

TPAPN Third Party Referral Report

Pursuant to Rule 217.13(b), the peer assistance program shall report to the Board, in accordance with policies adopted by the Board (Guidelines Pertaining to Third Party Referrals for Nurses with Suspected Chemical Dependency Issues Who Commit Practice Related Violations which was adopted January 2008), a nurse reported to the program who is impaired or suspected of being impaired by chemical dependency, mental illness, or diminished mental capacity if the nurse was reported to the program by a third party. A third party report is a report concerning a nurse suspected of chemical dependency, mental illness, or diminished mental capacity that comes to the attention of the program through any source other than a self referral.

With regard to all third party reports, the Board must determine whether to take disciplinary action against the nurse for a violation of the Nursing Practice Act, or the Board rules and must balance the need to protect the public and the need to ensure the impaired nurse seeks treatment.

In order to meet this directive, and to avoid any unnecessary delays in providing service to those individual nurses deemed appropriate for the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) intervention (or other Peer Assistance Program approved under Sec. 301.4106), on at least a weekly basis, the Director of Enforcement (or his/her designee) and the Program Director (or his/her designee) for TPAPN shall meet to discuss each third party referral made to TPAPN where the reported nurse is alleged to have committed one or more violations of the NPA cited in Board policy.

The following report provides statistical information of these meetings.

TPAPN THIRD PARTY REFERRAL REPORT
September 2011 through August 31, 2012

Registered Nurses (RNs)				Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs)		
Month	TPAPN/EEP Referral	Board Investigation	Total	TPAPN/EEP Referral	Board Investigation	Total
September	6	2	8	2	0	2
October	15	0	15	5	1	6
November	5	0	5	2	0	2
December						
January						
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
Total	26	2	28	9	1	10

Year to Year Comparisons

Registered Nurses (RNs)				Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs)		
Fiscal Year	TPAPN/EEP Referral	Board Investigation	Total	TPAPN/EEP Referral	Board Investigation	Total
2008	189	36	225	62	10	72
2009	168	25	193	68	14	82
2010	99	22	121	34	11	45
2011	112	16	128	29	7	36
2012*	26	2	28	9	1	10

*1st quarter of 2012 Only