

**Report on Implementation of the Knowledge, Skills, Training, Assessment and Research  
(KSTAR) Pilot**

**Summary of Request:**

This agenda item is for informational purposes only and is intended to update Board members regarding the implementation of the KSTAR Pilot Program.

**Historical Perspective:**

In October of 2013, the Board approved a two-year pilot program with Texas A & M Health Sciences Center College of Nursing and the Rural and Community Health Institute to offer the KSTAR program for nurses with practice violations that result in a disciplinary sanction of a warning and below. KSTAR is the acronym for Knowledge, Skills, Training, Assessment and Research, a comprehensive program that utilizes an individualized assessment of the nurse with practice breakdowns, to design a personalized remedial education plan aimed at correcting any knowledge deficits that may exist. Monitoring and follow-up are built into the program.

**Current Perspective:**

Texas A&M and Board staff meet weekly via teleconference to discuss implementation plans for the pilot. Frequently asked questions have been developed by KSTAR staff and are posted on the Texas A & M Rural and Community Health Institute's website at: <http://www.rchitexas.org/kstar-nursing/faq.html>

In order to refine the program processes and prepare for the program's launch, Texas A&M staff conducted a live demonstration or a "beta-test" of the KSTAR program for nurses on September 30, 2014. The beta-test was a type of real world, second phase test or a "pilot" of the pilot program. The live volunteer was a nurse on faculty at the College of Nursing. BON staff were able to observe the beta-test and then met with KSTAR staff to discuss the various assessments conducted through-out the day and suggestions were made to further refine their processes.

BON staff continue to plan and develop internal processes for implementation of the KSTAR pilot program for nurses. BON staff have begun to discuss the KSTAR pilot program with nurses and their attorneys during informal settlement conferences. The Legal Department is receiving and answering many questions about the pilot. The Enforcement Department has developed the board order template and a letter explaining the KSTAR for nurses pilot program that will accompany the board orders. In addition, a method for coding and tracking cases has been instituted. Investigators have begun to offer KSTAR orders to nurses.

**Pros and Cons:** None noted.

**Staff Recommendation:** No action is necessary. This item is for informational purposes only.