

Report on Communication Activities With Nursing Education Programs

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

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

On February 2, 2018, the Consultants for Nursing 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, Mark Majek, Director of Operations; Dr. Kristin Benton, Director of Nursing; Dr. Jan Hooper, Lead Nursing Education Consultant; and Dr. Virginia Ayars, Nursing Education Consultant, presented updates and information regarding examinations and licensing; an update from the Board of Nursing; the Next Generation NCLEX; and the NCLEX-RN® Report. Audience response to the presentations was 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 October 2018.

Deans, Directors, and 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. This is a two-part process. 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*, which provides basic content regarding Rules 214 and 215. Completion of the module is the first part and is encouraged prior to attendance at the orientation workshop, the second part of the orientation process for new program administrators.

A face-to-face, day-long session of the Deans, Directors, and Coordinators Orientation was held in the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas on February 16, 2018. The session is held subsequent to completion of the self-paced orientation module, which supplements knowledge of Rules 214 and 215. Staff present on a variety of topics, such as an overview of the Board; Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS); Education Rules; Clinical Learning Experiences; Clinical Preceptors; Simulation; Program of Study; Total Program Evaluation; provide question and answer segments; and lead group discussions. Mark Majek, Director of Operations, discussed the process for mandatory criminal background checks for students enrolled in pre-licensure nursing education programs. Anthony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, presented information about the Petition for Declaratory Order.

The February orientation session was attended by 19 deans, directors, and coordinators from professional and vocational nursing education programs throughout the state. Upon completion of the full-day orientation, participants were awarded Continuing Education hours.

Participant evaluations of the session were very positive with attendees expressing appreciation for the explanations; that the clinical/simulation question and answer session was helpful; that resources provided will be useful in the future; and that the outline of Declaratory changes was helpful. One participant commented that the discussion format for objectives was valuable and enjoyable, as opposed to consultant-led reviews of the PowerPoint slides. The next face-to-face orientation session will be held June 22, 2018.

Self-Study Conference Calls

Rule 215.4(c)(2)(B) stipulates that the first time a nursing program has an NCLEX® passing score of less than 80% for first-time NCLEX-RN® candidates, a Self-Study Report (SSR) is written and submitted to Board Staff by April 15, 2018. In February and March 2018, the Education Consultants held conference calls with seven vocational nursing education programs that had 2017 NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates below 80%. The calls allowed Program Directors and faculty an opportunity to ask questions about development and completion of the SSR. Program directors and faculty were appreciative of the meetings with the consultants. Upon receipt of the Self-Study Reports, the Nursing Consultants for Education read each SSR and responded to each program with a letter of acknowledgment, including suggestions or comments specific to corrective actions, as well as responding to requests for additional information.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational report. No action is required.