

**Report of Pilot Paper Audit Survey In Lieu of Site Visit
Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Programs**

Summary:

In an effort to increase efficiency in managing and serving the nursing education programs in the state, Board Staff carried out a pilot paper audit survey to determine if this would be effective as a regular duty of a nursing program. The paper audit process was designed to evaluate nursing programs experiencing no difficulties, demonstrating compliance with Board rules, and experiencing consistent success on the NCLEX examination. This is a report of the pilot experience and conclusion by Board Staff. The participating nursing education program for the pilot was Navarro College vocational nursing program with a home campus in Corsicana and two extension sites in Mexia and Waxahachie.

Outline of Pilot Paper Audit and Follow-Up Conference Call:

- Criteria for program selection:
 - Program success on NCLEX examination
 - History of no complaints related to the program
 - Need for regular survey visit according to rule requirements
 - Program representatives active in state organizations and meetings
 - Stability in leadership and faculty
- Navarro College VN programs met these criteria. NCLEX exam pass rates for the past five years have consistently been well above 90% and have been 100% two-thirds of the time.
- The directors and faculty at Navarro VN programs agreed to participate in the pilot audit in May 2011.
- The program was provided a list of program documents to provide Board Staff:
 - Outline of Curriculum
 - Current Schedule of Classes and Clinical
 - Clinical Evaluation Tools
 - Syllabi for Current Courses Being Taught
 - Description of Inclusion of DEC's into the Curriculum or Plan
 - Total Program Evaluation Tool with data and decision-making
 - Copy of Minutes from last faculty meeting
 - List of student groups by admission dates
 - List of full time and part time faculty currently employed showing credentials, license numbers, and teaching assignments
- The program materials were received in the Board office on July 18, 2011.
- Following review of documents, three education consultants engaged faculty and directors of the three sites in a conference call interview on September 12, 2011. There were seven (7) Navarro representatives on the call:
 - Glenda Terry, RN, BSN, MS, Assistant Dean, Health Professions
 - Barbara Jones, RN, BSN, Department Chair, Vocational Nursing
 - Pam Jordan, RN, BSN, Coordinator, Mexia Program
 - Debbie Carter, RN, BSN, Assistant Coordinator, Corsicana Program
 - Cayla DeMoss, RN, BSN, Assistant Coordinator, Waxahachie Program
 - Julie Arteaga, RN, BSN, Faculty, Corsicana
 - Angela Crane, RN, BSN, Faculty, Mexia
- The conference call focused on the following areas:
 - Discussion of how the three sites ensure that the students receive the same program of study
 - Description of how faculty work together in decision-making and in promoting consistency in the program at the three sites
 - Student Data: cohorts, attrition
 - Faculty assignments and sharing of faculty
 - Discussion of sharing of resources
 - Evaluation of students on clinical evaluation tools and in skills labs

- Current student issues
- Adequacy of teaching resources and secretarial assistance
- Use of simulation
- Plans for changes to program or curriculum
- Major concerns from faculty and director
- Major challenges for the nursing program
- Questions for Board Staff (job market issues, clinical scarcity, competition for clinical spaces)
- Findings indicated:
 - The program at the three sites work closely together in planning and implementing the curriculum. Back-up faculty and resources are always available at the other sites.
 - There is more competition for clinical spaces and the job market for VNs is in flux.
 - They presently have a wide array of valuable clinical experiences for students.
 - The directors and faculty are stable and committed to student success.
 - The program uses one preceptorship experience in the summer when there is more availability of preceptors.
 - Ninety percent of their graduates go on to become RNs.
 - All faculty participated in reviewing the curriculum and implementing the DEC's.
 - The faculty are mostly full time with one adjunct instructor.
 - Concerns about clinical sites for student practice and the future of LVN practice were voiced.
- Board Staff determined that this method of program evaluation was effective and could be used with programs who needed a survey visit and met the criteria for a paper audit.

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- Saves agency money and time.
- Provides a program update to Board Staff.
- Allows for exchange of questions and answers.
- Promotes good relationships with programs.
- The audit/conference call approach could be modified dependent upon program need.

Cons:

- Does not include the rich experience of an on-site visit.
- Does not allow the opportunity to meet with faculty and students face-to-face.

Comments:

This method of program evaluation will be reserved for programs functioning at a high level but who have not had a survey visit for at least six years. Navarro College directors and faculty were very appreciative of this activity. The conversation during the conference call was beneficial.

This report is for information only. No Board action is required.