

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING
5207 ESSEN LANE – SUITE 6
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809

LSBN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 6, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Deborah Ford, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Ms. Ford welcomed all members present. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and inform the group of the organization they represented.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Deborah Ford, MS, BSN, CPHRM, LSBN Vice President, Chairperson
Joni Nickens, APRN, FNP-C, President, Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners
Clair Millet, DHH - Office of Public Health
Joe Ann Clark, Louisiana State Nurses Association

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Morris, APRN-BC, MSN, RN, Assistant Executive Director
Helen Forrest, Licensing Analyst Supervisor

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 14, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Motion by J. Nickens and seconded by C. Millet to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2005 meeting. Motion carried.

REPORT OF CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Ford gave a brief report stating the Louisiana State Board of Nursing is now in the Baton Rouge area on Essen Lane. The Board met and determined by vote that the Board office will remain in the Baton Rouge area. At present, the Board still has a lease in the Metairie office. Preparation is underway for the permanent move to Baton Rouge. The Board members are scheduled to view a 12,000 sq. ft. building on Perkins Road near the Highland exit of I-10. For the last couple of years, the Board has sought to purchase a building because the cost of leasing continues to go up.

J. Nickens stated that she and Dr. Clark have been talking about getting a building that will be big enough for a number of different nursing organizations together in order to build cohesiveness. She asked consideration be given if 12,000 sq ft is too much for Board staff.

Ms. Ford further reported that out of the 33,420 licenses that have been renewed for 2006, 30,930 were online. The Board started online renewal last renewal season. She stated that there has been some questioning of the \$3.00 processing fee in her area. C. Morris stated that the \$3.00 is a convenience fee charged by the credit company, and as she understands, it is required by a law. C. Morris further stated that an article by Barbara Morvant has been printed in The Examiner with the intent to include information about the convenience fee.

Ms. Ford informed the members that verifications of licensure to other state have increased since the hurricanes. To date, March 6, 2006, the number of RNs who have asked to be endorsed outside of the State is 2,583. At this point, we are not able to determine all statistics on the number of RNs lost.

In an effort to help process RNs coming to Louisiana, the Board started a walk-in process and waived the endorsement fee through April 1, 2006. The RN is able to walk-in, pick-up the paperwork, get the fingerprints done, submit the application and then get a permit.

The Nurse Supply and Demand Committee is doing a study resolution on compact licensure.

In concluding, Ms. Ford stated that the staff is doing an enormous job at the Baton Rouge office. She asked Ms. Morris to share information regarding the Board staff. Ms. Morris informed the members that the majority of the staff has experienced significant losses. The Board has lost about 1/3 of the staff through people relocating and not being able to get back. There are still a number of people commuting to work. Eight people are working in the Metairie office with the remaining working in the Baton Rouge office. We are recruiting to fill some of the positions to maintain services. Ms. Morris added that everybody has worked very hard and been so cooperative in getting things done. J. Clark stated that the staff needed to be commended on how they have been able to continue in the work process.

Ms. Ford asked the members present to look at the things the Board of Nursing is doing and asked for suggestions on changes to be made, if any, on how the Board can do things better.

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS – JONI NICKENS

Ms. Nickens stated that last year, the legislature passed a law to allow nurse practitioners to sign school excuses for children. They had been doing it for years but did not realize they did not have the authority until a school parish questioned the process.

The office for LANP did not get any damage being located in Baton Rouge. They are still trying to get the New Orleans region back up and running. There have been some difficulties in finding the NPs in the region; hopefully, they will be able to get some help with the addresses from the Board after the renewal process.

This year, LANP has a few bills to introduce to Legislation. The majority are clean up bills inserting NP language into already existing bills where they were not before. Ms. Nickens stated it was primarily physicians in the past and the language says physicians. Senator Hines has agreed to sponsor a couple of their bills and Senator McPherson has agreed to sponsor another one. The NPs are having a tremendous amount of problems getting reimbursed from private insurance companies. One of the bills is for any willing provider law passed in 2001; they are amending the language that states “under the direction of a physician” to read “in accordance with the CPA”. The verbiage does not change the intent of the law; it will allow the insurance companies to pay the NPs for their services.

