



RN UPDATE

The mission of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas is to protect and promote the welfare of the people of Texas by ensuring that each person holding a license as a registered professional nurse in the State of Texas is competent to practice safely. The Board fulfills its mission through the regulation of the practice of professional nursing and the accreditation of schools of nursing. This mission, derived from Chapters 301, 303 & 304 of the Texas Occupations Code, supersedes the interest of any individual, the nursing profession, or any special interest group.



Criminal Background Checks: The Process

The Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE) began implementation of criminal background checks on candidates for Texas RN licensure by examination and endorsement on September 1, 2003. House Bill 2208, enacted during the 78th Regular Texas Legislative Session, mandated that the BNE conduct criminal background checks on applicants for initial licensure to ensure public safety. Since implementation began in September, the BNE has forwarded more than 2,400 fingerprint card applications to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for criminal background check processing.

Fingerprint cards are processed through DPS and the FBI. DPS staff determines if the fingerprints are legible, and then the fingerprint cards are transferred to the FBI for analysis. At any stage of the DPS/FBI process, the fingerprint cards may be rejected due to poor quality prints. Individuals whose fingerprint cards are rejected by DPS or FBI will be required to resubmit new cards. Returned cards include a list of possible reasons the fingerprints were illegible. Redoing the fingerprint cards may delay the licensure application processing by several weeks. The Board cannot accept criminal background reports that were originated or submitted through other organizations. All criminal background reports must be submitted through the BNE to DPS/FBI.

Licensure candidates submitting incomplete or illegible prints have to submit new prints as many times as necessary to obtain the criminal background report. The most common reasons for fingerprint cards to be rejected include: incomplete cards (i.e. date of birth or name not listed, etc.), fingers not fully rolled, smudged prints, fingerprints too light, or poorly maintained inkpads at the law enforcement agency. Board staff sends all fingerprint cards to the DPS/FBI regardless of the condition of the cards. The reason the cards are rejected is determined by the DPS/FBI. Once the Board receives information that the fingerprint cards are rejected, board staff will mail the licensure applicant a new set of cards to complete and return to the BNE for resubmission to DPS.

Board staff recommends that licensure candidates only use law enforcement offices with professionally trained staff who are experienced in fingerprinting techniques, such as the Department of Public Safety or other local law enforcement offices. DPS locations may be accessed via their web site at www.txdps.state.tx.us. Individuals should look at their fingerprint cards prior to leaving the law enforcement office. If the fingerprints look too light (the print is barely visible) or

smudged in the middle of the print, the candidate should request that the officer redo the prints. Candidates should avoid going to locations that have previously produced poor quality fingerprints.

Prior to September 1, 2003, the Department of Public Safety requested 2-4 months for fingerprint processing. Since September 1, the BNE has found that fingerprint processing typically takes 2-4 weeks if the prints are legible. Candidates may request the fingerprint packets be mailed by visiting the BNE web site (www.bne.state.tx.us) under the "Forms" area. On average the Board mails out 200-300 fingerprint card packets weekly. Allow 10-14 days to receive the fingerprint packet by mail. The best means to ensure minimal delays in the criminal background process is to plan ahead and follow all instructions provided by the Board.

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Linda Rounds, PhD, RN

Dr. Linda Rounds Recognized with 2003 Betty Lee Evans Professorship in Nursing and HRSA Grant for Geriatric Continuing Education

Dr. Linda Rounds, President of the Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE), recently received recognition for her contributions to nursing education with the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston.

She was awarded UTMB's *Betty Lee Evans Professorship in Nursing*. This professorship, established in 2001, was endowed by a former UTMB orthopedic surgeon, Dr. E. Burke Evans, who had a strong belief in fostering nursing excellence at the bedside. Funds

will provide support to nursing students and acknowledge the clinical achievements of nursing professionals in the UTMB community. The focus of the professorship is research and education that will improve nursing practice.

Dr. Rounds, Coordinator of UTMB's Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Program, also received a Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) grant from the Nurse Reinvestment Act of 2003 directed at developing a continuing education (CE) series. This CE will be directed towards health care professionals working with older populations in medically underserved areas of East Texas, older minorities and nursing home residents.

Dr. Rounds is working with UTMB's East Texas Geriatric Education Center, in partnership with the East Texas Area Health Education Center, to develop the Program for Education and Leadership in Geriatrics. She is also reaching out to other institutions in the region, including Galveston College, Lamar University and Stephen F. Austin State University.

The grant program's health care modules are designed to provide nurses with practical advice relating to such subjects as patient-centered care, falls, dementia, skin problems and managing multiple medications. The leadership modules focus on conflict resolution, assertiveness training and understanding the relationships among staff, patients and their families. The program will be conducted over the Internet beginning in the spring of 2004. While the courses primarily involve independent study, several modules include discussion boards moderated by UTMB's nursing faculty.

In many rural areas, nurses have fewer colleagues to confer with and limited access to educational resources. These classes will help empower care providers who *may* feel like a forgotten group. "Many of the nurses who are potential users of this program graduated from nursing school when geriatrics was not a part of the core curriculum," Rounds said. "This grant provides the opportunity to give them more knowledge, improve care and reduce health disparities for the elderly."

