

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATIONAL NEWS

34 States Enact the Nurse Licensure Compact: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming have enacted the revised Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). Alabama, Indiana and New Jersey passed the Compact in 2019. Alabama implemented on January 1, 2020, New Jersey partially implemented on March 24, 2020 and Indiana implemented on July 1, 2020. New Jersey plans a full implementation in 2021. See Board item 6.1 for further information on implementation of the compact.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact.htm>

NCSBN Warns Be on High Alert for Phishing Scams: Scammers are targeting nurses by sending them official looking letters from nursing regulatory bodies (NRBs) or other state/federal agencies. These scammers know the business of the NRBs and are connecting with the nurses using messaging like “Your license is suspended or will be revoked unless you connect back with us and transfer funds to fulfill the financial obligation related to this inquiry...” Scammers may send nurses fraudulent suspension/revocation notices on forged letterheads and ask the nurse to deposit funds to reverse the sanction or call a phone number in the notice. Scammers may attempt to get personal information or credit card information. **(See Attachment A).**

NCSBN Makes Modifications to NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN Effective Oct. 1, 2020: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NCSBN introduced several carefully evaluated and tested modifications to the NCLEX examinations. These modifications expired on Sept. 30, 2020. Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, the modifications effective Oct. 1, include:

- Pretest items will be reintroduced. Each candidate will get 15 pretest items in their exam.
- Due to the addition of the 15 pretest items, the minimum length exam will be 75 items and the maximum length exam will be 145 items.
- Examination time will be five hours.
- The voluntary Next Generation NCLEX Special Research Section will be reintroduced.
- The NCLEX Tutorial will be replaced with a general guide and test taking tips.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/14950.htm>

NCSBN Introduces New Video, Making Travel Nursing Easier with a Multistate License: This new video teaches travel nurses how the Nurse Licensure Compact and multistate licenses pertain to them. It provides primary state of residence requirements as well as pitfalls to avoid and other helpful information.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/14979.htm>

Reciprocal Licensing Factor in Military Base Location Decisions: In a report, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) confirmed that decisions regarding military base site locations and other defense spending allocations are in part being based on the relative strictness of state policies for reciprocal licensing. The report on license reciprocity for military spouses includes state best practices, strategies for states to improve and criteria DOD developed to assess states’ licensing practices. The DOD wants to see an increase in the number of states adopting state compacts for reciprocal licensing.

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2091431/dod-releases-military-spouse-licensure-report/>

New Statement of Priorities for Individuals with Substance Use Disorders during COVID-19

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) released a new statement on *Priorities and Strategies to Preserve the Health and Well-Being of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders and Chronic Pain during COVID-19*. NAM notes that individuals with substance use disorders, “are among the most at risk and susceptible to COVID-19, and their care and treatment are among the most disrupted by physical distancing and other measures that have been put into place to prevent the spread of the virus.” NAM’s Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic steering committee identified a series of priorities and strategies intended for providers, health systems, researchers, policymakers, regulators and health leaders to preserve the health and well-being of individuals with substance use disorder and chronic pain.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm>

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN): Considerations for Reopening U.S. Schools of Nursing During COVID-19:

AACN developed new recommendations for their member schools to consider as they plan to reopen their nursing programs across the U.S. The recommendations focus on protecting students and faculty from contracting and spreading COVID-19. They specifically relate to assessing risk, the protections needed to safely resume campus activities, the continuity of education and research, clinical education and patient interactions, strengthening curriculum, and protecting students, faculty and staff. AACN notes that the new recommendations were developed by internationally noted expert Tener Veenema Goodwin, PhD, MPH, MS, RN, FAAN, from Johns Hopkins University.

<https://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/News/View/ArticleId/24666/Considerations-for-Reopening-U-S-Schools-of-Nursing-During-COVID-19>

STATE NEWS

Texas Board of Nursing Creates Covid-19 Website: To locate multiple resources for the public, the BON has created a webpage which contains announcements, information on waivers, resources and FAQs pertaining to Covid-19. It can be found at: <https://www.bon.texas.gov/COVID-19.asp>

Texas Facilities Commission: In the 86th Legislative Session, SB 1349 (Watson) passed, authorizing the sale of certain property by the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) including the William P. Hobby Building complex. State agencies located in the Hobby building will be required to relocate to the George H. W. Bush building in the summer of 2022. This building is under construction at 1801 Congress Avenue. The BON is participating with TFC in the planning for physical space and resources needed for the move. We have reviewed a draft layout of the offices and provided feedback regarding enhancements needed for some spaces. At this time, construction is expected to be completed on time.

Health Professions Council: The Health Professions Council (HPC) met on September 14, 2020. A revised method for determining agency shares was submitted as a Contingency Rider in Article IX of the General Appropriations Act for the FY 2022-2023 biennium. The Board of Nursing’s share will be increased for the next biennium. The Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) was created by the 86th Legislature through the Sunset Review process. The Council will combine the regulation of behavioral health disciplines, including Psychologists, Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Social Workers, and Licensed Professional Counselors. This Council will be a member of the HPC and share in the funding of HPC. HPC has a Regulatory Data Base for the Pharmacy, Dental, Optometry, Funeral Services Commission and Plumbing Boards. Changes made by the 86th Legislature will result in addition of Geoscientists and the BHEC to the Regulatory Database and the

transfer of the data base for the Land Surveying Board to the Board of Engineers. BHEC has already been transferred to the HPC Regulatory Database. Ralph Harper, ED of the PT/OT Council was nominated for as Chair of the HPC and Allison Benz, ED of the Pharmacy Board was nominated Vice Chair.

BOARD NEWS

NCLEX in Texas During Covid-19 Pandemic: Pearson Vue testing centers have re-opened with full capacity. Mitigation includes requirements for masks by candidates and testing center staff, partitions between each candidate and hygiene measures. Candidates for the exam who have received an Authorization to Test from the Board of Nursing are able to schedule within a few days.

BON Bulletin Articles: The October issue of the *Board of Nursing Bulletin* contains the following articles: 1.) Texas Nurse Portal Provides Updated Platform for Licensure Regulation; 2.) How Nursing Education Programs Have Responded to the Pandemic; 3.) Standards of Nursing Practice Remain the Same, Even During a Pandemic; 4.) Mark Majek Re-elected as Area III Director-at-Large for National Council of State Boards of Nursing; 5.) Dialogue Continues Among Nursing Practice and Academia Stakeholders; 6.) Nursing and Electronic Communication; 7.) Mental Health and Substance Use in Nursing: Nurses Caring for Themselves and Each Other; 8.) Caring Does Not Always Mean Sharing.

The Board provides a quarterly newsletter online and a paper newsletter mailed to every nurse currently licensed in the State of Texas. The Bulletin is available at:
https://www.bon.texas.gov/about_newsletters.asp

Board Development: The October 2020 meeting will be conducted by video teleconferencing due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and current state and local orders to implement social distancing. There will not be a development session at this meeting.

AGENCY NEWS

Predictive analytics project: The BON staff are participating in a research study investigating the potential of decision support tools to support regulatory decision making in evaluating complaints about nurses in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. This project aims to investigate the use and value of a decision support tool for improving the consistency and efficiency of decision-making in the nursing complaints process in three jurisdictions. It is envisioned that the tool may assist in streamlining the early assessment of complaints received by the regulator, therefore allowing for earlier closure of lower risk matters and optimal utilization of resources towards identifying, assessing and addressing higher risk matters. The Board has submitted the first set of data to the researchers. The study should be completed in late Spring 2021.

IT/ORBS Update: Although the planned launch date for the ORBS Nurse Portal was March 15, 2020, the date was moved to June 15, 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Please see the information on the Texas portal at: <https://www.bon.texas.gov/texasnurseportal/>. The launch was successful and the NCSBN and BON teams have worked diligently to respond to questions and data migration and programming issues and resolve them as quickly as possible. It has been a herculean effort but will ultimately result in significant improvements to our operations.

Covid-19 Pandemic: Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas. In each subsequent month effective through October, he has renewed the disaster declaration for all Texas counties. The Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined that COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. Many initiatives have been undertaken by the Board of Nursing

to respond to the Pandemic with the priority of maintaining mission essential functions and keeping our staff and the public safe. Public access to the offices was closed. A new webpage has been designed to co-locate all Covid-related information. The work model shifted to a primarily remote staff arrangement, teleworking at home with a small number of staff in the office. 17-27% of staff are in the office during the week to process mail and money received, to pick up paper files, scan and send documents to other staff, and conduct other business that cannot be performed at home. Equipment to enable telework was purchased. Travel was suspended. A Return to Office Plan was developed but not yet implemented due to risk of spread of the virus at this time. Board meetings, staff meetings and departmental meetings have moved to video conferencing. In person workshops have moved to virtual format. Informal Settlement Conferences, Mediations at SOAH and contested case proceedings at SOAH have moved to virtual audio/video platforms. The Call Center has continued to operate. The staff have maintained their commitment to the Board's mission and have continued to creatively and effectively respond to this new work environment.

Nursing Jurisprudence Examination: The Jurisprudence examination required for initial licensure by Texas Occupations Code Section 301.252, License Application, was implemented in September 2008. Those applying for initial licensure by exam or endorsement **after** September 1, 2008 must pass the Jurisprudence Exam in order to be eligible for licensure. Data through the 4th quarter of FY 20 can be found in (***Attachment B***).

Website: Google Analytics of the Board's website shows that there were 9,468,795 page views during the 3-month period from July 2, 2020 – October 16, 2020. (***Attachment C***).
<https://www.bon.texas.gov/>

Facebook: The Texas Board of Nursing Facebook page can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/Texas-Board-of-Nursing-1498436920404832/>
The agency posts at least weekly.

Key Meetings and Presentations: by the Executive Director and Staff since the last Board meeting. (Does not include internal meetings with staff).

Executive Director

Webinar: Looking Ahead: Making Remote Work Safe and Sustainable, July 27, 2020

Conference Call: Texas Team Advancing Education Committee, July 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting: UT School of Social Work, Employee Engagement Survey, July 28, 2020

Webinar: Harvard Forum, #FirstRespondersFirst: The Path Forward, July 29, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, July 29, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, July 30, 2020

Webinar: FSMB, Achieving Regulatory Excellence in a World of Advanced Technologies and Complex Risks, July 30, 2020

Virtual Meeting: TNA Legislative Agenda Coalition, July 30, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, July 30, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Nurses Foundation and TPAPN, Self-Referrals to Program, July 31, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN APRN Knowledge Network, August 4, 2020

Webinar: Harvard Forum: Covid 19, August 5, 2020

Virtual Meeting: State Agency Government Relations (SAGR) of Texas Meeting on Covid-19, August 5, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, August 6, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, August 6, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN Delegate Assembly Preparation, August 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Nurse Licensure Compact Meeting, August 11, 2020

Virtual Conference and Meeting: NCSBN Delegate Assembly, August 12, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Workgroup, August 12, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, August 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting: *Virtual Meeting:* COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, August 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Council of State Governments, Occupational Health Licensing Compact, August 19, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, August 20, 2020

Virtual Meeting: State Agency Government Relations (SAGR) of Texas Meeting on Covid-19, August 19, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, August 19, 2020

Virtual Meeting: With Texas Workforce Commission Regarding Cybertex Institute of Technology Complaints, August 21, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, August 20, 2020

Conference Call: Texas Team Advancing Education Committee, August 24, 2020

Webinar: TNA --The Ins and Outs of Telehealth, August 26, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, August 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting: ORBS Training Meeting for Directors, August 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, August 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Facilities Commission New Building, September 1, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Workgroup, September 2, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, September 3, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, September 3, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Meeting: Texas Board of Nursing and Nurse Licensure Compact, September 4, 2020

Virtual Meeting: HPC LAR Discussion, September 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, September 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, September 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, September 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting: HPC Quarterly Meeting, September 14, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Facilities Commission Building Plan Review, September 14, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Senate Finance Staff, September 15, 2020

Virtual Interview: CBS Austin News Regarding TPAPN, September 15, 2020

Virtual Meeting: State Agency Government Relations (SAGR) of Texas Meeting on Covid-19, September 16, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, September 17, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, September 17, 2020

Virtual Meeting: With Board of Nursing and Texas Nurses Foundation, September 22, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Workgroup, September 23, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN NCLEX Update, September 23, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, September 24, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, September 24, 2020

Conference Call: Governor's Office Briefing, September 24, 2020

Conference Call: Texas Team Advancing Education Committee, September 28, 2020

Virtual Meeting: State Agency Government Relations (SAGR) of Texas Meeting on Covid-19, September 30, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, October 1, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, October 1, 2020

Virtual Meeting: TONL Executive Committee, October 1, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, October 7, 2020

Virtual Meeting: With Cybertex Institute of Technology, October 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Advisory Committee Meeting, October 14, 2020

Virtual Meeting: State Agency Government Relations (SAGR) of Texas Meeting on Covid-19, October 24, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Workgroup, October 14, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, October 15, 2020

Virtual Meeting: COVID-19 Outreach & Licensing Interagency Networking Group, October 15, 2020

General Counsel

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, July 29, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Nurses Foundation and TPAPN, Self-Referrals to Program, July 31, 2020

Teleconference: Presentation by: Dr. Paul H Earley, MD, DFASAM, President American Society of Addiction Medicine, July 30-31, 2020

Teleconference: Council of State Governments, Occupational Health Licensing Compact, August 19, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, August 19, 2020

Virtual Meeting: With TWC Regarding Cybertex Technical Institute Complaints, August 21, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Meeting: Texas Board of Nursing and Nurse Licensure Compact, September 4, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, September 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting: With Board of Nursing and Texas Nurses Foundation, September 22, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, October 7, 2020

Virtual Meeting: With Cybertex Institute of Technology, October 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Meeting with Excelsior, October 19, 2020

Videoconference: Legal Department Staff Meeting, May 8, 2020

Director of Operations

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, July 2, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Tarrant County Public Health Commission, July 8, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, July 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, July 16, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN Grant Meeting on Artificial Intelligence, July 16, 2020

Virtual Meeting: UT School of Social Work, Employee Engagement Survey, July 28, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, July 30, 2020

Virtual Meeting: TNA Legislative Agenda Coalition, July 30, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN BOD Delegate Assembly Training, July 30, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, August 6, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN Delegate Assembly Preparation, August 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN Delegate Assembly, August 12, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, August 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN Post Delegate Assembly Board of Directors, August 17, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, August 20, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN New Board Member Orientation, August 24, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, August 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting: ORBS Training Meeting for Directors, August 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Facilities Commission New Building, September 1, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, September 3, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Presentation: New Deans and Directors, September 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, September 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting: New Senate Finance Staff, September 14, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Presentation: ORBS Update to Oklahoma Board of Nursing, September 15, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN Policy Call, September 17, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, September 17, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN Board of Directors Meeting, September 22-23, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN EO Call, September 24, 2020

Director of Enforcement

Meeting: TPAPN 3rd Party Referral Reviews with TPAPN staff, July 24, 2020

Conference Call: Texas A&M College of Nursing/RCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Pilot, July 29, 2020

Web Ex: TPAPN presentation by Dr. Paul H. Early, MD, President, American Society of Addiction Medicine, July 31, 2020

Meeting: TPAPN 3rd Party Referral Reviews with TPAPN staff, July 31, 2020, 2020

Conference: Informal Settlement Conferences, August 4, 2020

Meeting: TPAPN 3rd Party Referral Reviews with TPAPN staff, August 7, 2020

Meeting: Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee Meeting, August 18, 2020

Conference Call: Texas A&M College of Nursing/RCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Pilot, August 19, 2020

Meeting: with TPAPN Program Director, August 25, 2020

Training: Director's overview of ORBS, August 27, 2020

Meeting: Legislative Planning Meeting, August 28, 2020

Meeting: TPAPN 3rd Party Referral Reviews with TPAPN staff, August 28, 2020

Conference: Informal Settlement Conferences, September 1, 2020

Meeting: Board of Nursing Staff Meeting, September 3, 2020

Meeting: TPAPN Advisory Committee Meeting, September 4, 2020

Meeting: TPAPN 3rd Party Referral Reviews with TPAPN staff, September 4, 2020

Meeting: Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee Meeting, September 8, 2020

Conference Call: Texas A&M College of Nursing/RCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Pilot, September 9, 2020

Presentation: Deans and Directors Orientations, September 10, 2020

Meeting: TPAPN 3rd Party Referral Reviews with TPAPN staff, September 11, 2020

Meeting: TPAPN 3rd Party Referral Reviews with TPAPN staff, September 18, 2020

Meeting: TPAPN 3rd Party Referral Reviews with TPAPN staff, September 25, 2020

Conference: Informal Settlement Conferences, October 6, 2020

Director of Nursing and Nursing Consultants

Conference Call: Texas Team Advancing Education Committee, July 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting: The Future of Nursing in Texas Summit Follow-up Meeting: Back to the Future for Action Zoom Meeting hosted by TONL, TBON, & Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, July 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Nurses Association, Director of Practice, July 28, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, July 28, 2020

Webinar: National Academy of Medicine, Mental Health and Substance Use in Primary Care: Part 2, July 29, 2020

Conference Call: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, July 29, 2020

Conference Call: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, July 30, 2020

Conference Call: NCBSN APRN Knowledge Network, August 4, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, August 4, 2020

Webinar: Harvard School of Public Health, When Public Health Means Business, August 5, 2020

Conference Call: NCBSN Education Knowledge Network, August 5, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCBSN NCLEX Technical Advisory Committee, August 7, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCBSN Annual Meeting, Delegate Training, August 10, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, August 11, 2020

Virtual Conference: Nurse Licensure Compact, August 11, 2020

Virtual Conference: NCBSN Annual Meeting, August 12, 2020

Webinar: American Heart Association Team Training, August 12, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Nurse Practitioners, August 14, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Nurses Association, Director of Practice, July 28, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, August 18, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, August 19, 2020

Conference Call: Texas Team Advancing Education Committee, August 24, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, August 25, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NCSBN NCLEX Technical Advisory Committee Debriefing, August 26, 2020

Webinar: DFW American Nursing Informatics Association, Telehealth Competencies, August 28, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, September 1, 2020

Conference Call: Texas Workforce Commission, September 4, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, September 8, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, September 9, 2020