LANP is going to have their Second Annual Legislative Reception on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at the Camelot Club in Baton Rouge.

Their annual convention last year was scheduled in Lafayette. Between FEMA and the American Red Cross, the hotel was unavailable. University of Louisiana-Lafayette gave them one of their nursing buildings to hold a one day convention. The next convention will be in Shreveport, the 1st weekend in October.

DHH – OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH – CLAIR MILLET (FOR DORIS BROWN)

The Office of Public Health is still in recovery mode; they too were affected. Their central office in New Orleans is still without electricity. Their office has relocated to the Jimmy Swaggart Complex, here in Baton Rouge. Office of Public Health has leased a building in Metairie for those living in that area so they can have a worksite.

Ms. Millet stated that the Office of Public Health wishes to go on record and thank Barbara Morvant, Cynthia Morris and the Board for working with them post hurricane in the disaster permit, verification, and credentialing issues. This was a very tedious process early on and would like to thank everyone for their support. They are still getting phone calls from volunteers wanting to come in to help out; these are being referred to the Board. As for the record on disaster permits, they have a tally of 146 that the Office of Public Health sent to the Board.

With the Governor proclamation, the State of Emergency has been extended to March 24, 2006. As everyone knows, their Pharmacy was disabled as well and they had obtained special permission for the nurses to provide medication particularly in STD, TD and Family Planning programs. The Pharmacy is in the process of moving back in to their old site and presuming they will be back in operation by March 24. The Tuberculosis and STD programs are back functioning; Family Planning program is being phased in because of the high volume. The Family Planning program was housed in a large part of the basement at the central office in New Orleans that went underwater.

Ms. Millet questioned whether the Board has amended or revised the policy and procedures on nurses being able to provide medication until March 1, 2006 to reflect a new date. Ms. Morris said she and Barbara Morvant did meet with one of the pharmacist at DHH and he was to draft some thing for their review.

In ending, Ms. Millet informed the members on the statistics from Louisiana Nurses in Action. The Office of Public Health has a data bank of 913 nurses. Of the 913, 503 had submitted email addresses. On August 29, 2005 an email was sent requesting assistance and if interested, the nurses were given a number to call. Out of that 503, 474 (94%) responded; 29 (6%) did not respond to the email. Twenty of the 29 lived in affected areas. They are really pleased, the effort really worked. The Office of Public Health will like to continue the effort with the upcoming hurricane season. Ms. Nickens wanted the Board to know how successful this was in getting our locals to help out. Ms. Morris added that the notice regarding Louisiana Nurses in Action was mailed with the paper renewals. She will pursue getting the notice on the Board website for nurses who renew online.

LOUISIANA STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION – JOE ANN CLARK

Ms. Clark stated that LSNA will be having their Nurse Day at the Legislation on April 10, 2006 at the Lod Cook Conference Center; Bobby Jindal has agreed to be the speaker. Kyle Ardoin has been appointed to the Louisiana Recovery Authority and will speak about his activities. They will also have a panel of nurses from Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

On April 9, 2006 is the Advanced Practice Pharmacology Update; J. Nickens will be a part of this conference.

In June, the ANA House of Delegates will meet for their annual meeting

Names for the appointments for the Board of Nursing have been submitted to the Governor for the education and administration positions. An additional call for names to be submitted for the position for “other areas of nursing” went out with a deadline of April 1, 2006. Interviews are scheduled for April 9, 2006. One issue in obtaining candidates is the time commitment for individuals to serve.

The Louisiana Association of Nursing Organizations (LANO) will meet following the LSBN meeting on March 8, 2006

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED : September 11, 2006