2011, Education Consultants attended the TADDPNP conference held in Austin at the Omni Hotel. The conference was attended by deans and directors of professional nursing programs from across the state. Representatives from the Board of Nursing (BON), Kathy Thomas, Executive Director, Mary Beth Thomas, Director of Nursing, and Mark Majek, Director of Operations provided BON updates, including implementation of the new Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs).

Audience response to the presentation was very positive. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the relevance of the topics, as well as the opportunity to dialogue with board staff.

Planned Education Workshop:

A BON sponsored workshop on Implementing the DECs in Nursing Education Programs is scheduled for May 26, 2011, at Texas State University, Round Rock Campus. Nancy Spector, PhD, RN, from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) will be a guest speaker. Additionally, members of the Advisory Committee for Education (ACE) and Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELIC) Work Group will present topics on implementing the DECs. Representatives from Texas nursing programs will be invited to attend.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

These are information reports. No action is recommended.