Dr. Rounds has served as President of the Board of Nurse Examiners since her appointment to the position on July 28, 2000 by former Governor George W. Bush. She first joined the BNE after confirmation by the Texas Senate on May 17, 1999. Dr. Rounds also serves as Chairperson of the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee (APNAC), the BNE committee charged with providing the Board with recommendations concerning advanced practice nursing and education.



The Board of Nurse Examiners
for the State of Texas

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Board Meeting Dates: 2004

January 22-23

April 22-23

July 22-23

October 21-22

All meetings to be held in Austin

Information Links on Drug Abuse and Poison Control Centers to be Provided

The prevalence of abuse and misuse of prescription pain medications has dramatically increased during the past decade. In response to Senate Bill 144, passed during the 78th Legislative Session, six health professional licensing agencies, including the BNE, have jointly developed a web page to provide licensed health professionals with information on substance abuse, poison control centers, and related information. Both government and private sites related to abuse/misuse of certain drugs by lay people and health professionals are listed. You may access this site through a link on the BNE's home page, or you may go directly to the Board of Pharmacy's web page at www.tsbp.state.tx.us.

New Mexico and North Dakota Become Compact Members Effective January 1

New Mexico and North Dakota both became members of the multistate Nurse Licensure Compact effective January 1, 2004. New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson, signed S186 on April 8, 2003 authorizing the multistate compact in New Mexico. North Dakota became the second of the compact member states to enact the compact by rule rather than legislation. Maine also enacted the compact by rule. As of January 1, 2004 the seventeen compact states are Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing provides a chart indicating the status and effective dates of Compact legislation throughout the U.S. The Compact Status Chart is located at: http://www.ncsbn.org/public/nurselicensurecompact/mutual_recognition_state.htm.

NCLEX-RN® Retake Period Drops From 91 to 45-Day Interval

In conjunction with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and NCS Pearson VUE (the NCLEX® test vendor), the waiting period for Texas RN licensure candidates to retake the NCLEX-RN® exam will drop from 91 to 45 days beginning January 1, 2004. The Board adds an additional five days to the retake time frame to allow for the written notification to be received by candidates by mail; thus, candidates will be allowed to retake the exam every 50 days. Candidates approved to take the NCLEX-RN® exam after January 1, 2004 will be allowed retake the exam every 50 days. Candidates approved to take the NCLEX-RN® prior to January 1, 2004 will be required to wait the full 91 (plus 5 days) before retaking the NCLEX-RN® exam. Candidates are allowed unlimited testing attempts within four (4) years of graduation.

Summary of Actions

A Regular meeting of the Board of Nurse Examiners was held October 23-24, 2003 in Austin. The following is a summary of Board actions taken during this meeting.

Rule Revisions

Amendments were proposed to Rule 216.1 relating to Definitions and 216.3 relating to Requirements in the November 14, 2003, issue of the *Texas Register*. Amendments relate to new bioterrorism continuing education requirements for nurses enacted by House Bill 1483 in the 78th Regular Texas Legislative Session. No comments were received and new Rules 216.1 and 216.3 became effective January 8, 2004. See related article on page 6.

Proposed amendments to Rule 217.18 relating to Registered Nurse First Assistants were withdrawn and proposed amendments will be rewritten. See related article on page 7.

Comments were received to proposed new Rule 222.1 - 222.12 relating to Advanced Practice Nurses with Prescriptive Authority

that appeared in the August 15, 2003, issue of the *Texas Register*. The Board adopted non-substantive changes and new Chapter 222 became effective November 26, 2003. See related article on page 7.

New Chapter 226 relating to Patient Safety Pilot Programs on Nurse Reporting was proposed for adoption and appeared in the November 7, 2003, issue of the *Texas Register*. No comments were received and new Chapter 226 became effective December 29, 2003.

Education Actions

Determination of Accreditation Status

*Granted Initial Accreditation and accepted report of survey visit with Commendations and Requirements
Cy-Fair College - ADN

Discussion of Other Education Matters

*Approved Proposal to Develop a New Nursing Program

Brookhaven College - ADN

*Approved Formalized Mentoring Plan for Acting Director -

Weatherford College - ADN

*Approved Request to Close Program

*Houston Baptist University
Family Nurse Practitioner Program - APN*

*Reviewed

*Dean/Director and Faculty
Waivers Summary*

*Report for Academic
Year 2002-2003*

*Education Activities Summary for Academic
Year 2002-2003*

*Report on Board of Nurse
Examiners New Deans/
Directors Orientation*

Meet Your Board: Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN, Representing ADN Programs

Name: Blanca Rosa "Rosie" Garcia, PhD, RN
 Current Position: Interim Vice President of Learning and Academic Affairs, Del Mar College
 Past Positions: Nueces County Health Advisory Board, Member, Past Officer
 Education: Bachelor of Science in Nursing, University of Incarnate Word; Master of Science in Education, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (CC); Master of Science in Nursing, Texas A&M-CC; Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate, Texas A&M-CC; PhD - Education, Texas A&M - College Station
 Professional Affiliations: American Nurses Association; Texas Nurses Association; National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission; Texas Association for Associate Degree Nursing; Charter Member, Texas Junior College Association
 Family: Husband of 28 years, Arnulfo Garcia; Two children: Anna, age 27, and Arnulfo, Jr., age 22



Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN

What was it that motivated you to pursue this position with the Board of Nurse Examiners?
A desire to serve nursing in a more advanced level.

