

**SFY 2014**

# **Ohio Board of Nursing Annual Report**



**July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014**

# Ohio Board of Nursing – Annual Report 2014

## Table of Contents

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Letter to the Governor .....	<b>3</b>
Board Overview and Mission .....	<b>4</b>
Demonstrated Track Record, National Recognition, Innovation and Transformation	
Contributions to Statewide Initiatives .....	<b>7</b>
Nursing and Primary Care Workforce Data, Nursing Education Grant Program, Patient Centered Medical Homes, Nursing Education Assistance Loan Program, Ohio Action Coalition, Veterans, Service Members and Spouses, Opiate and Other Prescription Drug Abuse, and Human Trafficking	
Licensure and Certification .....	<b>11</b>
Nursing Education .....	<b>13</b>
Compliance, Discipline and Monitoring .....	<b>14</b>
Alternative to Discipline Programs and Monitoring Compliance	
Continuing Education .....	<b>17</b>
Regulatory Clarity and a Common Sense Approach .....	<b>18</b>
Technology .....	<b>22</b>
Appendix A – Board Member Roster .....	<b>23</b>
Appendix B – Financial Report .....	<b>24</b>
Appendix C – Board Staff Roster .....	<b>25</b>



# Ohio Board of Nursing

[www.nursing.ohio.gov](http://www.nursing.ohio.gov)

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September 29, 2014

The Honorable John Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio  
77 South High Street, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Kasich:

On behalf of the Ohio Board of Nursing, we are pleased to submit this Annual Report for state fiscal year 2014, in accordance with Section 4723.06 of the Revised Code. The report highlights the work of the Board members and staff. The Board is responsible for regulating over 270,000 licenses and certificates and 178 pre-licensure nursing education programs.

In accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4723., during fiscal year 2014, the Board issued and renewed licenses and certificates to qualified individuals; surveyed and approved education and training programs, and disciplined and monitored the practice of licensees and certificate holders who violated the Nurse Practice Act or administrative rules regulating practice.

We believe this Annual Report details the Nursing Board's important and significant role in positively impacting the safety of nursing care, highlights innovative and collaborative initiatives, and demonstrates regulatory excellence that has been achieved by a lean and efficient Board with a common sense approach to meeting regulatory challenges while protecting the public.

Respectfully yours,

Handwritten signature of Judith Church, DHA, MSN, RN.

Judith Church, DHA, MSN, RN  
President

Handwritten signature of Betsy Houchen.

Betsy Houchen, JD, MS, RN  
Executive Director

## Board Overview & Mission

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### Our Mission

The mission of the Ohio Board of Nursing is to actively safeguard the health of the public through the effective regulation of nursing care.

### Board Overview

The Board's top priorities are to efficiently license the nursing workforce and remove dangerous practitioners from practice in a timely manner to protect Ohio patients. Public protection is critical, as nursing touches virtually every citizen of Ohio. The Board regulates over 270,000 licenses and certificates, an increase from 233,000 in 2009. Each fiscal year since 2009, newly licensed registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) in Ohio have increased by an average of 15,233.

### Demonstrated Track Record and Nationally Recognized

The Board has been nationally recognized for a demonstrated track record of ensuring public protection, funding initiatives to combat the nursing shortage, implementing innovative programs for patient safety, and regulating the largest number of licensed professionals of any agency in the State of Ohio.

#### ➤ **Recognition**

The Board is nationally recognized for regulatory excellence.

- ✓ Executive Director Betsy Houchen is a recent recipient of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) R. Louise McManus Award. The award is described as the most prestigious of NCSBN's honors for individuals who have made substantial contributions to the improvement of nursing regulation and impacted public policy to enhance the health and well being of individuals and the community.
- ✓ The NCSBN Leadership Succession Committee selected Board Member Sue Morano to present a leadership development conference call for state boards of nursing across the country. Her leadership spans a career as a nurse, Board member, and State Senator.
- ✓ Board staff were requested to participate in numerous national work groups for the purpose of developing best practices that will be recommended for adoption by state boards of nursing:
  - Board Compliance Manager, Lisa Ferguson-Ramos, participated as a member of the NCSBN Discipline Subcommittee to develop recommendations for best practices in the areas of investigation and case resolution.

