

Task Force to Study Implications of Growth of Texas Nursing Education Programs: Consideration of Request for Charge to Begin Planning for a 2024 Statewide Nursing Summit

Summary of Request:

The purpose of this report is to request the Board to consider issuing a new charge to the Task Force to Study Implications of Growth of Texas Nursing Education Programs.

Historical Perspective:

The Task Force (TF) was originally established by the Board at the October 2011 meeting to study issues surrounding the rapid growth of nursing education programs in Texas since 2006. The Board appointed members representing nursing practice and education constituents at the January 2012 meeting.

The TF determined that their purpose was to create a forum for dialogue among stakeholders on how to ensure that the State of Texas will continue to provide quality nursing education and produce safe, competent graduates in a changing environment.

The Board approved a report from the TF at the January 2013 meeting that included two education guidelines designed to improve clinical instruction:

- [Education Guideline 3.8.3.a. Precepted Clinical Learning Experiences](#); and
- [Education Guideline 3.8.5.a. Utilization of Part-Time Clinical Nursing Faculty](#).

Two new charges were issued to the TF by the Board at the October 2013 meeting:

- Develop a guideline describing optimal clinical instruction in pre-licensure nursing programs; and
- Provide an analysis of findings from the 2013 Nursing Education Program Information Survey related to required clinical hours in pre-licensure nursing programs.

Following three TF meetings during 2013 and 2014, the Board approved a new Education Guideline, Promoting Optimal Clinical Instruction, and a monograph, [Towards Defining Excellence in Clinical Instruction in Pre-licensure Nursing Education Programs](#) at the October 2014 quarterly Board meeting.

At the October 2014 meeting, the Board issued two new charges:

- Disseminate the information to the nursing education programs and clinical partners through the website, webinars, publications, and a statewide nursing faculty workshop; and
- Create a dialogue between nursing education and clinical partners to facilitate optimal clinical learning experiences for all constituents.

Board Staff and the TF held a statewide conference on March 6, 2015, entitled *Excellence in Clinical Instruction in Pre-Licensure Education* to disseminate the new education guideline, monograph, and highlight innovative clinical education strategies that was well-attended by nursing faculty from pre-licensure nursing education programs across the state.

The TF met three times from November 2018 through July 2019 to address the last outstanding charge to create a dialogue between nursing education and clinical partners to facilitate optimal clinical learning experiences for all constituents. Through these meetings the TF began collaborating with the Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership (TONL) to convene a statewide summit entitled, *The Future of Nursing in Texas: Stakeholders Moving Towards Alignment*. The Summit was held in Austin on February 24 & 25, 2020. The purpose of this Summit was to develop a coordinated approach to address gaps between and within academia and practice and optimize clinical learning experiences for the future of nursing in Texas. Stakeholders from various national and state nursing organizations were invited to nominate member participants. Over 130 nurses from academia and practice settings across Texas attended the two-day Summit, engaging in open discussion and problem solving in a world café format.

The significant impact of the pandemic on nursing education and practice since the Summit presented the need for additional dialogue and creative problem solving. On July 27, 2020, the Board, TONL, and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences School of Nursing co-hosted a virtual meeting entitled, *The Future of Nursing in Texas Summit Follow-up Meeting: Back to the Future for Action*, which aimed to continue the rich dialogue among nursing practice and academia partners that began at the invitational Summit. Proceedings from the virtual meeting were presented to the Board at its October 2020 quarterly Board meeting.

A comprehensive [report of the 2020 Summit results](#) and recommendations for action were presented to the Board at its January 2021 quarterly Board meeting and disseminated widely to nursing stakeholders in Texas. Within the report are recommendations generated by the Summit discussions. Included among the recommendations directed to the Board and TONL is, “Utilize the World Café concept, talking sticks, and “elephant in the room” for future collaborative summits to be held biennially in even numbered years.”

Current Perspective: Board Staff met recently with TONL leadership to discuss the potential for planning to carry out the recommendation to host another collaborative summit in 2024. Both TONL and the Texas Nurses Association leadership have expressed an interest in participating with the Board.

Pros: Continuing open dialogue aimed toward creative problem solving to address the challenges facing nursing workforce development has the potential to have a positive impact and continue work toward implementing the 2020 Nursing Summit recommendations.

Cons: Planning a 2024 summit will increase Board staff workload that may detract from other projects.

Recommended Action: Move to charge the Task Force to Study Implications of Growth of Texas Nursing Education Programs to begin planning for a 2024 statewide nursing summit in collaboration with the Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership and the Texas Nurses Association.