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Board Notices

Paperless Licensure Beginning with the 2012 Renewal Season

Paperless Licensure Beginning with the 2012 Renewal Season

Beginning with the 2012 renewal season which opens on October 1, 2011, the LSBN is going paperless. All renewed licenses for 2012 will be issued electronically only. Temporary **paper** permits for initial licensure by exam and endorsement will no longer be issued beginning January 1, 2012. Newly licensed Registered Nurses will continue to receive a Certificate of Registration which carries a permanent registration number, the date of issuance, and the authorization to practice as a registered nurse in Louisiana. All licenses will be issued electronically and must be verified through the LSBN website. Revisions to Chapter 33, Subchapter C. Registration and Registered Nurse Licensure, 3329. Verification of Licensure, 3341. Fees for Registration and Licensure, and Chapter 45, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Section 4507. Licensure as Advanced Practice Registered Nurse have been adopted to reflect the new paperless licensure system.

The Paperless Licensure System has several advantages:

- ✦ Eliminates Lost, Stolen and Duplicate Licenses
- ✦ Eliminates Imposters using fraudulent paper licenses
- ✦ Assists employers in satisfying JCAHO standards requiring the use of primary source data for license verification
- ✦ Increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the Board of Nursing in administering its regulatory activities
- ✦ Provides quicker access by employers and the public to disciplinary action

After implementation of the paperless licenses, LSBN will begin working on an automatic notification system which pursue a subscription service to allow employers to receive instant e-mail notification of licensure status change.

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Board Notices

Paperless Licensure Beginning with the 2012 Renewal Season

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What am I going to show my employer? They always want to see my license.

R1. Your employer can access your licensure information directly from the LSBN database, which is the primary source for nurse licensure information. The database can be accessed on our website www.lsbn.state.la.us

Q2. I just received my initial paper license in June, is my paper license still valid while the paperless license system is being implemented?

R2. Paperless licenses will be in existence until January 31, 2012. However, your current paper license is for information purposes only and does not serve as the primary source for licensure verification. The statement on the reverse of your license reads: *This license is provided for information purposes only. Status of licensure must be obtained from primary source at LSBN website (www.lsbn.state.la.us) or Nursys.com*

Q3. If I don't get my paper license, how will I know when my license will expire?

R3. You will receive a renewal postcard before the start of renewal season at the last known address on file at the Board. It is extremely important to keep a current address on file with the Board. There is a Quick Link for address changes on the LSBN Home Page. Additionally, you will receive renewal notices via e-mail. E-mails are sent out every month during renewal season to those Registered Nurses who have not renewed. It is extremely important to have a current e-mail address on file with the Board.

Q4. As an employer of registered nurses, what do I need to verify on line?

R4. Before employing a registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse and annually on or before January 31, current licensure should be verified on-line. Only the correct spelling of the name of the person is required or you may use the RN license number. If for some reason the LSBN website is not accessible current licensure information may be obtained at Nursys.com or by calling the Board at (225) 755-7500.

Board Notices

Attention: Out of State Nursing Programs/APRN students enrolled in out-of-state programs/Clinical facilities

In accordance with La Revised Statutes 17:1808, an out-of-state institution of higher learning may not offer courses in Louisiana unless registered with the Louisiana Board of Regents. **Further**, La Revised Statutes 37:918 authorized the Louisiana State Board of Nursing to approve nursing programs preparing graduates to seek licensure as an RN or an APRN. The administrative rules of the LSBN, Chapter 35 sets the requirements for out of state schools preparing individuals for RN licensure and Chapter 45 sets the requirements for out-of state schools preparing individuals for APRN licensure.

Individual students may be engaging in the unlawful practice of registered nursing or advanced practice registered nursing if engaging in clinical experiences in Louisiana while in a program not approved by the LSBN to do so. If you are an RN enrolled in a program to become an APRN and engaged in clinical experiences or a Clinical Facility engaged in contracts with out of state programs, you need to verify that the program is approved. A list of approved programs can be found at <http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/documents/schools/schools.pdf>

The Future of Nursing in Louisiana Campaign for Action Strategic Planning Meeting

Cynthia Bienemy and Kimberly Chustz

On July 18 and 19, 2011 a diverse group of nursing leaders and nurse champions (proponents of nursing) who serve as members of the core leadership team for the Future of Nursing in Louisiana *Campaign for Action*, also known as the Louisiana Action Coalition, gathered together at the Louisiana State Board of Nursing to develop the blueprint for the Future of Nursing in Louisiana *Campaign for Action*. Mr. Timothy D. Fallon, President of TSI Consulting Partners, Inc. served as the facilitator for the strategic planning meeting. Mr. Fallon is well known for his exemplary work in the area of strategic planning and with his guidance, the core leadership team was able to develop not only the vision and mission statements for the Coalition, but also ended the meeting with a draft of the strategic map outlining the central challenge for The Future of Nursing in Louisiana *Campaign for Action*. The map consists of five key strategic priorities which were based in part on feedback obtained from asset maps referencing the eight recommendations addressed in the Institute of Medicine Report on the Future of Nursing. These asset maps were completed by nursing and non-nursing organizations across the state. The strategic map also included specific action steps that will need to be carried out over the next 3 years in order to achieve the strategic priorities.

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Board Notices

The Future of Nursing in Louisiana Campaign for Action Strategic Planning Meeting (Cont...)

Rich discussion that addressed critical issues impacting the future of nursing in Louisiana over the next 3 to 5 years took place in small group sessions during the strategic planning meeting. Topics for discussion included nursing education, leadership in nursing, nurses practicing to the full extent of their education and training, inter-professional partnerships, and the need to build an effective, sustainable coalition. We were very pleased to have input from nurse champions such as Mr. Dale Bankston, an AARP member and retired healthcare executive, Annette Beuchler, Director of Programs and Communications at the Rapides Foundation, and Terrie Sterling, Chief Operating Officer for Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. These individuals truly added a different perspective to the discussions that was very much needed in order to capture the essence of the vision for the Coalition which is to ensure that all Americans have access to high quality, patient-centered care in a health system where all members of the health care team contribute as essential partners. .

Overall, we can truly say that the strategic planning meeting was a great success. The next step is to share the strategic plan with key nurse leaders, nurse champions, and potential funders at an invitational meeting that will be held in December. A special launching of the implementation phase of the Future of Nursing in Louisiana *Campaign for Action* is being planned in conjunction with the annual Nursing Summit in Spring 2012. All nurses and nurse champions from across state will be invited to participate in this very exciting initiative.

A very special thank you goes out to the following organizations for coming together to fund the strategic planning meeting:

AARP Louisiana
Deep South Chapter – Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses
DHH – Center for Community Preparedness
Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education, Inc.
Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners
Louisiana Nurses Foundation
Louisiana Organization of Nurse Executives
Louisiana State Board of Nursing
Louisiana State Nurses Association
Loyola University New Orleans
New Orleans District Nurses Association
Northwestern State University

For more information about the Future of Nursing in Louisiana *Campaign for Action* please contact Dr. Cynthia Bienemy, Director of the Louisiana Center for Nursing at fnlca@lsbn.state.la.us or 225-755-7563 or Denise Bottcher, AARP LA Communications Director at dbottcher@aarp.org or 225-376-1145

Board Notices

It's About Trust

by Danielle Smith, MSN, RN

In Gallup Polls since 1999, Americans have consistently ranked nursing as number one for honesty and ethical standards. Only in 2001, did firefighters outrank nurses following their heroic acts on 9/11 (Gallup, 2010). It is clearly the expectation of the public that nurses are of good moral character. The primary responsibility of boards of nursing is to ensure public safety through the regulation of nurses. For the individual with unscrupulous intentions, nursing carries with it many *opportunities* to obtain narcotics illegally, to steal identities from vulnerable populations, to abuse the infirm and to commit fraud which are not inherent in other professions (Jones & Weninger, 2007; NCSBN, 2005).

However, the vast majority of Registered Nurses are honest and their intentions are to provide great care to patients. In fact, disciplinary data analyzed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) from 1996-2006, found that less than 1% of all Registered Nurses and Licensed Vocational Nurses are disciplined by their licensing boards. This statistic is consistent with the LSBN data from 2010. Of the 55,712 Registered Nurses in Louisiana, only 281 were formally disciplined (Annual Report, 2010, p. 15). Eighty individuals joined the Recovering Nurse Program confidentially as an alternative to discipline. The two groups together equate to 0.64% of Registered Nurses in Louisiana receiving informal or formal disciplinary action in 2010.

