

## **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) and the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA EXEC) meet regularly via teleconference and face to face at least twice a year. The last meeting of the NLCA took place on August 2, 2011 at a face to face meeting in Indianapolis.

The NLCA-EXEC Committee also met October 9-10, 2011 in Colorado to plan for FY 2012.

### **Strategic Plan Progress Update:**

1. An educational video intended to help nurses understand the NLC has been released and can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgYXULIGoa8> .
2. The Compliance Committee presented a self audit instrument to the NLCA at their face to face meeting in Indianapolis on August 2, 2011. NLCA approved the tool and process. 10 states, including Texas, are participating in a pilot study of the tool.
3. The Policy Committee completed review of the NLCA policy manual and presented proposed revisions at the the August meeting. The policies were adopted with changes and can be found at <https://www.ncsbn.org/1060.htm>
4. The NLCA website has been updated and reformatted to aid with finding appropriate information. <https://www.ncsbn.org/nlc.htm> and <https://www.ncsbn.org/nlca.htm>
5. The NLCA continues discussion about utilizing the Nurse Alerts feature in lieu of the Compact tab in Nursys to make important investigative and disciplinary information available to all boards of nursing.

6. The NLCA approved its FY12 budget. Budget includes an allowance for production of a series of training webinars aimed to help compact state boards of nursing understand various aspects of the NLC.

### **APRN Compact**

The Executive Officers of states with passed APRN Compact legislation and states interested in joining the APRN Compact continue to meet to discuss various proposed provisions for the model legislation aimed at strengthening and creating efficiencies within the compact.

### **Secretariat Agreement**

On June 13, 2011, the NLCA Executive Committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the NLCA Secretariat Agreement with NCSBN. The agreement will next be reviewed with the NLCA-NCSBN Interface Group. The Secretariat Agreement is being rewritten as a Memorandum of Understanding.

### **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>