Virtual Presentation: Deans, Directors, and Coordinators Orientation, September 10, 2020

Conference Call: Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership, September 15, 2020

Virtual Conference: NCSBN NCLEX Annual Conference, September 15, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, September 15, 2020

Virtual Presentation: Protecting Your Patients and Your Practice, Nursing Jurisprudence and Ethics, September 16, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, September 22, 2020

Webinar: Nursing Regulatory Bodies, Next Generation NCLEX, September 23, 2020

Virtual Conference: American Organization for Nursing Leadership, September 24, 2020

Conference Call: Texas Team Advancing Education Committee, September 28, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, September 29, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, September 30, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Nursing Shortage Reduction Program Work Group Meeting, October 5, 2020

Virtual Presentation: Informal Information Session October 6, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, October 6, 2020

Conference Call: NCSBN Education Knowledge Network, October 7, 2020

Virtual Meeting: Texas A&M College of Nursing/ARCHI/ BON KSTAR Nursing Program, October 7, 2020

Conference Call: NCSBN APRN Knowledge Network, October 8, 2020

Virtual Conference: Concept Maps for Clinical Judgment, October 8, 2020

Virtual Presentation and Conference: Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs, October 9, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, October 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting: NLN Commission on Nursing Education Accreditation, October 15, 2020

Virtual Meeting: National Academy of Medicine, Confronting Urgent Threats to Human Health and Society: COVID-19 and Climate Change, October 19, 2020

Conference Call: DSHS, COVID-19, October 20, 2020

Case Resolution Report
June 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020

Type of Action	Total
No Jurisdiction	29
No Violation	2
No Action	483
Insufficient Evidence	154
Admonish	3
Without Prejudice	478
TPAPN Referrals	75
EEP Referrals	1
Corrective Actions	7
Totals	1,232

Temporary Suspension Case Resolution Report
June 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020

Ratified by K. Thomas on Board's Authority	
Type of Action	Total
Enforced Suspension TPAPN (ET)	2
Voluntary Surrender	1
Totals	3

**Quarterly Statistics Where Executive Director Ratified Requests for
Exception
in Compliance with Board Policy:**

**REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTION TO A PREVIOUSLY ISSUED AGREED ORDER
June 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020**

Total Number of Requests Received	16
Number of Requests Resolved	10
Number of Requests Granted by Executive Director	8
Number of Requests Granted by Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee	0
Number of Requests Denied by Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee	10
Number of Requests Denied Pursuant to Board's Guidelines for Exceptions to Existing Board Orders	3
Number of Requests Pending	6

Cases Where Executive Director Offered and Entered Ordered Orders in Compliance with Board Policy:

LVN DISCIPLINARY ORDERS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020

DISCIPLINARY	
2	<p>FINE AND REMEDIAL EDUCATION</p> <p>1 Left nursing assignment without properly notifying the patient's care giver, her supervisor, or appropriate personnel, and failed to give report before leaving;</p> <p>1 Arrested for Driving While Intoxicated and Resisting Arrest/Search/Transport – Told the officers "I really hope you guys come for a colonoscopy at some point, I'm going to have real fun with ya'll"</p>
5	<p>REMEDIAL EDUCATION</p> <p>1 Failed to completely and accurately document provider orders for ibuprofen and clindamycin, subsequently the medications were not entered on the patient's medication administration record and the patient did not receive either medication</p> <p>1 Violated the boundaries of the nurse/client relationship by emailing and texting non-medical communications</p> <p>1 Withdrew four (4) Norco tablets, one (1) Zolpidem tablet, and four (4) Clonazepam tablets but failed to document and/or accurately and completely document the administration</p> <p>1 Exceeded scope of practice by accepting a telephonic physician's order to pronounce the resident's death</p> <p>1 Took home expired Rocephin and Lidocaine and two unwasted vials of Toradol</p>
9	<p>VOLUNTARY SURRENDER</p> <p>1 Submitted a statement voluntarily surrendering in lieu of disciplinary action</p> <p>1 Was observed forcefully pulling a patient up to his feet after the child sat down on the ground, and sternly talking to the patient while holding onto/shaking his arm</p> <p>1 Inaccurately documented the count sheet for a patient's Hydrocodone/APAP by failing to count the medication and writing an incorrect total</p> <p>1 Pushed a patient down and pulled her hair</p> <p>1 Observed sleeping in the medication room while on duty; bypassed the safety mechanisms in the electronic medical record for pre-scanning medications for sixteen (16) patients more than an hour before the evening medication pass, resulting in false medication administration times; drew up insulin into a syringe prior to verifying the insulin with another nurse inserting the needle back into the vial after the RN refused to verify; and failed to assess and/or call a code for a patient after discovering the patient on the floor with a serious head injury</p> <p>1 Deferred judgment for felony Tamper with Government Record Lic/Seal Defraud/Harm and Fraud Use/Possession Identify Information Under/5 Items</p> <p>1 While under the restrictions of a current Board Order misappropriated ninety-one (91) Robaxin, Naprosyn, Tylenol and Zofran; cancelled ninety-one (91) returns for the medications in the medication system and admitted to misappropriating the medications to help control pain</p> <p>1 Non-compliance with a Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance</p> <p>1 Submitted a statement voluntarily surrendering in lieu of completing a prior issued Board Order</p>
5	<p>TPAPN CONFIDENTIAL BOARD ORDER</p> <p>1 Signed out three (3) tablets of Ativan but failed to document and/or accurately and completely document the administration, submitted to a chemical dependency evaluation</p> <p>PUBLIC TPAPN BOARD ORDER</p> <p>1 Withdrew one (1) tablet of Tramadol one (1) vial of Morphine but failed to document and/or completely and accurately document the administration or follow proper wastage procedures for unused portion</p> <p>1 Intemperate use and/or unlawful use of methamphetamine resulting in a positive drug screen</p> <p>1 Intemperate use of Methamphetamines and Amphetamines resulting in a positive drug screen</p> <p>TPAPN ENFORCED SUSPENSION BOARD ORDER</p> <p>1 Intemperate use of Opiates and Alcohol resulting in a positive drug screen, failed to</p>

	administer Acetaminophen Suppository as ordered by a physician, lacked fitness to practice in that he reported to work exhibiting signs of impaired behavior, including appearing dazed, unable to make eye contact, slurred speech, falling asleep, unable to write legibly and stumbling TPAPN CONFIDENTIAL EXTENDED EVALUATION PROGRAM (EEP)
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LVN CORRECTIVE ACTION ORDERS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020

3	LVN CORRECTIVE ACTION
1	Practiced as a Vocational Nurse without a valid license
1	Failed to report a nurse to the Board who engaged in conduct subject to reporting
1	May have failed to ensure that the physician was timely notified of a medication error where morning blood pressure medications were given to the wrong resident
0	ENDORSEMENT CORRECTIVE ACTION
0	APPLICANT/PETITIONER CORRECTIVE ACTION

LVN DEFERRED DISCIPLINE ORDERS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020

2	REMEDIAL EDUCATION – DEFERRED DISCIPLINE
1	Failed to ensure that the needle was securely attached to the barrel of the syringe while administering the flu shot, subsequently the needle became dislodged resulting in the needle being left in the patient’s thigh and medication spilling onto the patient’s leg
1	Cut an excessive amount of a patient’s hair to affix a tegaderm dressing when placing a jugular line
	FINE W/ REMEDIAL EDUCATION – DEFERRED DISCIPLINE

LVN ENDORSEMENT/PETITIONER DISCIPLINE ORDERS/APPROVALS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020

34	<p>APPLICANTS/PETITIONERS DISCIPLINE ORDER</p> <p>1 Convicted of felony Credit Card - Misuse</p> <p>1 Deferred judgment for felony Securing Execution of Document by Deception</p> <p>1 Entered treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder</p> <p>2 Receiving treatment for a Mental Health Diagnosis</p> <p>1 Convicted of felony Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana and two counts of Possession with Intent to Deliver Controlled Substance to Wit - Cocaine</p> <p>1 Convicted of felony Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and entered treatment in an Intensive Intervention II Program</p> <p>2 Denial of Licensure</p> <p>25 No Grounds for Denial</p>
29	<p>ENDORSEMENT DISCIPLINE ORDER</p> <p>1 Hospitalized for Alcohol Use Disorder severe</p> <p>1 Falsely documented care administered in that she did not actually report for her skilled nurse visit</p> <p>1 Disciplinary Action taken by another Licensing Authority</p> <p>1 Falsely documented care administered in the medical record in that she did not actually report for her skilled nurse visit</p> <p>3 Denial of Licensure</p> <p>22 No Grounds for Denial</p>

RN DISCIPLINARY ORDERS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020

DISCIPLINARY	
15	<p>FINE AND REMEDIAL EDUCATION</p> <p>1 Arrested for Driving While Intoxicated and Resisting Arrest/Search/Transport – Told the officers “I really hope you guys come for a colonoscopy at some point, I’m going to have real fun with ya’ll”</p> <p>1 Submitted clinical hour logs to the university of hours completed at Hawkins Psychiatry under the name of a nurse practitioner who was not her preceptor and did not supervise her</p> <p>1 Non-compliance with prior Eligibility Order by failing to complete remedial education within given time</p> <p>2 Inappropriately accessed a patient medical record multiple times for reasons other than patient care and/or job related functions</p> <p>1 Practiced as a Registered Nurse without a current, valid license – license expired on March 31, 2019, and was not renewed until April 2, 2020</p> <p>1 Failed to collaborate and/or document collaboration with supervising physician regarding management of a patient; Inappropriately prescribed Saphris to a five (5) year old patient diagnosed with ADHD and Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)</p> <p>1 Failed to complete and submit nursing documentation for patients</p> <p>1 Engaged in unprofessional conduct by submitting a certificate indicating successful completion of Advanced Cardiopulmonary Life Support that had actually been completed by two (2) co-workers on her behalf while she was not present</p> <p>1 Failed to submit nursing documentation for patients from Sept. 22, 2017, through Nov. 13, 2017</p> <p>1 Misappropriated ciprofloxacin eye drops, gentamicin eye drops, and maxitrol ointment from the pharmacy night locker by not signing them out on the medication log</p> <p>1 Left nursing assignment from 2338 to 0015 without notifying a supervisor or providing a hand-off report</p> <p>1 Violated the boundaries of nurse/client relationship by taking a patient home for several days when after driving the patient from New Mexico to Texas to find family members not home</p> <p>1 Submitted clinical hour logs to the university of hours completed at Hawkins Psychiatry under the name of a nurse practitioner who was not his preceptor and did not supervise him</p> <p>1 Falsely documented nursing assessments and progress notes for times after he had already clocked out</p>
10	<p>REMEDIAL EDUCATION</p> <p>2 Disciplinary action taken by another Licensing Authority</p> <p>1 Withdrew four (4) Norco tablets, one (1) Zolpidem tablet, and four (4) Clonazepam tablets but failed to document and/or accurately and completely document the administration</p> <p>1 Failed to notify the physician and/or clarify a physician order place an antimicrobial disc on the insertion site for the peripherally inserted central catheter</p> <p>1 Failed to completely and accurately document events after a patient presented to the clinic with a suspected allergic reaction including, vital signs, oxygen saturations, parental communications, nursing assessment and reassessment</p> <p>1 Withdrew Dilaudid but failed to follow the facility’s policy and procedure for wastage of the unused portion; Administered Verapamil a blood pressure medication instead of the ordered Versed</p> <p>1 Inaccurately documented the administration of Oxycodone after scanning the wrong patient’s wristband; resulting in the correct patient not receiving the medication</p> <p>1 Withdrew Demerol from the Pre-Operative Room medication dispensing system without a valid physician’s order; Withdrew Dilaudid from the Post Anesthesia Care Unit medication dispensing systems without a valid physician’s order; Withdrew Dilaudid from the Pre-Operative medication dispensing system at 1055 when the procedure ended at 1017</p> <p>1 Withdrew Hydrocodone and Acetaminophen for patients but failed to document or accurately and completely document the administration or follow proper wastage procedures; Misappropriated six (6) tablets of Hydrocodone and two (2) tablets of Acetaminophen</p>

