

### **Consideration of Appointment of New Committee Member**

**Summary of Request:** Consider the nomination of Dana Bjarnason to serve as the Texas Nurses Association representative and Jettie Eddleman to serve as the Texas Association of Home Care & Hospice representative to the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee.

**Historical Perspective:** The purpose of the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee (NPAC) is to advise the Board on issues and regulations that have or may have an impact on nursing practice [Board Rule 211.6(f)(1)(C)]. This committee reviews and analyzes issues that affect the practice of nursing. Members of the committee represent both professional and vocational nursing organizations, provider organizations, and state agencies. Individuals are nominated by the organizations.

The Texas Nurses Association informed staff that Julie Withaeger was no longer representing their organization on the NPAC. Dana Bjarnason has been nominated by the organization as its new representative. Ms. Bjarnason is currently employed with the Harris Health System as an Associate Administrator/Chief Nursing Officer at Ben Taub General Hospital and Quentin Mease Community Hospital. Ms. Bjarnason's highest degree earned is a Doctor of Philosophy and she is a Nurse Executive, Advanced-Board Certified (NEA-BC).

Rachel Hammon, who represented the Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice was promoted and can no longer serve on the NPAC. Jettie Eddleman has been nominated by the organization as its new representative. Ms. Eddleman is currently employed with the Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice as the Director of Clinical Practice and Regulatory Affairs. Ms. Eddleman's highest degree earned is a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

**Pros and Cons:** Board staff's review of Dr. Bjarnason and Ms. Eddleman's biographical data indicate they are qualified to serve as their organization's representative. No cons are noted at this time.

**Staff Recommendation:** Move to accept and approve the nomination of Dr. Bjarnason to represent the Texas Nurses Association and Jettie Eddleman to represent the Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice on the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee.