

**Louisiana State Board of Nursing  
Credentialing Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 21, 2009**

**Call to Order** The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing Credentialing Committee was called to order by Gail Porrier, Chair, at 1:06 p.m. on January 21, 2009 in Salon A of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, 17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

**Roll Call** **Committee Members Present**  
Gail Poirrier, DNS, RN, Chair  
Patricia Johnson, MN, RN  
Lucie J. Agosta, PhD, APRN

**Staff Present**  
Margaret Griener, MPH, APRN, PNP, Director of Credentialing & Practice  
Elaine C. Vallette, DrPH, RN, Director of Education/Licensure  
Jennifer C. Gueho, MSN, APRN, ANP-C  
Laura Guillory, Licensing Analyst, Recorder

**Guests** Wendy Moroni, RN, NP Student at Southeastern Louisiana University

**Reorder Agenda** Gail Poirrier, Chair, reordered the agenda.

**Motion** by P. Johnson, seconded, that the chair be allowed to reorder the agenda.

**Vote** Agosta – yes, Johnson – yes. Motion carried.

**Review of Minutes** The Committee reviewed the minutes of the April 22, 2008 Credentialing Committee meeting.

**Motion** by P. Johnson, seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes of the April 22, 2008 Practice Committee.

**Vote** Agosta – yes, Johnson – yes. Motion carried.

**Old Business**  
**Agenda item 4.1** Update on the Reporting of Prescription Monitoring Task Force Recommendations and Legislations.

Director of Credentialing and Practice (M. Griener) discussed the prescription monitoring program is administered by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and is up and running this month. This program is able to track the prescriber's prescriptions and each user. All the prescriptions are being dumped into the database and being administered by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy. The Board is currently getting all the investigators at the Board approved to have access to the data. The information from the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy was used last week for an investigation.

During this investigation, it was able to give the date of the prescription, name of prescription, quantity, pharmacy used and the user's name. As

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soon as the Board investigators gain access from the Board of Pharmacy, Joe Fontenot (Administrator) will visit the Board for training.

**Agenda item 4.2** Update on Licensure of Registered Nurses from Puerto Rico – update and policy.

Director of Credentialing and Practice (M. Griener) discussed the issue of registered nurses from Puerto Rico being licensed here in Louisiana. She stated there were issues with Puerto Rican nurses because Puerto Rico was formerly part of National Council and that our Board would accept their license but now have decided to pull out of the National Council network and no longer require NCLEX. CGFNS (Commission on Graduate of Foreign National Schools) can evaluate the transcripts but will not accept the transcripts if they are not an NLN accredited school. Our Board has now decided to accept the endorsement application, authorize NCLEX (if it is an NLN accredited school) and the nurse must pass the English equivalent exam. If the student has not gone through an NLN accredited school – CGFNS will evaluate the nurse.

Director of Education/Licensure (E. Vallette) stated that she spoke with both the CCNE and NLN about the accreditation and received a lot of information. NLN and CCNE were happy with the students but concerned about the faculty not being able to speak English.

### New Business

**Agenda item 5.1** Criminal Background Check

Director of Education/Licensure (E. Vallette) and Director of Credentialing and Practice (M. Griener) have worked together on this project to insure current nurses have a criminal back ground check on file. E. Vallette reported that in the computer when a license is getting ready to be issued, every line must have a date in it. For the back ground check our Board uses a code of 11/11/1911 and is updated once the background check is returned by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety. After running a report for all the files that still have the code of 11/11/1911 there was a huge number of files that still contain this code. E. Vallette and M. Griener decided to break it down between pre and post Katrina applications. The post Katrina numbers were still very large and were broken down between credentialing department and education department. Each nurse that is considered active and has an 11/11/1911 code was notified for not having a current criminal background check on file with an audit letter. Each nurse was mailed an audit letter to complete the missing background check by a certain date. M. Griener stated that she has received about 40 phone calls this week on this audit and the nurses are unhappy because they must pay again. M. Griener and E. Vallette both stated how angry the nurses were and apologized and tried to explain the reasoning behind the background of check.

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M. Griener and E. Vallette proposed a rule change because there is no discipline measures if the nurse does not return the rejected cards based on the current rules.

G. Poirrier confirmed the addition of letter J and K under section **3330 Criminal History Record Information** for the proposed rule change

*J. If the fingerprints are returned from the Department of Public safety as inadequate or unreadable, the applicant, or licensee must submit a second set of fingerprints and fees, if applicable, for submission to the Department of Public Safety.*

*K. If the applicant or licensee fails to submit necessary information, fees, and or fingerprints, the applicant or licensee may be denied licensure on the basis of an incomplete application or, if licensed, denied renewal, until such time as the applicant or licensee submits the applicable documents and fee.*

### Motion

by P. Johnson, seconded, that the Credentialing Committee directs Board staff for a rule change under **3330 Criminal History Record Information**.

### Vote

Agosta – yes, Johnson – yes. Motion carried.

### Agenda item 5.2

Discussion of National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Delegate Assembly:

Suggested changes in Advanced practice Registered nurse credentialing (documents in Practice Packet)

G. Poirrier confirmed this discussion will be held at the next general Board meeting and will be deferred at this time.

### Announcements

#### Agenda item 6.1

Report of Renewal Process

M. Griener reported that the renewal process was completely online and administered by the Credentialing Department. There have been some issues but most issues have been minimal. About 46,000 renewals have been completed at the end of January the remaining will become delinquent. The major complaints are not being able to get to a computer and no access to a credit card. It is explained when a nurse calls with one of these complaints that the public library is available for access and you can purchase one time credit card for the renewal fee. The IT staff has been most helpful in getting the required information for the nurses to complete the renewal process.

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**Adjournment**

A motion for adjournment was approved and seconded. The Committee adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

**Submitted by:**



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**Margaret Griener, Director of Credentialing and Practice**

Approved 4/21/2009