	1	Withdrew two (2) tablets Diazepam in excess frequency and/or dosage of physician order
18		TPAPN CONFIDENTIAL BOARD ORDER
	1	Left clinic nursing assignment before the end of shift without notifying school officials or nursing supervisor resulting in no clinic coverage; underwent a Mental Health Evaluation
	1	Intemperate use of Fentanyl resulting in a positive drug screen
	1	Withdrew Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Hydromorphone, and Morphine but failed to document the administration; misappropriation and intemperate use of Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Hydromorphone, and Morphine
	1	Misappropriation of Tylenol admitting to taking Tylenol four (4) times for personal use
	1	Self-referred to an inpatient treatment facility for alcohol abuse
		PUBLIC TPAPN BOARD ORDER
	1	Intemperate use of Alprazolam resulting in a positive drug screen; lacked fitness to practice observed to be lethargic and falling asleep, withdrew Norco, Dilaudid, Morphine, Tramadol, Demerol, Tylenol #3 and Toradol but failed to correctly document the administration
	1	Lacked fitness to practice by exhibiting signs of impaired behavior; intemperate use of Alcohol
	1	Intemperate and/or unlawful use of Amphetamines and Methamphetamines resulting in a positive pre-employment drug screen
	1	Admitted to having an extremely serious alcohol addiction
	1	Falsely documented the administration of 200 micrograms of Fentanyl; signed out Fentanyl, Dilaudid, Versed, and Demerol but failed to accurately document the administration or follow proper wastage procedures
		TPAPN ENFORCED SUSPENSION BOARD ORDER
	1	Intemperate use of Opiates and Alcohol resulting in a positive drug screen, failed to administer Acetaminophen Suppository as ordered by a physician, lacked fitness to practice in that he reported to work exhibiting signs of impaired behavior, including appearing dazed, unable to make eye contact, slurred speech, falling asleep, unable to write legibly and stumbling
	1	Non-compliant with previous Agreed Order for participation in the Texas Peer Assistance Program
	1	Lacked fitness to practice – found sleeping while on duty on two (2) consecutive days; withdrew Fentanyl but failed to document and/or accurately and completely document the administration; failed to document in a patient medical record narrative accounts including events leading up to the patient’s cardiopulmonary arrest, resuscitation efforts and postmortem events
	1	Misappropriation of two (2) injections of Fentanyl; exhibited signs of impaired behavior while on duty
	1	Intemperate and/or unlawful use of Temazepam and Oxazepam resulting in a positive drug screen
	1	Administered Hydromorphone to patients without assessing the patients’ pain levels; misappropriated or failed to take precautions to prevent the misappropriation of Hydromorphone; intemperate use of Diazepam, Nordiazepam, and Oxycodone resulting in a positive drug screen
	1	Misappropriation of Versed and Fentanyl; intemperate use of Fentanyl and Amphetamines
	1	Intemperate use of Morphine resulting in a positive drug screen; misappropriation of Hydromorphone, Midazolam, Ketamine, Fentanyl, Morphine and Ativan; lacked fitness to practice
		TPAPN CONFIDENTIAL EXTENDED EVALUATION PROGRAM (EEP)
15		VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
	1	Submitted a statement voluntarily surrendering in lieu of disciplinary action
	1	Misappropriated medications belonging to the facility and patients or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation
	1	Submitted a statement of voluntary surrender - for the alleged violation (Failed to notify the physician and/or DON that a Resident refused continuous feedings at night on multiple occasions; falsely documented the missed continuous feedings as received as ordered; failed to intervene after a resident’s G-tube became dislodged and the pump alarm sounded; and Non-compliance with a Confidential Eligibility Agreed Order)
	1	Submitted a statement of voluntary surrender - for the alleged violation (dragged and pulled a patient into her room)
	1	Seen on video dragging a washcloth across the patient’s face, leaving the washcloth on the patient’s face, fully covering her mouth and nose, pinching the patient’s nose, dragging and flicking her thumb on the patient’s nose, wiping the patient’s stomach and G-tube insert with the washcloth and then rubbing the washcloth on the patient’s face
	1	Submitted a statement of voluntary surrender - for the alleged violation (performed a rectal

	1	exam without a valid physician order and without a female chaperone present)
	1	Submitted a statement of voluntary surrender – Voluntarily surrendered license in another jurisdiction
	1	Submitted a statement voluntarily surrendering in lieu of completing prior Board disciplinary action
	1	Submitted a statement of voluntary surrender - for the alleged violation (found unconscious and slumped over on the floor inside a locked facility bathroom, with a tourniquet on his arm with multiple syringes labeled Versed and Fentanyl and a butterfly needle in close proximity)
	1	Submitted a statement of voluntary surrender - for the alleged violation (Non-compliance with Confidential Eligibility Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program)
	1	Submitted a statement of voluntary surrender - for the alleged violation (Intemperate and/or unlawful use of Fentanyl and Norfentanyl resulting in a positive drug screen)
	1	Deferred judgment for felony Possession of a Controlled Substance and misdemeanor ATT Possession of Controlled Substance PG 1 < 1G: Methamphetamine Submitted a statement of voluntary surrender - for the alleged violation (Deferred judgment for felony Attempt to Take Weapon from Peace Officer and Assault on Public Servant and misdemeanor Assault Causes Bodily Injury)
	1	Submitted a statement of voluntary surrender - for the alleged violation (Administered Invega Sustenna in error, the narcotic count for Klonopin was off at the end of shift)
	1	Obtained Phentermine from CVS Pharmacy through the use of an unauthorized, telephonically communicated prescription
	1	Inaccurately ordered a patient who was 35 - 6/7 week premature infant delivered by vacuum instrument assist for non-reassuring fetal heart tones, be transferred to the transitional nursery instead of NICU

RN CORRECTIVE ACTION ORDERS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020

6		RN CORRECTIVE ACTION
	1	Inaccurately documented patient care in notes for assessments not completed
	1	Failed to report a nurse to the Board who engaged in conduct subject to reporting
	1	May have failed to ensure that the physician was timely notified of a medication error where morning blood pressure medications were given to the wrong resident
	1	Failed to effectively communicate to the parent of a four (4) year old patient that a potential needle stick had occurred while administering a flu vaccination
	1	Practiced as a Registered Nurse without a valid license
	1	Inaccurately submitted an affidavit of graduation dated May 2018, to the Texas Board of Nursing when the student had not actually graduated until May 2019
0		ENDORSEMENT CORRECTIVE ACTION
0		APPLICANT/PETITIONER CORRECTIVE ACTION