Despite the low number of violations, scandal and bad publicity can certainly damage nursing's pristine image. One only has to think about the sexual scandals of politicians or clergy or the abuse committed by a few police officers that quickly turns the public's perception against a trusted profession. Since the majority of us value our patients and their trust, we must be vigilant to protect the reputation of our profession. Here are some simple suggestions for all nurses that will safeguard the public's trust:

Always identify yourself with your credentials and wear your nametag – *many different personnel wear Scrubs. The board often receives complaints about 'the nurse', which turns out to be a housekeeper, respiratory therapist, nurse aide etc.*

Wash your hands, preferably in front of your patient – *There are an estimated 1.7-million nosocomial infections per year (Sack, 2009). The public is well aware of the risk of hospital-acquired infections, when they don't see you wash your hands or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer they know you are putting them at risk. It is such a simple measure to retain their trust and stop the spread of deadly infections.*

Don't work impaired – *Sounds simple enough but the overuse of prescription medications has resulted in many individuals being reported to the board for impaired behavior. For instance, a couple of RNs have been reported for getting a DWI on the way to work and were found to be under the influence of sleep medication particularly, Ambien. Others have been reported for impaired behavior because of use of prescription benzodiazepines or narcotic pain relievers. The public deserves and expects that nurses be fit to practice while on duty. This includes physical and emotional fitness to practice. For example, if you have been up for 24 hours with a sick child, you are probably not physically fit to work. According to a recent news release by the World Health Organization, medical errors kill about one in every 300 hospitalized patients worldwide (Chan, A., July 22, 2011). It goes without saying that RNs must be alert at all times to reduce medical errors.*

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Board Notices

It's About Trust (Cont...)

Maintain proper boundaries with social media – *The vast majority of nurses today carry smart phones and several RN's have been disciplined for posting pictures of patients and/or patient's family members on social media outlets such as Facebook© , Twitter© or MySpace© . In addition, posting specifics about events that occurred during your shift should be avoided. Although you expect this to be read by only your 'friends' you never know who may read this including your employer or future employer.*

Take time to communicate and assess – *Trust is established or broken through communication, verbal and non-verbal. Many disciplinary cases could be avoided if the nurse simply took a few minutes to answer questions and concerns of the patient during the initial encounter. Our greatest contribution is often in the communication we provide. We can explain complex tests, diagnosis and medical terminology that can provide relief from anxiety for our patients and families, which goes a long way in the healing process and in establishing trust. Dr. Gerald Hickson, director of the Center for Patient and Professional Advocacy (CPPA) has found that 50-80% of avoidable adverse outcomes involve failure of communication. Nurses must possess enough emotional maturity to maintain professionalism, caring and patience in all encounters with the public. More information on the CPPA can be found at <http://mc.vanderbilt.edu/centers/cppa/index.php>*

As stated previously, these simple measures can protect the public, protect your license and protect the trust our profession has earned.

*When a man assumes a public **trust** he should consider himself a public property.*
—Thomas Jefferson

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Board Notices

ATTENTION: APRN Renewal Process Changes

The process by which APRNs shall be authorized to submit on-line renewal will be changed for the 2012 licensure renewal.

In accordance with LAC:46:XLVII.4507. .E Renewal of licenses by certification, Commensurate Requirements, or Grandfathering, in order to renew an APRN license, the applicant shall submit evidence of **current certification/recertification** or **if originally licensed by commensurate requirements must submit documentation of having met the commensurate requirements. Therefore, APRNs whose certification is expired or will expire prior to December 31, 2011 will be required to submit verification of current certification/recertification in order to be authorized to complete 2012 on-line licensure renewal. Individuals who have been licensed as APRNs based on commensurate requirements will need to submit documentation of same in order to be authorized to complete 2012 on-line licensure renewal.**

Requirements for Licensure Renewal by Commensurate Requirements

Eligibility requirements for annual licensure renewal for APRNs are delineated in LAC46:XLVII.4507.E.2 and state that an APRN **whose specialization does not provide for certification/recertification (commensurate requirements)** shall submit the following documentation for renewal:

1. a minimum of 300 hours of practice in advanced practice registered nursing as defined in R.S. 37:913.3.a. within a twelve (12) month period **and**
2. a minimum of 2 college credit hours per year of relevance to the advanced practice role; **or**
3. a minimum of 30 continuing education (C.E.) nursing contact hours approved by the Board each year.

