

Consideration of Appointment of Members to the Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs Workgroup

Summary of Request:

At its January 2020 quarterly meeting, the Board issued a charge to Board Staff to convene a workgroup comprised of nursing education and practice stakeholders to review and update the *Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs (DECs) Evidenced by Knowledge, Clinical Judgments, and Behaviors*.

Historical Perspective:

- A statewide set of competencies for vocational and professional nursing program graduates originated by a Texas Legislature mandate in 1988.
- The Nursing Education Advisory Committee (now ACE) was charged to establish a set of minimum performance expectations of graduates.
- Representatives from the Texas Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners and the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners jointly developed the set of competencies between 1990 and 1992. The original competency document, the *Essential Competencies of Texas Graduates of Education Programs*, was published in 1993.
- Two subsequent versions of the competencies followed: the 2002 *Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELCS)* and the 2010 *Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs)*.
- The DECs are required to be integrated into nursing education programs in Texas by rule. All programs include the DECs in their curriculum and many base their course and clinical objectives on the DECs. The DECs provide a common standard for nursing program outcomes and graduate preparation.

Current Perspective:

- Board Staff have been preparing for engaging with a workgroup to generate recommendations to update the DECs to assure inclusion of current practices, research, and advances in nursing.
- Board Staff invited ten statewide nursing organizations representing both education and practice to nominate a representative for consideration of appointment to a DECs Workgroup. Following review of the nominees' qualifications, Board Staff recommend the following members be considered for appointment to the DECs workgroup:
 1. Joan Becker, MA, BSN, RN, representing the Texas Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
 2. April Ernst, MSN, RN, CNE, representing the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators
 3. Tara Dailey DNP, MSN, RN, representing the Texas League for Nursing
 4. Robin Hayes, RN, CDP, representing the Texas Health Care Association
 5. Karen Kendrick, MSN, RN, representing the Texas Hospital Association
 6. Pending nominee, representing the Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education
 7. Pending nominee, representing the Licensed Vocational Nurses Association of Texas
 8. Renae Schumann, PhD, RN, CNE, representing the Texas Nurses Association
 9. Karen Schwind, RN, representing the Texas School Nurses Organization

10. Paula J. Webb, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAONL, representing the Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership

Rationale for Request:

Each of the nominated workgroup members will provide the Board with expertise required to make the necessary updates to the DEC's.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to appoint the aforementioned individuals as members to the *Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs* Workgroup.