Is there a single event that inspired you to pursue the position with the Board?
All my life I have been surrounded by wonderful role models. Two of them are good friends and both have served on the Board: Rose Caballero and Thalia Munoz. Their influence, friendship, and mentoring lead me to consider this position when it became available.

What do you think you bring to the Board?
I bring over 29 years of experience in higher education with increasing responsibility including classroom teaching (11 years), departmental instructional administration (17 years), program development and expansion, and college administration.

I also bring the lessons learned from being active in professional nursing groups at the local and state level. I also have been a past active member of educational advisory groups for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the Health Department, the Agricultural Extension Service, Nursing Home, Organ Bank, Metro Ministries, and school district. Most recently I was on the boards of TOADN, TLN, and Health Department. I have been involved in discussion of Tech-Prep and health sciences with high school students.

I also bring myself, a bilingual, 7th generation Texan with strong skills in speaking, writing, staff development, program evaluation, curriculum development, and instructional team building. I am a people person, easy going and a team player. I bring my computer literacy, with extensive knowledge of instructional technology and conceptually-based educational tools.

Is there anything specific you'd like to say to the readers of *RN Update*?
I am honored to be named to this position and take it very seriously.

What do you see as the most important issues affecting the regulation of professional nursing?
Protecting the public and keeping that as the focal point while modernizing and improving efficiency.

How do you see the role of the RN changing as the nursing shortage becomes more of a problem?
The RN will demand critical thinking about what to let go of and keeping what is the core of nursing.

Please describe your perception of how the RN fits into the whole healthcare community.
They tie it all together; they lead the multidisciplinary health care team.

Is there anything that the Board should be doing to better meet the demands of professional nursing in Texas?
I think the Board has met the challenges of a changing health care system.

In your experience, how has professional nursing changed over the years?
Nursing has grown more complex but without the help of too much technology. This is where we have not yet learned how to work smarter, but only faster and with more stress!

How can RNs better serve the people of Texas?
By having more time to do what they are educated to do. That is what they would prefer to do given the opportunity.

How can the Board of Nurse Examiners better protect the public (e.g., criminal background checks)?
Require criminal checks of all students, not just graduates. This makes sure those students who have "issues" deal with them honestly BEFORE they come in to nursing schools. They know better but put it off, then they get excited at graduation time!

How do you feel about the continued progress of multistate regulation?
I think it is a good thing which needs to continue to progress!

Meet Your Board: Brenda Jackson, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs



Brenda Jackson, PhD, RN

Name:	Brenda S. Jackson, PhD, RN
Current Position:	Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, School of Nursing, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Past Positions:	Nursing Representative, Medical Advisory Committee, Texas Worker's Compensation Commission; President, Texas Affiliate of the American Heart Association; Past President: San Antonio Chapter, American Association of Critical Care Nurses; Past President: Delta Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau
Education:	Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Medical College of Virginia; Master of Science in Nursing, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Medical/Surgical Nursing, Clinical Specialist/Education; PhD, University of Texas at Austin, School of Nursing in Adult Health Nursing/Education
Professional Affiliations:	American Nurses' Association, National League for Nursing, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Nurses, Sigma Theta Tau, Phi Kappa Phi, Accreditation Visitor for the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education
Family:	Husband, Charles, is an Attorney, son, Charles, is an Army ROTC cadet, and son, Joey, is a sophomore in high school.

What do you see as the most important issues affecting the regulation of professional nursing?

The impact of the nursing shortage in Texas will be a major issue for the foreseeable future. The shortage impacts on hiring practices for licensed nurses in health care settings, and hiring of qualified faculty for schools of nursing. In times of shortage there are market pressures to dilute the quality of the nursing workforce by using unlicensed care-givers which increases time which, in turn, must be taken up in supervisory activities. Safety of patients in health care settings is a major health issue. Likewise, in educational settings the faculty shortage also impacts the quality of programs. For the nursing workforce of the future to be prepared for nursing practice, appropriately prepared faculty members must be available to teach our next generation of nurses.

In your experience, how has professional nursing changed over the years?

Despite the many changes in health care systems over the years, the role of nurses as care-givers, advocates, teachers, and managers of health care for persons, their families, and communities has stayed the same. We have certainly accepted many additional functions, but our core values of service and respect for the dignity of human life remains.

What was it that motivated you to pursue this position with the Board of Nurse Examiners?