Practice Hours

A minimum of 300 hours in clinical management of patients in your certification role and population specialty at the advanced level is required. Advanced practice includes responsibility and accountability for health promotion and the assessment, diagnosis, and management of patient problems, which includes the use and prescription of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions. Required hours can be either through an employer or as a volunteer.

Faculty can use hours of direct clinical supervision of students for clinical practice. The **direct clinical supervision must be in the certification specialty.** Advanced practice faculty must have direct supervision of advanced practice nursing students.

Continuing Education

All continuing education hours **must** be at the advanced level (*advanced assessment, diagnosis and management of conditions, pharmacology, etc.*) and directly related to the full scope of the advanced practice role and specialty for which commensurate requirements has been granted.

Continuing education not directly related to the role and specialty will not be accepted or counted toward renewal requirements. Repeat courses will not be accepted; you may only claim credit for a specific course once, even if you took that

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Board Notices

ATTENTION: APRN Renewal Process Changes (Cont...)

course multiple times during the last five years. Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Life Support will not be accepted to meet commensurate C.E. requirements.

Continuing education at the advanced practice level and specific to the APRN specialty and role will be accepted from the following agencies:

- Any State Board of Nursing
- Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- American Nurses Association (ANA)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)
- American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM)
- American Psychiatric Association (APA)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA)
- Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners (NAPNAP)

APRNs with prescriptive authority.

In accordance with LAC:XLVII. 4513 D.5 - Prescriptive and Distributing Authority / Continued Competency: Each year an APRN with prescriptive authority shall obtain six (6) contact hours of continuing education in pharmacotherapeutics in their category and area of specialization. APRNs will be requested to attest that they have complied with this requirement during online renewal, and verification of same will be requested by the LSBN per a random audit procedure.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Our Mission ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

To safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are competent and safe.

Board Actions of the May 11, 2011 Board Meeting

Administrative Actions

Adopted the Vice-President's Report and Third Quarter Financial Statement

Accepted the 2011 Legislative Session

Approved that the LSBN continue to have an annual full audit.

Approved that the Board accepts the proposed rule changes to [Paperless Licensing Revisions](#) and [Revision to Alternatives to Disciplinary Proceedings](#) in order to initiate rule-making process.

Nurse Practice Actions

Acknowledged that the practice of registered nurses providing STD treatment as specified by DHH-OPH standing orders has been in place in Louisiana since 1993 and the LSBN further acknowledges that there is nothing to prohibit DHH-OPH from furthering the training and oversight of registered nurses under the auspices of DHH-OPH to provide STD treatment.

Education Actions

Approved Dillard University as a Continuing Education Provider effective May 11, 2011 through May 11, 2013.

Approved the revised major curriculum changes to the Associate Degree Program at LSU-Eunice and requested that an evaluation of curriculum change be submitted to the Board of curriculum within two years.

Approved the request from Loyola University to proceed to establish a Post-BSN to DNP nursing program in Louisiana, with all the privileges of marketing that program.

Approved the major curriculum changes for Intercollegiate Consortium for a Masters of Science in Nursing (ICMSN) from adult psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner to family psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner.

Accepted the annual report and supplemental report on previously submitted curricular template from BSN program at Louisiana College and restore to Full Approval.

Compliance Actions

Approved that the Board accept the proposed changes to Section 3419 Alternative to Disciplinary Proceedings Rules and Regulations as published.

Board Actions of the July 13, 2011 Board Meeting

Other

Accepted the APRN Task Force report.

Approved to direct staff to draft a letter to Board of Regents addressing concerns of Licensed Midwives proposal.

Compliance Actions

Accepted the proposed changes to Criteria for Individual Treatment Providers.

NCSBN

Approved for the Executive Director and Vice-President to attend the 2011 Delegate Assembly.

Accepted the NCSBN Nurse Licensure Compact and Consumer Conference Report.

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Board Actions of the July 13, 2011 Board Meeting

Administrative Actions

Adopted the Vice-President's Report and Third Quarter Financial Statement

Accepted the 2011 Legislative Session

Approved that the LSBN continue to have an annual full audit.

Approved that the Board proceeds to adopt the proposed rule changes [Paperless Licensing Revisions](#) and [Revision to Alternatives to Disciplinary Proceedings](#).

