

**MINUTES**

**UTAH  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
BOARD OF NURSING**

**April 9, 2009**

**Room 474 – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor - 7:30 a.m.  
Heber Wells Building  
160 E 300 S Salt Lake City, UT**

**CONVENED:** 7:31 a.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 10:35 a.m.

**Bureau Manager:**  
**Secretary:**

Laura Poe  
Amber Cooper

**Conducting:**

Diane Forster-Burke

**Committee Members Present:**

Peggy Brown  
Diane Forster-Burke  
Mary Williams  
Pam Rice  
Gigi Marshall

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

March 12, 2009 Education Committee minutes:

The March 12, 2009 Education Committee minutes were tabled until next month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion regarding “The Generalist Nurse Practicing on a Medical-Surgical Unit, job analysis of mental and emotional demands” and State of Utah Student Nursing Physical Demands:

Ms. Poe reported these documents have been adopted by a number of nursing education programs and questioned whether or not Committee members feel they are reasonable standards that should also be adopted by the Board. She indicated this issue was brought before the Board several months ago when an individual admitted into a nursing program was unable to fulfill the minimum competency requirements of the program. He had questioned whether or not the Board had any guidelines in place to help students in this situation. Ms. Poe also questioned if a student completes a program, applies for licensure and upon reviewing the application, the Division or the Board feels the individual does not meet the qualifications for licensure because of mental, emotional or physical issues, what would be the basis for denial? Ms.

Forster-Burke stated the individual's physical abilities and dexterity is measurable, but nursing education programs struggle with how to evaluate mental and emotional abilities. Ms. Forster-Burke stated there are also a number of students who are on prescribed medications, who need the medications to function, and questioned how the school would determine if the individual is competent in a medical situation when making decisions under extreme stress? Ms. Brown stated that it is estimated that 30% of students are medicated with mood altering medications.

Ms. Forster-Burke stated she likes the documents as a conceptual framework, but educational programs are having a hard time implementing these concepts. Ms. Brown stated educational programs have a mandate to help the student complete the program successfully, but these students are not fitting into the work environment and educational institutions are doing a disservice to the students. Once these individuals are in the work setting, it will be up to the nurse manager on the floor to work-up a plan to help these individuals succeed. This may not be feasible in all work settings.

Ms. Forster-Burke stated the schools have to be careful to avoid discrimination. However, Committee members indicated the educational programs should be protected if there are clear policies in place, if they work with the student in question, and the student is aware of the expectations and consequences if the policy is violated. The program should provide adequate warning and written notification of any problems or concerns. There should be a clear definition of what conduct is not acceptable and the program should be able to pick up problem behavioral patterns. When an individual seeks licensure and there is a question regarding conduct during the education process, the Board or Division should be able to contact the school and ask how they handled the situation. Ms. Forster-Burke stated the schools can not provide this type of information if it violates school policy.

Ms. Poe stated she is comfortable in adopting these standards and including in rule that this is a minimum

standard that needs to be met.

Ms. Poe stated the Committee could let the schools know of their concerns and suggest the program carefully considers a student's behavior before graduating that student. Ms. Poe stated she will draft a letter to send to the education programs. Ms. Poe indicated she will present the letter draft for the Committee's review. Dr. Williams made a Motion to adopt these documents as the licensure standards and to recommend that all nursing education programs adopt the documents for the LPN, RN, APRN, CRNA and masters programs. Ms. Marshall seconded the Motion. All Committee members in favor.

Fortis College:  
Carmel White, MSN Director of Nursing  
Charisse Cole, School Director  
New program application:

Ms. White and Ms. Cole met with Committee members to address the following: objectives, clinical hours, clinical placement issues, simulation hours and lab hours. Ms. White reported the program uses the moderate fidelity simulation from the Denver Colorado and Columbus Ohio programs. Committee members stated it appears that of 210 lab hours, about 29% are simulation. The Rule allows no more than 25% of clinical hours to be in simulation.

Dr. Williams questioned the probation on the Ohio program and the low pass rates on other campuses. Ms. White stated the Ohio program was placed on probation for administrative procedures (such as a high turn over in students and low admission standards) rather than low NCLEX pass rates. Committee members questioned the pass rates from the other programs. Ms. White stated the Ohio overall PN pass rate was 89.14%; Ohio overall RN pass rate was 77%, Denver BSN pass rate was 83.93%, Gulf Coast pass rate was 85.71%, Norfolk Virginia PN pass rate was 90% and Pennsylvania PN pass rate was 91.39%. Ms. Cole indicated there are five different campuses in Ohio and one campus with a low pass rate brought down the average pass rate for the other campuses. Dr. Williams questioned how much of the curriculum proposed for the Utah program is similar to the Ohio curriculum? Ms. White stated the curriculum used in Utah will incorporate very little of the Ohio curriculum. She stated most of the curriculum will come from the Denver program.

Ms. Cole indicated Fortis College initially requested to be allowed to admit 25 students, 3 times a year. Ms. Cole stated they would like to admit 20 students every quarter. There would be 80 students instead of the original 75. A quarter would be 12 weeks. Ms. White stated they are willing to look for clinical settings outside the Salt Lake area and are willing to bus the students and provide overnight accommodations if necessary. Committee members stated the clinical hours need to be hands on, not just observational.

Committee members questioned how the credits received at Fortis College equate to other institutions if the student wants to move on? Who will accept the credits? Committee members also questioned if they have an articulation agreement with a regionally accredited institution or if they offer prerequisite courses? Ms. White stated they have an agreement with an approved online program. Dr. Williams stated it would be helpful to have students take prerequisite and wait to see how students perform in them rather than admitting a student right into the program.

