

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

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

Roll Call **Committee Members Present**
Lucie J. Agosta, PhD, APRN, Chair
Patricia Johnson, MN, RN
Bonnie B. Johnson, RN, MSN
Carllene MacMillan, RN, MN

Staff Present
Margaret Griener, MPH, APRN, PNP, Director of Credentialing & Practice
Jennifer C. Gueho, MSN, APRN, ANP-C
Laura Guillory, Licensing Analyst, Recorder

Guests Tabitha Jones-Thomas, #1 PassReview, LLC
Keeley Dupuy, #1 PassReview, LLC

Reorder Agenda Lucie Agosta, Chair, reordered the agenda.

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

Vote B. Johnson – yes, C. MacMillan - yes. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes The Committee reviewed the minutes of the January 21, 2009 Credentialing Committee meeting.

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

Vote P. Johnson – yes, B. Johnson – yes, C. MacMillan - 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 held a quarterly meeting on August 8, 2008. This program monitors the prescribing of controlled substances. The program also monitors patients who “doctor shop” and has become a valuable tool for both the physicians and nurses. The advantage of this program for the LSBN is that it helps monitor prescriber’s patterns. The information from this program was used in a large case just recently that is under investigation and was found to be most helpful. The law enforcement

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committee members that are on the Prescription Monitoring Task Force Program Board have already noticed a decrease in controlled substance abuse in Louisiana. Just in the short time the monitoring program has been up and running, Louisiana has dropped from #1 ranked to #4 ranked in the distribution of Oxycontin.

Credentialing Manager (J. Gueho) stated that not only is the Pharmacy Board monitoring controlled substances but also some of the most commonly used medications as well – such as Soma and Flexeril.

M. Griener stated this program has continued to help decrease prescription drug abuse.

Agenda item 4.2 Criminal Background Check – new equipment

M. Griener stated the Board has received the new equipment and it is currently being installed. Right now everything is done with a paper application that takes approximately 6 weeks. Unfortunately, the Board purchased a lap top that was going to be brought to the schools for the students to complete the fingerprint application on site but the lap top program will only hold 25 students information. The equipment that is available at the Board is in process of installation and must have the appropriate level of security maintained. M.Griener will keep the Board posted.

New Business

Agenda item 5.1 Discussion of Refresher Courses – other states programs and requirements

M. Griener discussed that we are getting nurses who want to reinstate their RN license and completed other refresher courses but the courses are not approved by the LSBN. She and B. Morvant (LSBN Executive Director) reviewed the rules on what is required for the refresher course and determined the rules are not very detailed. M. Griener discussed what the rules currently state about refresher courses:

J. Refresher Course. To be approved by the board, a refresher course shall meet the following criteria.

1. The sponsoring institution shall have access to adequate facilities, resources and qualified educational staff to implement both the required theoretical and clinical components of the refresher course.
2. The course shall be based on clearly stated objectives which are realistic for the time allotted in the course and appropriate for the course content.
3. The course content shall provide a review of basic nursing care concepts, principles, and skills related to patients across the life cycle.
4. The sponsoring institution shall submit the course syllabus for approval at least 90 calendar days prior to implementation of the course, or submit evidence of approval of the course by another board of nursing or by the ANCC at least 20 days prior to the beginning of the course.
5. Fees payable upon submission of a refresher course for approval are \$400 with \$100 being non-refundable.

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M. Griener explained the only approved refresher course in Louisiana is Delgado College which was just approved within the last year. Other programs that have been approved are Washington State, North Dakota and South Dakota. North and South Dakota programs are offered online and all three programs are run by the State Nurses Association. Both of the Dakota programs offer testing after each module then move onto clinicals and after clinicals the preceptorship is approved.

M. Griener also stated some nurses are reinstated based on the continuing education requirement and not necessarily the refresher courses. This approval can be done as long as the continuing education requirements are approved by a certifying organization or another state board of nursing. Many nurses live in a state where they have never been licensed and want to get licensed in that new state. They must complete a reinstatement application to make their expired license current so they can endorse in the new state. The only time a refresher course is required is when the nurse has been expired for more than 4 years. More and more people are reinstating due to the economic downturn.

M. Griener stated that her recommendation would be for her to create a recommended rule and policy change to be presented at the next credentialing meeting.

P. Johnson questioned if the committee needs to recommend a rule and policy change or just follow what the compact states currently offer.

B. Johnson confirmed that more specific rules need to be made regarding a refresher course approved by the LSBN. The rules must be more specific on the fundamentals of the program and that the program will be held accountable for the standards required.

Motion / 5.1

by P. Johnson, seconded, that the Board staff research and propose a revision of the rules regarding reinstatement of the RN license and identify essential core concepts for RN refresher courses.

Vote

P. Johnson – yes, B. Johnson – yes, C. MacMillan - yes. Motion carried.

Agenda item 5.2

Request for approval of RN Refresher Course from #1 PassReview

K. Dupuy from #1 PassReview, LLC discussed that the #1PassReview program is available for medical surgical review for current nursing students and students at the graduate level. After doing research of different refresher courses that are found in other states, it was determined that Louisiana does not offer this specific type of refresher course to nurses. Delta College is attempting to start a refresher course but nothing has been finalized as of yet. She explained this program would be something that is offered throughout the year and with the economy changes that are currently taking place it would be a huge asset. The review course would be something that would

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be more catered to the students needs and meeting the Board's requirements. The assessment would be completed in the beginning and the clinical components would be more individualized once the assessment is completed.

