

### **Report on Communication Activities With Nursing Education Programs**

This report describes the participation of Nursing Consultants for Education of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON) in activities to promote communication with the Texas pre-licensure nursing education programs and constituents.

#### **Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs (TADDPNP)**

On October 14, 2016, the Nursing Consultants for Education attended the TADDPNP conference held in Austin at the Omni Hotel. The conference was attended by deans and directors of professional nursing education programs from across the state. Representatives from the Board: Kathy Thomas, Executive Director; Mark Majek, Director of Operations; and Janice Hooper, Nursing Education Consultant presented updates and timely information specific to pre-licensure programs and Board processes. Audience responses to the presentations were positive. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the relevance of the topics, as well as the opportunity to dialogue with Board Staff. The next TADDPNP meeting is scheduled for February 2017.

#### **Informal Informational Session**

On October 18, 2016, Virginia Ayars, Education Consultant, conducted a two (2) hour informational session for individuals interested in starting a pre-licensure nursing education program in Austin, Texas. The purpose of the informal information session is to present and discuss the essential elements of the proposal for new pre-licensure nursing education program process. Participants are provided an opportunity to meet the Nursing Consultants for Education and network with other individuals who are in the process of proposal development. Twenty-one (21) individuals representing fifteen (15) potential new vocational, associate and baccalaureate degree nursing programs attended the workshop. Dr. Ayars presented an overview of the Board functions with a brief review of Board Education Rules 214 and 215, and discussed the proposal process in detail. Participant feedback was very positive. Several attendees thanked Board Staff for the information session. Nursing Consultants for Education plan to host the next informal information session early 2017.

#### **Deans/Directors/Coordinators Orientation**

Board Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education and Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education require that a newly appointed dean, director, interim dean or director, or coordinator of a nursing education program attend a face-to-face orientation provided by Board Staff. At the time

of appointment and approval, Board Staff provide a new dean/director/coordinator with an electronic version of the *Nursing Education Program Director Orientation Module*. The learning module provides basic content regarding Rules 214 and 215. Completion of the module is required prior to attendance at a face-to-face orientation workshop, the second part of the orientation process for new program administrators.

A face-to-face, day-long session of the Deans/Directors/Coordinators Orientation was held in the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas on October 20, 2016. The session complemented and enhanced the self-paced orientation module, providing an opportunity for participants to further their knowledge of Rules 214 and 215 through staff presentations, question and answer segments, and group discussions.

The October workshop was attended by one (1) DNP student and twenty-five (25) deans, directors, and coordinators from professional and vocational nursing education programs throughout the state. The Education Consultants presented topics, including: an overview of the Board, a Toolkit for Preparing for a Survey Visit, discussion of Education Guidelines, and review of the regulations governing Clinical Learning Experiences, Program of Study, and Total Program Evaluation. Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the mandatory criminal background check process for students enrolled in pre-licensure nursing education programs. Anthony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, discussed the process for declaratory order petitions.

Participant evaluations of the session were extremely positive with attendees expressing appreciation for the informative meeting and for the support of Board Staff. Participants commented that this session should be offered to all Deans and Directors every two years. The next workshop will be held in February 2017.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an informational report. No action is required.