I have been a Registered Nurse practicing in Texas since 1971. I have been involved in Nursing education since 1975. I respect the work that the Board has done to promote safe nursing care for citizens of Texas, and to accredit schools of nursing in this state. The Board has evolved over time and as merger with the Board of Vocational Nursing occurs during these next few years, I hope that dialog with RNs and LVNs and consumers through similar regulatory processes will contribute to an enhanced vision of the role of nurses with differing levels of preparation in caring for the people that we serve.

Is there a single event that inspired you to pursue the position with the Board?

These past few years I have had the opportunity to serve on the Advisory Committee on Education during the development of the Competencies document for graduates of schools of nursing in the state, and revision of the education rules. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with the BNE staff, educators and other stake holders in the state on issues related to education of the nursing workforce, and maintaining high standards of professional practice.

How can the Board of Nurse Examiners better protect the public?

I think that we have to continue to develop the systems that are in place for peer review, discipline, and determining eligibility for licensure. The challenge will be to continue to adhere to established standards and not give in to pressure of special interests to lower standards in a time of shortages.

How do you see the role of the RN changing as the nursing shortage becomes more of a problem?

With fewer RNs available, the supervisory burden of those RNs will increase as they assume more responsibility for delegating nursing activities to less skilled and educated personnel. The less time RNs have to spend with patients, the more frustrated they tend to become. With an aging nursing workforce, the shortage becomes particularly problematic as "wise ones" leave to retire, or pursue other interests. I hope that employers will recognize the wisdom and experience of aging nurses and work with them to provide flexible work systems so that they can continue to serve as long as they are willing and able.

New Continuing Education Rules on Bioterrorism Enacted

Over the past couple of years, Texas RNs have had their first experience with targeted continuing education (CE) requirements in the form of the Hepatitis C CE mandate that was passed in the 2001 Legislative Session. As the Hepatitis C requirement ends this year (June 1, 2004), a new targeted CE requirement is at hand. During the 2003 Legislative Session, House Bill 1483 was passed amending the Nursing Practice Act with the addition of section 301.305. This new section requires that a two hour bioterrorism component be included in the 20 hours of CE required for all nurses (LVNs, RNs, and Advanced Practice Nurses). This targeted CE requirement originates from the work of the Governor's Task Force on Homeland Security. The Task Force recommended that all health licensees complete CE requirements on reporting medical events and responding to bioterrorism.

To implement this new requirement, the Board has adopted amendments to Chapter 216, with the addition of sections 216.1(5) and 216.3(5). The Board is prohibited from enforcing these CE requirements before June 1, 2006 and this one-time CE requirement will expire on September 1, 2007. Section 216.3(5) provides flexibility in meeting the requirement since the bioterrorism CE may be obtained during either two year license renewal period preceding September 1, 2007. For example, a nurse renewing his/her license in May 2005 may obtain the bioterrorism CE between May 2003 and May 2005 or between May 2005 and May 2007. This CE requirement may be met through completion of either Type I or Type II CE activities. The two hour bioterrorism CE will be considered part of the minimum 20 hours of CE required of all nurses each biennium. Specifically, the content of the bioterrorism CE must include information relevant to preparing for, reporting medical events resulting from, and responding to the consequences of an incident of bioterrorism. In addition, required criteria are delineated in Section 216.3(5)(B). This rule language may be viewed on the BNE website at www.bne.state.tx.us under "Rules and Regulations."



Practice Question and Answer

By Cara Mueller, MSN, RN



Q: Doctors in our area are really busy and frequently have their office staff call over orders for patients treated by our facility. My nursing staff is concerned because most of these office staff are unlicensed medical assistants. Can RNs accept such orders?

Section 301.002 (2)(C) of the Nursing Practice Act states that a RN may accept and carry out orders for the administration of medications and treatments received from a licensed physician, dentist, or podiatrist. On a side note, RNs may also accept orders from physician assistants, advanced practice nurses and pharmacists (see Board position statements on the BNE website under *Practice Issues*). A RN may accept orders transmitted or relayed through a third party (e.g., LVNs, RNs, unlicensed staff) as long as it is understood that the order originates from one of the licensed practitioners referenced above.

To minimize error and still provide reasonable accommodation to physicians' offices, some facilities have instituted policies authorizing the acceptance of signed physician orders transmitted via fax. Although the physician's office staff may transcribe the orders, the physician signs and hopefully screens prior to sending. As with any order, however, the RN continues to remain accountable to "clarify any order or treatment regimen that the nurse has reason to believe is inaccurate, non-efficacious or contraindicated..." as stated in §217.11(19), Standards of Professional Nursing Practice.

Another commonly instituted practice is for the facility to request that the physician put in the form of a letter his/her named designated agent(s) for transmitting telephone orders of any kind. The information is shared with appropriate facility staff. Though not specified in the Nursing Practice Act or board rules, when orders originating from the physician are then transmitted by the named designated agent, they are typically transcribed into the client record in the following way:

Dr. Smith per Jane Doe (designated agent)/Mary Jones, RN (receiving nurse)

Although this second practice does not reduce the potential for error inherent in any third party transmission, it does afford both the facility and physician some measure of protection from unauthorized orders and use of name.

