

**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 continue to meet weekly via teleconference to discuss implementation of the pilot.

The first three participants completed two-days of assessments and trainings in December, 2014. KSTAR staff will develop individualized remediation plans and submit a report to the Director of Enforcement. The next phase of the pilot for these participants is working the remediation plan online with weekly coaching calls from KSTAR staff.

The Board and Board staff continue to offer the option of KSTAR for those nurses with a disciplinary action or a deferred disciplinary action at the level of a Warning, a Warning with Stipulations, a Warning with Stipulations and a Fine, a Warning with a Fine, Remedial Education, Remedial Education with a Fine, or a Fine to nurses and their attorneys during informal settlement conferences. Three additional KSTAR orders were ratified during the December Eligibility and Disciplinary meeting and several orders will be considered by the Board during the January 2015 quarterly meetings. KSTAR staff anticipate they will be able to conduct four assessments and trainings a month with a goal of eight each month during the pilot period. The Legal Department continues to receive and is answering many questions related to the pilot.

Pros and Cons: None noted.

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