Center for Nursing

Approved \$5,000 budget request for The Future of Nursing in Louisiana Campaign for Action Strategic Planning Meeting.

Education Actions

Approved Beauregard Memorial Hospital as a Continuing Education Provider effective July 13, 2011 through July 13, 2013 with the following conditions:

1. Submit Curriculum spreadsheet for each program submitted in packet.
2. Submit Summary of evaluation for each program submitted
3. Increase use of nurses as presenters.

Re-Approved Regional Medical Center of Acadiana as a Continuing Education Provider effective July 13, 2011 through July 13, 2013.

Re-Approved Panola College for out-of-state nursing program to offer course/clinical in Louisiana effective July 13, 2011 through July 13, 2013 with the following conditions:

1. Faculty in Louisiana is to have a Faculty Qualifications form approved by LSBN and on file at School of Nursing.
2. For each Clinical Site in Louisiana, Panola is to have a Clinical Site Survey Form approved by LSBN and on file at the school of Nursing.
3. Student Application and Criminal Background Check packets to be submitted to LSBN at least 60 days prior to the student enrolling in the Clinical course utilizing Louisiana Clinical Site.

Education Actions (Cont...)

4. School of Nursing must meet Louisiana standards of maintaining an 80% or higher pass rate for each January to December calendar year.

Re-Approved Pearl River Community College for out-of-state nursing program to offer Course/clinical in Louisiana effective July 13, 2011 through July 13, 2012 with the following conditions:

1. Faculty in Louisiana is to have a Faculty Qualifications form approved by LSBN and on file at School of Nursing.
2. For each Clinical Site in Louisiana, Panola is to have a Clinical Site Survey Form approved by LSBN and on file at the Panola School of Nursing.
3. Student Application and Criminal Background Check packets to be submitted to LSBN at least 60 days prior to the student enrolling in the Clinical course utilizing Louisiana Clinical Site.
4. School of Nursing must meet Louisiana standards of maintaining an 80% or higher pass rate for each January to December calendar year.

Re-Approved Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia for out-of-state nursing program to offer course/clinical in Louisiana effective July 13, 2011 through July 13, 2013, and that Southern Arkansas University at magnolia provides a report on the recommendations in one year.

Approved the major curriculum changes, including editorial changes to the Mission and objectives of Southeastern Louisiana University School of Nursing to reflect the American College of Nursing's Essentials of Baccalaureate Education.

Denied the request from Delta College of Arts and Technology, Inc. to proceed to Steps 2 and 3 to establish an Associate Degree of Science in Nursing PN to RN Articulation Program.

Approved the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Track in place at Grambling State University.

Accepted William Carey University School of Nursing Report of Corrective Actions for noncompliance with rules and regulation and NCLEX-RN Pass Rate.

Accepted Grambling State University's Response to Conditional Approval Status Secondary to Low NCLEX-RN Pass Rate 2010.

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To safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are competent and safe.

Disciplinary Actions from the May, June, and July Board Hearings

The Disciplinary Actions from the May 10, 2011 Board Hearings are available here:

<http://www.lsb.state.la.us/Documents/dactions/dactions051011.pdf>

The Disciplinary Actions from the June 14, 2011 Board Hearings are available here:

<http://www.lsb.state.la.us/Documents/dactions/dactions061411.pdf>

The Disciplinary Actions from the July 12, 2011 Board Hearings are available here:

<http://www.lsb.state.la.us/Documents/dactions/dactions071211.pdf>

2011 State Holidays

Labor Day	Monday, September 5, 2011
Veterans Day	Friday, November 11, 2011
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 24, 2011
Christmas Day	Monday, December 26, 2011

** Holidays listed "by proclamation" are not legal holidays until proclaimed by the governor of Louisiana.*

Board Meeting and Hearing Dates

Board meetings and hearings will be held on the following dates:

Board Meetings

September 14, 2011

Board Hearings

September 13, 2011

October 11, 2011

December 13, 2011

Lost and Stolen Licenses

The list of lost and stolen licenses for the second quarter of 2011 is located at the LSBN website at

<http://www.lsb.state.la.us/Documents/Examiners/ExaminerIssue2-2011LostLicenses.pdf>

Your Suggestions for

The Examiner

What topics of interest would you like to read about in this publication?

Please forward your suggestions to greenw@lsbn.state.la.us for consideration.