RN DEFERRED DISCIPLINE ORDERS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020

8		REMEDIAL EDUCATION – DEFERRED DISCIPLINE
	1	Bypassed the safety mechanisms in the electronic medical record by failing to scan breastmilk prior to administering it to an infant; as a result, another patient’s breastmilk was administered to the wrong infant
	1	Ordered Cipro for a friend without documenting an assessment of his friend to justify his prescribing practices; Administered Kenalog and Dexamethasone to a friend and called in a prescription for Codeine-Guaifenesin without documenting an assessment of his friend
	1	Helped a family member put a discharged bed-bound patient into the bed of his truck
	1	Failed to notify her supervisor and/or respond to calls when she became ill on the unit
	1	Withdrew Fentanyl but failed to follow policy for wastage of the unused portion; withdrew Hydromorphone but failed to accurately document the administration
	1	Cut an excessive amount of a patient’s hair to affix a tegaderm dressing when placing a jugular line
	1	Withdrew two (2) syringes of Morphine and one (1) injection of Midazolam but failed to follow policy for wastage of unused portion, withdrew one (1) injection of Midazolam without documenting the physician’s verbal order
	1	Failed to assess and/or accurately document the lung sounds, temperature and bowel sounds of a patient recently diagnosed with pneumonia and asthma
0		FINE W/ REMEDIAL EDUCATION – DEFERRED DISCIPLINE

APRN APPLICANT’S DISCIPLINARY ORDERS/APPROVALS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020

4		REMEDIAL EDUCATION
	1	Disciplinary action taken by another licensing authority
		STIPULATIONS
	1	Active Board Order action taken against Registered Nurse License
	1	Violated Professional boundaries by allowing a patient’s husband to ride in her car; engaged in an inappropriate relationship and lived with the patient’s husband; left documents in the home containing patient’s confidential personal health information
		TPAPN CONFIDENTIAL BOARD ORDER
	1	Receiving treatment for a mental health diagnosis

RN ENDORSEMENT/PETITIONER DISCIPLINE ORDERS/APPROVALS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 1, 2020

92	ENDORSEMENT DISCIPLINE ORDER
8	Disciplinary Action taken by another Licensing Authority
1	Convicted of felony Smuggling Goods into the United States
1	Under current Board Order at time of licensure request
1	Convicted of felony Stalking after Service of Temporary Restraining Order
1	Convicted of felony Conspiracy to Commit Burglary and Conspiracy to Commit Theft
1	Convicted of felony Forgery
1	Denial of Licensure
78	No Grounds for Denial
44	APPLICANTS/PETITIONERS DISCIPLINE ORDER
1	Disciplinary action taken by another licensing authority
1	Deferred judgment for felony Possession of Cocaine 1 4g – 200g
1	Convicted of felony Count I – Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Marijuana and Count II – Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana
1	Deferred judgment for felony Evading Arrest Detention w/ Vehicle
1	Convicted of felony Fraud by Connection with Identification Documents
1	Convicted of felony Theft of Property - \$1,500 - \$20,000
1	Deferred judgement for felony Possession of Certain Chemicals with Intent to Manufacture a Controlled Substance
1	Deferred judgment for felony Forgery by Possession of a Check with Intent to Pass
1	Convicted of felony Possession with Intent to Dispense Marijuana
1	APPLICANTS/PETITIONERS DISCIPLINE ORDER – cont.
1	Deferred judgment for three counts of felony Burglary of a Building
1	Convicted of felony Inflict Corporal Injury Spouse/Cohabitant
1	Entered Treatment for Substance Abuse and Mental Health
1	Convicted of felony Attempt to Possess Controlled Substance – Methamphetamine and Possession of a Controlled Substance
1	Convicted of felony Possession of Cocaine
1	Deferred judgment for felony Credit Card Abuse
1	Convicted of felony Forgery: Uttering as Genuine and Failure to Return Rented Vehicle
1	Convicted of felony Distribution of Communication Lines Systems of Civil
1	Denial of Licensure
26	No Grounds for Denial

RN/LVN PETITIONER DISCIPLINE ORDERS/APPROVALS

Time frame: June 1, 2020, through August 1, 2020

32	APPLICANTS/PETITIONERS DISCIPLINE ORDER
1	Convicted of felony Tampering with Governmental Records
1	Deferred judgment for felony Obstruction or Retaliation
1	Deferred judgment for felony Secure Execution of Document by Deception, Convicted of felony two counts of Theft and three counts of Forgery
29	No Grounds for Denial

Be on High Alert for Spear Phishing Scams

Scammers target specific individuals by connecting the dots of that individual's communication sphere and current circumstances. For example: we have seen that scammers pose themselves as a business function or management to communicate with other employees and/or business colleagues to disclose their personal information, login credentials or trade secrets.



Scammers are targeting nurses by sending them official looking letters from nursing regulatory bodies (NRBs) or other state/federal agencies. These scammers know the business of the NRBs and are connecting with the nurses using messaging like “Your license is suspended or will be revoked unless you connect back with us and transfer funds to fulfill the financial obligation related to this inquiry...”

These scammers also look for nurses who may be vulnerable, such as nurses on probation, sending them fraudulent suspension/revocation notices on forged letterheads (logos swiped on an internet search) and asking the nurse to deposit funds to reverse the sanction or call a phone number in the notice. Scammers are ready for such calls and do their best to get personal information or credit card information. These scammers are not only targeting hospital systems for thousands of dollars, they have also realized that there is a vulnerable population ripe for further exploitation.

ANYTHING received needs to be scrutinized — emails, phone calls, text messages — in short, anything regarding personal information or private financial information. An individual should pause and first confirm the legitimacy of the sender. **DO NOT** call the number from Caller ID. **DO NOT** reply to the email or text received. **DO NOT** call the number indicated in the notice. **DO** call the number of the organization or entity once you have researched for yourself and know it to be legitimate; only send email or text messages to an email that you know or to a number you are aware of or have determined is legitimate from your own research.