T. Jones-Thomas from #1 PassReview, LLC also stated they would bring the nurses in prior to the practicum experience and make sure the clinical setting is approved with the preceptorship. This is something that sets the #1 PassReview, LLC program apart from the North Dakota program that is currently being offered.

K. Dupuy explained that each student will complete a module and then take an exam based on that completed module. Each student must successfully pass the exam before moving on to the next module.

T. Jones-Thomas explained that each module is self paced before progressing but the entire program must be completed within 1 year.

Motion / 5.2

by B. Johnson , seconded, for the Board to approve the #1 PassReview Refresher Course, LLC and to add the course to the Board's list of approved refresher courses.

Vote

P. Johnson – yes, B. Johnson – yes, C. MacMillan - yes. Motion carried.

Agenda item 5.3

RN Refresher Courses approved by the LSBN and other Board's of Nursing

This item was discussed in Agenda Item 5.2 regarding other Board's of Nursing approved refresher courses for Washington State University, North Dakota University and South Dakota University.

Agenda item 5.4

Discussion of the rules concerning Prescriptive Authority from the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.

M. Griener stated this letter was received at the LSBN office last week and was added to the agenda just this morning. The summary of the letter states the approval time for the prescriptive authority application with a collaborative practice agreement takes too long to process. Each time a nurse changes positions or adds new collaborating physicians the paperwork must be submitted and processed.

P. Johnson questioned if there is ever a time when a prescriptive authority application has been denied.

M. Griener stated the application can be denied if the application is for controlled substances and the practice setting is a pain management setting or if the physician has a restricted medical license.

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M. Griener explained that Sophia Thomas, President of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, called her before she sent the letter and explained the concern from the nurse practitioners. Dr. N. Steele (LSBN President) explained to Ms. Thomas to send in a letter addressing the issues that are of concern and it would be addressed by the Board.

Ms. Griener explained the turn-around time has changed due to the fact of hiring a Credentialing Manager position being held by J. Gueho APRN. Right now the approval letters are generally sent out in 7 – 9 days but can be held up if not all the proper paperwork is submitted. In the letter it talks about the state of Alaska and the rules regarding prescriptive authority but Alaska is an independent practice state and Louisiana is not. Ms. Griener also stated that if she receives a call from the nurse or physician who is in tremendous need of getting the prescriptive authority approval quickly – she generally gets it done as long as the paperwork is complete.

J. Gueho also stated the process can be difficult when the nurse is moving from one practice site to another but with all the proper paperwork submitted speeds up the process tremendously. Generally the approvals are sent more quickly than 9 business days as long as the application is considered complete.

P. Johnson stated she agreed the Board has done a great job in getting out the approvals as quickly as possible but her concern would be the difficulty to change current process of approval for prescriptive authority. Discussion ensued regarding prescriptive authority processes in other states and in Louisiana.

L. Agosta stated in paragraph four of the letter stated the NP must have an approved collaborative practice agreement on file prior to the NP being allowed to practice at the new site. This hinders the fluid transition of sites for the NP– there is not much that the Board can do about that because Louisiana is not an independent practice state. She also questioned if there were any other states that are comparable to Louisiana in the rules and regulations for prescriptive authority.

M. Griener stated that she is not aware of any other states that have the same requirements as Louisiana for prescriptive authority. She has previously spoken with the Kentucky Board of Nursing because they are similar to Louisiana in population and rural areas. Kentucky does not require the nurse practitioner to send in a collaborative practice agreement. Kentucky does require a collaborative practice agreement be kept on site at all times but nothing is submitted to the Kentucky Board of Nursing for approval.

L. Agosta questioned if Kentucky has a standard collaborative practice agreement the nurses keep on site.

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M. Griener could not confirm if Kentucky does or does not have a standard collaborative practice agreement available but it must have certain requirements in the agreement to be compliant.

Motion / 5.4

by P. Johnson, seconded, that the Board staff draft a letter of response to the Louisiana Association Nurse Practitioners letter dated April 13, 2009. The letter should address that the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners request would actually require a change in the Nurse Practice Act, which the Board does not support at this time.

Vote

P. Johnson – yes, B. Johnson – yes, C. MacMillan - yes. Motion carried.

Agenda item 5.5

Licensure Verification (NurSys Information – Data Entry)

M. Griener confirmed the Board previously had voted to change the verification system and now have an electronic verification system with NurSys. If a nurse wants to have their RN Louisiana license verified to another state they would simply go to www.nursys.com and pay the \$30.00 verification fee to have the information available online for other states. This system can also be used by employers to verify if the nurse has a current RN Louisiana by going to the website as well. Some nurses information has never been entered into the current system and could be verified online which would mean the “yellow card” would have to be pulled. The Board approved our office to hire temporary personnel to help pull the “yellow cards” and enter the information in the current system so it could be downloaded to NurSys and be available for online verification.

Announcements

Agenda item 6.1

Report of Reinstatement Walk-Ins Numbers for Non-Renewal of Licenses -105 Walk-Ins in February 2009

M. Griener confirmed that during the month of February our Board staff approved 105 walk-ins who did not complete the renewal process by January 31, 2009.

Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was approved and seconded. The Committee adjourned at 2:32 p.m.



Submitted by:

Margaret Griener, Director of Credentialing and Practice

Approved 10/20/2009