

**Louisiana State Board of Nursing  
Credentialing Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 22, 2008**

- Call to Order**           The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing Credentialing Committee was called to order by Gail Poirrier, Chair, at 1:07 p.m. on April 22, 2008 in Salon A of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing Building, 17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.
- Roll Call**                **Committee Members Present**  
Gail Poirrier, DNS, RN, Chair  
Nora Steele, DNS, APRN, C, PNP  
James Harper, MSN, APRN, CFNP
- Staff Present**  
Margaret Griener, MPH, APRN, PNP, Director, Credentialing and Practice  
Brenda Kelt, Licensing Analyst  
Laura Guillory, Licensing Analyst
- Guests**                 Joni Nickens, APRN, FNP, Liaison - Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners (LANP)  
Janice Hamilton, RN Reinstatement Applicant
- Reorder Agenda**       Gail Poirrier, Committee Chair, reordered the agenda.
- Motion**                by J. Harper, seconded, that the chair be allowed to reorder the agenda.
- Vote**                   Harper - yes, Steele - yes Motion carried.
- Review of Minutes**   The Committee reviewed the minutes of the January 22, 2008 Credentialing Committee meeting.
- Motion**                by G. Poirrier, seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008 Credentialing Committee with wording and spelling corrections on page 5.
- Vote**                   Harper - yes, N. Steele – yes, Motion carried.
- Old Business**  
**Agenda item 4.1**        Agenda item 4.1: Report of Prescription Monitoring Task Force Recommendations and Legislation.
- M. Griener reported the Task Force met this past Wednesday, April 15, 2008 with the good news of the Pharmacy Board’s ability to hire staff. The Pharmacy Board is in the process of recruiting a program director, which is a new position  
M. Griener reported this was a quarterly meeting but the meeting was without a quorum, and because of this they could not accept any new business right now. The program is still looking at contracting IT providers to complete the prescription Monitoring program.

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### Old Business

#### Agenda Item 4.2 Licensure of nurses of Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rican nurses who want to gain licensure in Louisiana are evaluated the same as any foreign nurse graduate. Each nurse must apply with CGFNS for a credentials review. Since Puerto Rico is a US territory, candidate does not have a problem applying for the visa; however they can have problems with the English language requirement. M. Griener stated that she has licensed (3) nurses from Puerto Rico who had all their documentation and have passed NCLEX.

M. Griener and Dr. Vallette had a conference call with the Texas Board of Nursing and confirmed that the procedures are very similar for licensure with the Texas Board of Nursing for Puerto Rican nurses. She stated that the Florida Board of Nursing also requires the nurses must apply with CGFNS.

N. Steele confirmed that the schools must be approved by National League of Nursing (NLN).

M. Griener stated that some schools are approved by NLN and some are not. That is a big issue in that area because some schools are owned by physicians and political individuals.

M. Griener stated that the Louisiana Board offered for Ochsner and to have the schools directly apply to the Education Committee, but they chose to not do that. Now they are treated like any other foreign nurse graduate.

### New Business

#### Agenda Item 5.2 Discussion of National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Chicago meeting March 3-5, 2008. Topics included:

- Continued competence
- Suggested changes in Advanced Practice Registered Nurse credentialing
- Transition to Practice: Progress on the Evidence Based Model
- International nurses:
  - European Federation of Nursing Regulators
  - Philippine Nursing Regulation Model

M. Griener reported that the meeting was very good and several items of interest to the Board were discussed related to credentialing. The first item discussed was continued competence and looked at CE's requiring certain amount of practice hours. M. Griener stated that nurses who keep a scrapbook of certifying documents was nice, but it does not meet competence requirements.

M. Griener explained that a large portion of the discussion of continued competence was regarding the retake of the NCLEX exam after so many years without practicing to qualify. This is only a suggestion at this point and would start with new graduates if done.

G. Poirrier questioned if this would be an entire new NCLEX exam.

M. Griener reported that if approved, it would be a new NCLEX exam administered. The exam could individualize to the nurses specialty.

M. Griener stated that the committee is still looking at different options for continued competence.

N. Steele stated that she does agree with the assumption that the Boards of Nursing have the responsibility to assure the competency of all licensees. She also stated the assumption that nurses should demonstrate generalist competence throughout their career should be reviewed by the Board.