It is imperative to educate our nurse workforce to be vigilant regarding such scams and to let them know some basics:

1. If you receive a phone call, never give out your personal information during the call. Hang up and then only call a number back that you have determined is legitimate through your research.
2. Never reply to a text message asking for you to call the number provided in the text to discuss your imminent “suspension or revocation of your license.”
3. Never reply to an email asking for personal information.
4. Never call a number provided to you in a suspect letter or email.
5. Use your own verified numbers for contacting the NRB.
6. Be vigilant! Do not discard or ignore such communication from scammers, but rather call and/or connect with the NRB to report the scam.

Resources

1. [Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Warns of New Scam Targeting Licensees](#)
2. [U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency Warns Public of Extortion Scam by DEA Special Agent Impersonators](#)

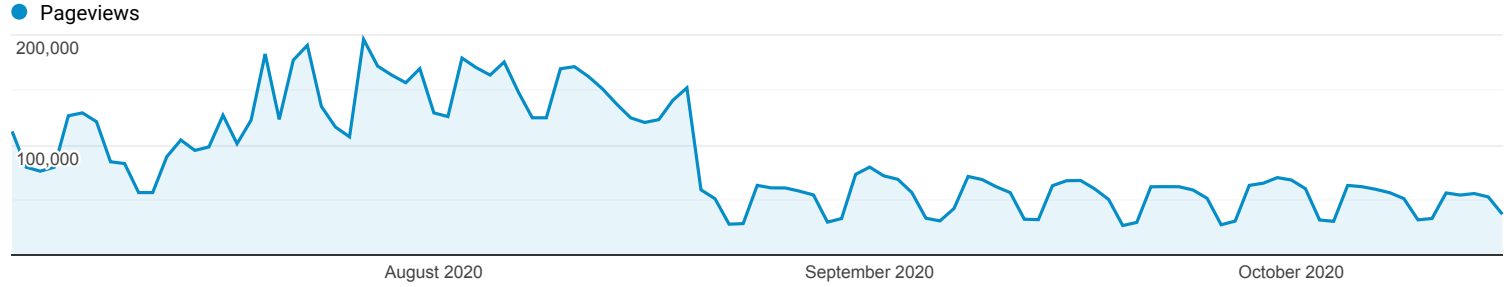
5	Education Statistics	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	1st QTR 20	2nd QTR 20	3rd QTR 20	4th QTR 20	FY 2020
5.1	Nursing Jurisprudence Exam Statistics								
5.1.1	Total Nursing Jurisprudence Exam taken	36,281	38,163	41,217	6,152	8,906	10,799	6,945	32,802
5.1.1.1	Exam Not Completed (total)	1,164	1,017	1,043	179	253	302	66	800
5.1.1.2	Percentage Not Completed	3.22	2.67	2.54	2.91	2.84	2.80	0.95	2.44
5.1.1.3	Did Not Pass the Exam (total)	6,870	8,157	9,471	1,474	2,008	1,822	1,178	6,482
5.1.1.4	Percentage Did Not Pass Exam	19.11	21.52	23.07	23.96	22.55	16.87	16.96	19.76
5.1.1.5	Exam Passed (Total)	28,247	28,989	30,703	4,499	6,645	8,675	5,701	25,520
5.1.1.6	Percentage Exam Passed	62.68	75.80	74.40	73.13	74.61	80.33	82.09	77.80
5.1.2	LVN-Candidate	6,614	6,603	5,920	707	1,384	1,308	1,854	5,253
5.1.2.1	Exam Not Completed	179	127	124	16	16	17	13	62
5.1.2.3	Did Not Pass the Exam	1,789	1,824	1,610	182	373	312	280	1,147
5.1.2.5	Exam passed	4,646	4,652	4,186	509	995	979	1,561	4,044
5.1.3	LVN-Endorsement	1,731	1,768	1,485	270	347	325	294	1,236
5.1.3.1	Exam Not Completed	80	41	42	12	8	9	4	33
5.1.3.3	Did Not Pass the Exam	549	634	488	87	109	102	104	402
5.1.3.5	Exam passed	1,102	1,093	955	171	230	214	186	801
5.1.4	RN-Candidate	16,104	18,820	22,713	3,456	4,723	6,979	3,094	18,252
5.1.4.1	Exam Not Completed	555	556	592	126	184	213	35	558
5.1.4.3	Did Not Pass the Exam	2,615	3,762	5,279	885	1,087	1,037	577	3,586
5.1.4.5	Exam passed	12,934	14,502	16,842	2,445	3,452	5,729	2,482	14,108
5.1.5	RN-Endorsement	11,038	10,074	10,360	1,585	2,340	2,083	1,668	7,676
5.1.5.1	Exam Not Completed	328	269	271	25	43	60	14	142
5.1.5.3	Did Not Pass the Exam	1,825	1,840	2,010	304	426	362	214	1,306
5.1.5.5	Exam passed	8,885	7,965	8,079	1,256	1,871	1,661	1,440	6,228
5.1.6	Refresher Course/Renewal Requirements	371	894	736	134	112	104	35	385
5.1.6.1	Exam Not Completed	7	24	14	0	2	3	0	5
5.1.6.3	Did Not Pass the Exam	40	96	82	16	13	9	3	41
5.1.6.5	Exam passed	324	774	640	118	97	92	32	339

October 2020 Analytics Overview

All Users
100.00% Pageviews

Jul 2, 2020 - Oct 16, 2020

Overview



Pageviews
9,468,795

Unique Pageviews
5,375,518

Avg. Time on Page
00:01:08

Bounce Rate
53.09%

% Exit
37.77%

Page	Pageviews	% Pageviews
1. /TexasNursePortal/verifylicense.asp	4,895,667	51.70%
2. /	1,575,653	16.64%
3. /texasnurseportal/	628,720	6.64%
4. /licensure_renewal.asp	430,093	4.54%
5. /index.asp	143,118	1.51%
6. /licensure_nursing_jurisprudence.asp	109,936	1.16%
7. /forms.asp	69,989	0.74%
8. /nurses.asp	59,886	0.63%
9. /licensure_endorsement.asp	58,356	0.62%
10. /contact_us.asp	57,970	0.61%