Ms. White stated the admission criteria is a high school graduate or equivalent; 2.7 GPA; submit an essay; pass the HESI/A2 with a 75 in each area; and have a C or better in courses transferred from an accredited institution. An LPN accepted into the program has to have a score of 850 on the PN exit exam. Ms. Cole indicated the admission team reviews the documentation submitted by the individual.

Ms. Poe stated the program needs to address the following: 1). submit an articulation agreement with a regionally accredited institution of higher education. 2). hire a director for Utah. 3). hire faculty after provisional approval is granted. Committee members stated they understand that clinical areas are an ongoing frustration but need to be assured students are obtaining adequate and effective clinical experiences. Curriculum issues have been addressed.

Ms. Poe stated that the program needs to respond to

University of Southern Nevada  
Mable Smith, RN, Ph.D  
Harry Rosenberg, PharmD, Ph.D  
New program application to begin a BSN  
educational program:

the concerns and meet with the Committee again next month.

Dr. Smith explained the BSN program at the University of Southern Nevada in Henderson Nevada is NLNAC accredited instead of CCNE accredited because at the time of accreditation, the program was a new, free standing program that was not associated with another program and CCNE would not give them accreditation. She stated they are now seeking CCNE accreditation status.

Ms. Forster-Burke questioned how many students the program plans on admitting? Dr. Smith stated they would accept 30 students once a year and would like to begin the program in late fall 2009. Dr. Smith indicated the building is ready to go and only needs to have the electronics put in place. Dr. Smith reported the curriculum is built on blocks, not semesters. She stated that blocks are more flexible than semesters. Ms. Poe indicated the Nurse Practice Act Rule requires quarters/semesters. Dr. Smith stated the blocks will include both didactic and clinical hours and the blocks are 7 weeks long, with 6 hours a day of instruction and the block equates to semester hours. Pathology and nutrition is integrated throughout the curriculum. The prerequisites include anatomy and physiology 1 and 2. Dr. Smith stated simulators are not used for clinical hours. She indicated that lab hours are included in the didactic hours and the ratio for lab is 1 to 2; and for clinical 1 to 3. Dr. Smith reported they use simulation, but not in place of clinical hours. She also indicated that clinical faculty members are on-site with the students.

Ms. Forster-Burke stated clinical sites are full and questioned how the program will address the difficulty finding clinical sites. Ms. Smith stated the program will be flexible and would arrange for clinical at night and on weekends if necessary. She indicated the program “front loads” the course before going to the clinical setting. Dr. Williams stated she is concerned with doing all clinical hours on weekends and nights because of the limited clinical experiences. Dr. Smith stated some agencies are quite busy all night and on weekends and she doesn’t think there will be a

problem arranging clinical experiences.

Dr. Smith stated the graduation rates from the Nevada campus was 83% for the 1<sup>st</sup> class and 87% for the second class. She indicated they are reevaluating the 3<sup>rd</sup> class and explained the TEAS (Test Academic Skills) exam they have implemented.

Ms. Forster-Burke requested the program provide the NCLEX results for the current program in Nevada before granting approval to this program. Ms. Poe suggested the request be tabled until the June 11, 2009 meeting.

Intermountain College of Health  
Sue Jerro, MSN  
Steve Behunin  
Phyllis Gouch (by telephone)  
Letter of intent for new program:

Ms. Jerro stated the program would like to begin Fall 2009. She indicated there would be a minimum of 20 students with a maximum of 50 students admitted once a year. Ms. Jerro stated they are seeking an articulation agreement with Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. Ms. Jerro stated they had planned on utilizing the standardized nursing curriculum developed by the Colorado Community College System's eleven community colleges. Ms. Jerro stated the admission criteria would be a 2.5 GPA. Ms. Forster-Burke suggested the GPA criteria be set higher.

Ms. Forster-Burke indicated that clinical sites are hard to find. Ms. Jerro stated they would use a simulation lab and they have clinical placement commitments from Ogden Regional Hospital, South Davis Hospital, Lakeview Hospital, Pine View Transitional Rehab, Mountain View Health Services, Crestview Care and Aspen Care.

Ms. Poe indicated she has concerns regarding the letter of intent. She indicated the letter of intent should be sent to the Board one year prior to the date the program would like to begin. Also, a letter of intent can not be accepted if the educational institution planning to offer the nursing education program is not already established and accredited to offer such a program. There needs to be documentation that the school is accredited by a national accreditor recognized by the US Department of Education and granted approval from that body to offer a nursing

education program.

Ms. Poe indicated the following additional information is needed: 1). provide documentation that the school is accredited by or exempt from the Division of Consumer Protection as a proprietary school. 2). the national accrediting body for the school recognizes the sale of the school and approves the addition of a nursing education program. 3) purchase of the building and existing school. 4). organizational chart of the school and proposed nursing program. If the information is received, the letter of intent will be placed on the May 14, 2009 meeting.

Review NCLEX Pass rates for provisionally approved programs.

The NCLEX pass rates for provisionally approved programs were reviewed.

Review NCLEX quarterly reports:

The NCLEX quarterly reports were reviewed.

*Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.*

June 11, 2009  
Date Approved

(ss) Mary Williams, acting chair  
Diane Forster-Burke, Chair, Education Committee Board of Nursing

June 11, 2009  
Date Approved

(ss) Laura Poe  
Laura Poe, Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing