

Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses Advisory Committee

This is an informational agenda item. The Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses, or TPAPN, Advisory Committee meeting was held virtually on Friday, June 3, 2022. Board staff personnel in attendance were Tony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, Dusty Johnston, General Counsel, and Denise Benbow, Nursing Consultant for Enforcement.

TPAPN Program

The Advisory Committee was given an update on the TPAPN Program. Referrals are still down but have stabilized. Discussion about the trend of nurses leaving the profession and engaging in remote work as factors that might decrease referrals to alternate to discipline programs due to decreased visibility of potential issues with the nurse. This may lead to an increase in incident related referrals.

The TPAPN Program Director discussed staff training, staff changes, and outreach. The outreach includes a successful gift box giveaway during Nurses Week, social media posts, and a monthly ad in the Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership (TONL) Newsletter. The outreach position is currently open at TPAPN. One of the staff members is currently continuing the monthly informational sessions to provide information about the peer support partner role.

Peer Support Partners

The TPAPN Program Director reported there were 133 peer support partners. There were 28 peer support partners without participants. Additionally, there were 195 participants that have a peer support partner and 64 participants awaiting a partner for an average of just over one participant per peer support partner (1.47).

The next Peer Support Partner Workshop is scheduled for July 15, 2022 (required for a new peer support partner as well as supporting current peer support partners). Current peer support partners are supported in part through monthly peer support partner educational groups.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee engaged in a discussion related to recruitment strategies. The TPAPN program director position has been posted for at least three months and they have posted the case manager position.

The next TPAPN Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to occur on Friday September 2, 2022. This is a non-action item for informational purposes only.