VOLUNTEER FOR A PEER

You can make a difference. "TPAPN saved my life." Become a part of nurses helping nurses by calling the Texas Peer Assistance Program for nurses at 1-800-288-5528.

New Chapter 222 relating to Prescriptive Authority Adopted

House Bill 1095, passed in the 78th Legislative Session, expanded prescriptive authority for advanced practice nurses to include controlled substances in Schedules III through V. The Board adopted a new Chapter 222, relating to prescriptive authority, on an emergency basis in July 2003. They also proposed a new Chapter 222 for adoption on a permanent basis. Both the emergency rule and proposed new rule were published in the *Texas Register*. The existing Chapter 222 was repealed.

Two written comments were received during the public comment period. Representatives of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy submitted a recommendation that the delegating physician's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number should be required on all prescriptions for controlled substances issued by advanced practice nurses. They also suggested that the definition of "dangerous drug" be updated to reflect changes to the definition of this term as it appears in the Dangerous Drug Act, Chapter 483 of the Health and Safety Code. The Board agreed with these recommendations. The Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice also submitted recommendations for changes of an editorial nature. Chapter 222 was adopted with these changes. Chapter 222 as adopted by the Board may be viewed on the BNE web site at www.bne.state.tx.us/rr222.htm#1.

Board Adopts Position Statement Relating to Advanced Practice Nurses

At the October 2003 meeting, the Board considered and adopted Position Statement 15.22, relating to Advanced Practice Nurses Providing Medical Aspects of Care for Themselves or Others with Whom There is a Close Personal Relationship. This position statement, reviewed and recommended by the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee, clarifies the Board's understanding that advanced practice nurses may feel compelled to provide medical aspects of care or prescribe medications for themselves, their family members, or others with whom they have a close personal relationship in certain situations. The statement goes on to express the Board's concern that these individuals risk allowing personal feelings to cloud their professional judgment and maintaining his/her objectivity. This issue also raises significant ethical questions. Therefore, the Board adopted the position that advanced practice nurses should not prescribe medications or provide medical aspects of care for themselves or others with whom they have a close personal relationship. The position statement may be viewed on the BNE website at www.bne.state.tx.us/position.htm#15.22.

Board Withdraws Proposed Rule 217.18 relating to RNFAs

At the July 2003 meeting, the Board voted to propose amendments to Rule 217.18, relating to RN First Assistants, necessitated by the passage of HB 2131 in the Legislative Session. HB 2131 created an exception for certain RNs who do not meet the requirements to first assist outlined in Section 301.1525 of the Nursing Practice Act to "directly assist" in surgery. The proposed rule was published in the August 15, 2003 issue of the *Texas Register*.

Two written comments were received during the public comment period, and the Board considered these comments at its October 2003 meeting. These comments, in addition to testimony from representatives of the Texas Nurses Association, Texas Hospital Association, and the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, formed the basis for the Board's decision to withdraw the rule as proposed. Board staff will consult further with these and other organizations and draft new rule language for Board members' consideration at a future meeting.

Criteria Adopted for Review of Advanced Practice Certification Examinations

At their October 2003 meeting, Board members adopted criteria for evaluation of national certification examinations recognized by the Board as meeting the requirement for national certification for advanced practice nurses. The criteria were developed and recommended by the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee. Prior to this adoption, no set criteria for such reviews existed. The criteria are broad enough to be applied to all categories of advanced practice nurses and outline the minimum thresholds for acceptability of a certification program and the examination(s) it offers. The Board believes the criteria are specific enough to provide reasonable assurance to the Board and the public that the examination measures minimum entry-level competence for the particular advanced practice role and specialty. The criteria also consider other aspects of the certification program related to issuing the certificate (e.g., verification of RN licensure and educational preparation in the role and specialty).

APN Advisory Committee Update

The Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee met in Austin on December 15-16, 2003 to continue working on its current charges from the Board. Its charges include reviewing national certification examinations currently recognized by the Board as meeting the national certification requirement for advanced practice nurses. The exams will be reviewed using the criteria adopted by the Board at the October 2003 meeting. Upon completion of the review for each examination, the committee will submit a recommendation regarding whether the Board should continue to recognize each exam. These recommendations will be considered by the Board during one of its regularly scheduled meetings. The committee also began its discussion relating to currently recognized advanced practice titles. The committee is schedule to meet again in February 2004.

IMPOSTOR WARNING

If you have any knowledge or information regarding the employment practices of the following individual(s), please contact the Board's Enforcement Division immediately, at (512) 305-6838.

CINDIBILLEBAULT, a.k.a. Cynthia Ellen Fromm

Cindi Billebault was employed by a nursing home in Temple, Texas, as an LVN in the Charge Nurse position; however, she was paid an RN salary. In July 2002 Ms. Billebault informed the nursing home that she had passed her RN examination. The nursing home then scheduled Ms. Billebault to work as a registered nurse from July 2002, through January 2003. Ms. Billebault started signing RN after her name and misrepresented herself as an RN. Ms. Billebault signed nurses notes and physician's orders with RN after her name. In January 2003 the facility contacted the Board Office to verify the license and they found that Ms. Billebault did not hold a license to practice as a registered nurse. Ms. Billebault was told to bring her license in for verification; however, by March 2003, she had not produced the license. Ms. Billebault did not return to work and was terminated from employment on January 24, 2003. The Board has referred the case to the Bell County District Attorney's office.



NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The following registered nurses had disciplinary action taken against their licenses. If you would like to receive additional information regarding the disciplinary action that has been imposed, please send your request to the Board of Nurse Examiners, Enforcement Division, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas, 78701-3944.

NAME	LICENSE #	DISCIPLINE	DATE OF ACTION
Abraham, Mary Zacharia	428974	Remedial Education	November 4, 2003
Anderson, Elizabeth A. V.	425482	Remedial Education	November 18, 2003
Baker, Sherri Arleen	643531	Suspend/Probate	November 10, 2003
Banks, Dianna Jane	593497	Remedial Education	September 19, 2003
Basalo, Miriam Gloria	621658	Remedial Education	October 23, 2003
Baxter, Lelia Mae	681920	Remedial Education	October 8, 2003
Belcher, Richie Allen	593583	Remedial Education	October 2, 2003
Brousseau, Gregory George	633108	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Brown, Steven Kenneth	581657	Reprimand with Stipulations	October 24, 2003
Brown, Michael E.	516206	Suspend/Probate	October 23, 2003
Brown, Vicki Cheryl	579847	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Carpenter, Luanne M.	606107	Reprimand with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Carper, Jennifer L.	616817	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Casillas, Jeanette	577179	Remedial Education	November 21, 2003
Cox, Ruth Anne	660722	Warning with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Crutch, Myrna Serna	560558	Remedial Education	October 9, 2003
Culp, Ronda	643584	Warning with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Daniel, Lori M.	583585	Warning with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Dastnai, Jacqueline Mae	582060	Reprimand with Stipulations	November 10, 2003
Duffy, Terence Michael	656869	Enforced Suspension	October 23, 2003
Dyess, Melissa	658122	Remedial Education	October 17, 2003
Elkins, Kathleen	503497	Remedial Education	September 26, 2003
Evans, Caroline S. S.	222867	Remedial Education	November 10, 2003
Farmer, Amy Kathryn	686444	Remedial Education	November 25, 2003
Fazli, Madeline Sue	444368	Warning with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Ford, Michael Wallace	646777	Reprimand with Stipulations	November 10, 2003
Fox, Ryan Hugh	664884	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Fricke, Donna K. Howell	246678	Remedial Education	November 10, 2003
Furr, Tina	656577	Enforced Suspension	December 9, 2003
Germonprez, Timothy Michael	645669	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Goad, Peggy	651591	Warning with Stipulations	November 10, 2003
Godi, Deborah Jane	607315	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Haley, Gary Lee	577575	Reprimand with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Hearne, Sara Jean	250929	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Horn, Robert William	595189	Enforced Suspension	December 9, 2003
Irwin, Shannon Sharee	671369	Warning with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Jobe, Jill Allison	609384	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
John, Frances Fayette	645882	Remedial Education	October 31, 2003