M. Griener stated that there is a difference between safe practice and general practice. She stated that the practice would have to be defined with minimal requirements as apposed to general practice. This is a continuous study

M. Griener reported that from the midyear meeting there was a disagreement between the consensus Work Group and the NCSBN APRN Advisory Panel. After both groups met again, there was an agreement to eight (8) specific recommendations:

- Boards of Nursing will be the sole legal regulators of APRNs. Joint regulation by other boards is not desirable or necessary.
- APRN licensure/recognition will be at the role and population level of nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist.
- APRN Educational Programs will be pre-approved before admitting students.
- All programs leading to APRN licensure including the clinical/practice doctorate and post masters programs will meet established educational requirements.
- Requirements for licensure will include an appropriate education program and completion of an APRN certification examination.
- Evidence of continued competence will be required for license renewal.
- Fully licensed APRNs will be autonomous practitioners. After licensure there will be no regulatory requirements for supervision.
- The Advanced Practice Compact will be the regulatory model used to effect mutual recognition of advanced practice nurses.

N. Steele questioned if the delegates at National Council will be voting on these recommendations.

M. Griener stated that the delegates will vote at some point on the specific recommendations but not exactly sure when. The delegates are still trying to work out some issues with certifying bodies on specific changes to the Model Practice Act:

- Prescriptive Authority
- Autonomous Practice
- Use of Dr. title
- Recognition at role and population focus level
- No temporary APRN permit
- Definition of APRN

M. Griener stated during the Transition to Practice segment of the meeting the topics discussed went from everything to an internship to having a different licensure system and educational system. She also stated there was a large discussion about the nursing shortage, physician shortage and how that will affect physician education. The meeting also discussed how to cut the physician education from eight (8) to six (6) years in length. M. Griener stated that certain states do have internships (Vermont, Wisconsin) for registered nurses.

M. Griener stated the Foreign Nurse Graduates section of the meeting was almost an entire day. There was a panel from the European Federation on hand to discuss having recognition from one country to the other for nursing practice. The programs are very different and have language issues.

M. Griener stated that Dr. Matias-Abaquin with the Philippine Board of Nursing spoke regarding nurses in the Philippines. Dr. Matias-Abaquin stated this country is very poor and people are trying to leave the Philippines by entering nursing school. Dr. Matias-Abaquin also spoke about physicians who can not be licensed in the U.S. and they are opting to go back to school and take nursing courses so they can come to the U.S. as a registered nurse. Dr. Matias-Abaquin also reported that the NCLEX examination had been compromised in the Philippines.

**Announcements 6.1** Report of reinstatements for RNs who failed to renew 2008 license.

M. Griener reported there were 2349 nurses that did not renew their licenses.

G. Poirrier stated the number of nurses that did not renew seemed like a large number and wanted to know if this was an increase from last year.

M. Griener stated the numbers have increased due to the on-line licensure renewal. Each nurse was sent a post card as well as an email reminder regarding mandatory on-line renewal. M. Griener stated there are large numbers of reinstatements being processed and the date for reinstatements without disciplinary action has been lengthened to April 15, 2008.

G. Poirrier questioned if there was a form for the eighteen (18) nurses that are now retired and will not reinstate to change the status of their license.

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M. Griener stated the nurse is supposed to notify the Board of the status change. The nurse can change to Inactive status, or pay to Retire their nursing license, during the renewal process on-line. However, many nurses fail to notify the board and just let their license become delinquent. This initiates the delinquent license letters advising the nurse to contact the Board office.

M. Griener stated that during this period, if the Board staff receives information regarding a nurse who is deceased, we update our files immediately.

**Executive Session** The Committee went into Executive Session at 1:35 pm to start review of agenda 5.1 for review of credentials for RN reinstatement applicant Janice Evans Hamilton.

**Motion** by G. Poirrier, seconded, that the Committee go into Executive Session.

**Vote** Harper - yes, N. Steele – yes, Motion carried.

The Committee came out of Executive Session at 2:10pm

**Agenda item 5.1**

**Motion** by N. Steele, seconded, approval for temporary permit to complete nursing practicum for the completion of the North Dakota refresher course of individual Janice Evans Hamilton. Upon completion of RN Refresher course, RN license can be reinstated based on revised rules, LAC 46:XLVII.3335.D.

**Adjournment** A motion for adjournment was approved and seconded. The Committee adjourned at 2:12 p.m.



**Submitted by:**

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

Approved 1/21/2009