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DISCIPLINARY ACTION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>DATE OF ACTION</u>
Johnson, Ida Estelle	607612	Remedial Education & Fine	October 8, 2003
Judiscak, Jeffrey Micheal	663120	Enforced Suspension	November 10, 2003
Kaiser, Lynda Ann	245566	Reprimand with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Keller, James Shirley	503453	Suspend/Probate	October 23, 2003
Kennedy, Cassandra A.	595440	Remedial Education	September 22, 2003
Key, Tracy Denise	572730	Limited License	November 10, 2003
Keyworth, Darrell B.	673277	Enforced Suspension	December 9, 2003
Kidd, Douglas Mark	583144	Reprimand with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
King, Tina Abbott	668042	Warning with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Kwan, Danny Wong	611919	Warning with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Lee, Mark Nevin	683427	Remedial Education	October 13, 2003
Lemar, Tene Nneka	661760	Enforced Suspension	November 10, 2003
Lewis, Paula G.	620073	Warning with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Luckett, Alton Joseph	589391	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Madigan, Patricia Colleen	640326	Enforced Suspension	December 9, 2003
Mandavathil, Mariamma Joseph	522045	Remedial Education	December 1, 2003
Matherne, Dawn Erica	654377	Warning with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Matthews, Deborah Sue	536709	Suspend/Probate	October 23, 2003
Mayo, Douglas Joseph	443191	Remedial Education & Fine	September 25, 2003
McGinnis, Prudence D.	251366	Enforced Suspension	December 9, 2003
McMahan, Amy Denise	554490	Remedial Education	October 20, 2003
McNeill, Susan	459960	Limited License	October 23, 2003
Moore, Ernest Lee	665206	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Neece, Corliss Jane	253459	Warning with Stipulations	November 10, 2003
Nixon, Irene Annette	426102	Remedial Education & Fine	October 24, 2003
Parks, Deborah Shourd	244495	Limited License	October 23, 2003
Perez, Carlos E.	568358	Enforced Suspension	November 10, 2003
Prestwood, Elizabeth Anne	667207	Reprimand with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Puckett, Katherine Cordelia	655263	Warning with Stipulations	November 10, 2003
Raich, Allison L.	522672	Enforced Suspension	December 9, 2003
Ramirez, Erlinda M.	535849	Warning with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Ramirez, Luis	648667	Warning with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Reeves, Nikki J.	517945	Enforced Suspension	December 9, 2003
Robinson, Debra Stone	231691	Warning with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Roland, Cheryl Lynn	596665	Warning with Stipulations	November 10, 2003
Schreiber, Tina M.	633180	License Revoked	October 23, 2003
Shay, Nancy Paredes	441004	Remedial Education	December 4, 2003
Smith, Amy Renee	662964	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Smith, Jamie Gayle	608540	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Starks, Shelia Renee	608212	Reprimand with Stipulations	November 10, 2003
Swearingen, Mary Elizabeth	562174	Reprimand with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Thomas, Mariamma K.	463032	Warning with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Thompson, Brenda Renee	637186	Enforced Suspension	December 9, 2003
Tomlinson, Pamela Jo	545377	License Revoked	November 10, 2003
Trousdale, Valarie	651162	Reprimand with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Tucker, Carolyn J. P.	223893	Reprimand with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Vien, Debbie Lee	570651	Warning with Stipulations	November 10, 2003
Villarreal, Maricela	641383	Suspend/Probate	November 10, 2003
Ward, Shirley M.	530902	Remedial Education	October 16, 2003
Watson (Brooks), Barbara Kay	571192	Remedial Education	October 16, 2003
Whatley, Linda Marlene	225295	Warning with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Whitewolf, Faeghan B.	526444	Warning with Stipulations	October 23, 2003
Wood, Jackie Gale	501544	Warning with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Wright, Melissa	641016	Reprimand with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Wright, Lynne R.	617815	Reprimand with Stipulations	November 10, 2003
Wright, Roberta Jane	580511	Reprimand with Stipulations	December 9, 2003
Young (Kostur), Elizabeth M	575611	Reprimand with Stipulations	December 9, 2003

During a period of time from September 8, 2003, through December 8, 2003, fifty-five (55) registered nurses were issued the sanction of a Fine or a Fine with Remedial Education for failure to comply with Board Continuing Education requirements.

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VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The following individuals have voluntarily surrendered their license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DATE OF SURRENDER</u>
Boone, Christi Lou	610987	October 17, 2003
Cardenas, Kimberly	658184	October 31, 2003
Curtis, Sheryl Lynn	594229	September 17, 2003
Davis, Darrell	630588	October 29, 2003
Gabor, Rose Marie	554443	October 14, 2003
Gibson, David L.	232584	November 5, 2003
Hardage, David Lloyd	650605	September 17, 2003
Keilman, Christy Susan	640461	November 13, 2003
Lara, Brenda Ann	562829	September 26, 2003
Marshall, Kenneth Daniel	568129	November 4, 2003
McCann, James Bradley	607685	November 12, 2003
McDonald, Lawana Lynn	660957	September 19, 2003
Parmele, Shannon	640937	October 2, 2003
Sanders, Justin Randal	684735	November 12, 2003
Thorum, Troy Hansen	597211	October 28, 2003
Tindle, Patti Diane	663896	December 1, 2003
Wages, Jeff A.	626944	November 25, 2003

Insufficient Funds

As of December 12, 2003, the following nurses appear on the records of the Board of Nurse Examiners as debits for failure to respond to notices of returned checks. Should any of these nurses be employed or seeking employment with your agency/institution, please contact the Board's office. If any of these nurses are practicing in Texas as a registered nurse, they may be in violation of the Nursing Practice Act and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>
Brotherton, Susan	RN 694922
Hiatt, Martha	TL 88174
Hite, Donald	RN 536116
Johnson, Vickie	TL 87956

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>
Moseley, Julia	RN 251209
Walls, Lillian	RN 565105
Williams, Yolanda	RN 574202
Wilson, Cynthia	RN 689573

E-Mail Notification Service Available for Newsletter Readers, Businesses, and Organizations

The Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE) would like to send you an e-mail notifying you when the latest BNE newsletter is available for reading and providing a link directly to the newsletter's location on the internet. This service will be available at no cost and will be sent out on a quarterly basis as soon as the newsletter is available for reading. The e-mail address that you provide will be used in the strictest confidence and will only be used for the purpose of informing you when the newsletter can be downloaded and providing a direct link to the newsletter's location.

If you would like to add your personal e-mail address or the e-mail address for your business or organization to the BNE's e-mail mailing list, simply send an e-mail indicating that you wish to receive the newsletter notification service to: webmaster@bne.state.tx.us.

NURSES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP DEVELOP THE NCLEX® EXAMINATION

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is responsible for developing the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® licensing examinations by utilizing contributions from nurse clinicians and educators. NCSBN encourages all nurses to become involved in the development of the exams by participating in the item (question) development program. Qualifications for participation are listed below.

Serving on an NCLEX® item writing or review panel is an excellent opportunity to network with nurses from across the country, contribute to continuing excellence in nursing practice, and build new skills that are useful for professional growth.

Item development sessions are held throughout the year and include the item writing and item review panels. Item writing panelists are responsible for creating new test items that may later appear on one of the exams. Item review panelists examine both newly created and older items to help decide if the items are current and relevant to entry-level nursing practice.

All item development panels are held in Chicago, Illinois, and generally last 3-4 consecutive days. Panelists stay downtown in a deluxe hotel surrounded by the shopping and theater districts. Most travel and food expenses are covered and new panelists receive more than 30 CEUs for their participation.

For more information about the NCLEX-RN® item development program or to receive an application for the item development panels please call the NCSBN item development hotline at 312-525-3775 or visit our web site at www.ncsbn.org.

Workshop Update

Special Topic Workshop - Issues and Challenges in Nursing Education

In response to changes in the BNE's education rules and references, the BNE is conducting the workshop "Issues and Challenges in Nursing Education." The purpose of this workshop is to provide nursing faculty, deans/directors and other interested parties with the most current information pertaining to education issues. This special topic workshop does not satisfy BNE stipulations requirements.

The workshop will be held at the University of Texas at Austin JJ Pickle Research Campus on February 26, 2004 from approximately 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. The BNE has applied for approval of 6.6 Type I contact hours of continuing education. The registration fee for this workshop is \$100 pre-registered and \$115 at the door. Workshop brochures with registration forms may be accessed via the BNE website under "BNE Events."

Overview of Current Regulations: A Foundation for Safe RN Practice

Six workshops addressing nursing jurisprudence issues are currently scheduled*:

Houston (2 workshops) - April 2004
Ft. Worth - June 2004
Dallas - June 2004
San Antonio - July 2004
Austin - August 2004

These workshops have been approved for seven Type I contact hours. The registration fee is currently \$90 for pre-registration and \$105 at the door; however, this fee is subject to change.

Registration Information

Brochures/registration forms will be available via the BNE website. Pre-registration is accepted **six weeks** prior to the workshop and is always encouraged since space is limited. Payment *must* accompany the registration form, so registration cannot be taken over the phone, e-mail, or fax. If you are unable to download the brochure from our website, you may request one by contacting us. Our phone number for workshop information is (512) 305-6844 and e-mail address is Cara.Mueller@bne.state.tx.us.

* Schedule is subject to change and specific dates will be released as facilities are secured.

BNE HELPFUL NUMBERS

MAIN NUMBER.....(512) 305-7400
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 -- License Verification
 -- General Information

OPERATIONS

CUSTOMER SERVICE.....(512) 305-6809
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 -- Endorsement/Reciprocity
 -- Continuing Education for RNs

ACCOUNTING SERVICES.....(512) 305-6853
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 -- Refunds
 -- Debits

SALES OF LISTS.....(512) 305-6848
 -- Computerized RN mailing lists or labels
 -- Publications

NEWSLETTER INFO.....(512) 305-6842

WEB Address.....www.bne.state.tx.us
 -- Refer e-mail inquiries to:
 webmaster@bne.state.tx.us

ENFORCEMENT.....(512) 305-6838
 -- Complaint and disciplinary action inquiries
 -- Violations of NPA and rules and regulations
 -- Monitoring of disciplined RNs

PROFESSIONAL NURSING

ADVANCED PRACTICE.....(512) 305-6843
 -- APN application and
 Prescriptive Authority procedures
 -- Application Requests.....(512) 305-6867
 (Voice Box Only)

EDUCATION & EXAM.....(512) 305-6818
 -- RN/APN nursing programs
 -- Distance Education Initiatives
 -- NCLEX-RN applications
 -- Graduate Nurse permits
 -- Declaratory orders

NURSING PRACTICE.....(512) 305-6844
 -- Nursing practice issues
 -- Legislation
 -- Workshop Information



The purpose of the *RN Update* is to disseminate information to registered nurses licensed by the State of Texas, their employers, health care providers, and the public concerning laws and regulations established by the Board of Nurse Examiners related to the safe and legal practice of professional nursing. The *RN Update* provides information on current issues and trends in nursing regulation, status of nursing education programs, information regarding licensure and nursing practice, and disciplinary action taken against licensees who violate the Nursing Practice Act.

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Office Hours and Location

The Office of the Board of Nurse Examiners is located in The William P. Hobby Building, located at the corner of 4th and Guadalupe in downtown Austin. The mailing address is: 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701-3944. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for designated holidays.

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Change of Address

Notification of change of address as required by Rule 217.7 can be by three different routes:
 1. Mail to: Board of Nurse Examiners, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701-3944 ;
 2. E-Mail to: webmaster@bne.state.tx.us ; or
 3. Fax to: Board of Nurse Examiners (512) 305-7401.

Notifications must include:

1. RN License Number, 2. Social Security Number, 3. Old and New Address, and
4. Your Name.

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