- Board Licensure Manager, Lesleigh Robinson, participated as a member of the NCSBN Licensure Task Force to identify best practices for licensing processes.
- Board Practice and Education Manager, Lisa Emrich, served on a panel of practice experts to review and provide comments and suggestions for newly developed NCSBN “Emerging Practice Regulatory Guidelines.”
- ✓ Board Legislative Liaison, Tom Dilling, presented “Effective Messaging to Community Groups and to the General Public—Case Study: Ohio” for the Citizen Advocacy Center conference in Washington, DC.
- ✓ Board staff were requested to meet with nursing regulatory representatives who visited the Board office from Botswana, the Dean of Ohio University School of Nursing, and a representative of the American International Health Alliance, a federal program for the international development of health affairs.

### ➤ **Innovation**

The Board is known as an innovative regulatory board based on the development and implementation of new approaches for patient safety and public protection.

- ✓ The Patient Safety Initiative developed by the Board focuses on patient safety by emphasizing complaint reporting, remediation, modification of systems, and accountability. Components of the Initiative include employer-sponsored practice remediation; incorporation of Just Culture in the review of practice complaints; creation of a statewide patient safety database and contributing to a national patient safety database; and the increased use of the alternative to discipline program for practice.
- ✓ The Board Hearing Committee conducted administrative hearings to move hearing cases through the Chapter 119. hearing process as quickly as possible. The Board offered Settlement Conferences for post-notice disciplinary cases and initiated pre-notice conferences to expedite the resolution of cases.
- ✓ Ohio is one of eighteen state nursing boards participating and submitting TERCAP data to establish a national database regarding patient safety and practice breakdown. TERCAP (Taxonomy of Error, Root Cause Analysis and Practice-Responsibility) is the tool used to gather data regarding nursing practice breakdown.
- ✓ Ohio is one of three states participating in the three-year NCSBN Transition to Practice Study, designed to examine the effect of a Transition to Practice model on patient safety and quality outcomes based on the practice of newly licensed nurses transitioning to practice.

### ➤ **Transformation**

The LeanOhio Licensure/Renewal Kaizen Event, held November 4-8, 2013, was groundbreaking and helped begin the transformation of licensure and renewal processes. Our team, composed of Board staff from licensure, renewal, compliance, IT, and administration, worked with DAS/IT staff, LeanOhio facilitators, and Subject Matter Experts to create new lean processes:

- ✓ Starting with the 2014 renewal cycle, all nurses are required to renew their licenses online.
- ✓ To eliminate thousands of calls, faxes, and emails, Board IT staff, in conjunction with DAS, developed a secure web based, look-up system so renewal applicants who could not locate their passwords and user IDs could directly access and obtain the information.
- ✓ To reduce processing steps, time, and costs, the Board developed and began testing an online LPN licensure application and will expand the online capability for all applications.
- ✓ To eliminate volumes of paper and hours of filing, the Board developed an electronic record for licensure applicants with disciplinary issues and is in the process of establishing electronic records for all applicants.
- ✓ To facilitate the submission and receipt of documents, the Board determined it would accept nursing education program completion letters electronically rather than in paper format.
- ✓ To reduce costs for applicants in obtaining money orders or cashier's checks and to expedite Board deposits to the State Treasurer's Office, credit or debit cards will be used for all financial transactions.
- ✓ For greater coordination between work areas, designated staff in compliance, licensure, and renewal are "Compliance Liaisons" who track the status of the application through the compliance and licensing or renewal process from start to finish.
- ✓ For clarity about the process and requirements, an Applicant Checklist was developed and made available to all applicants as a tool to inform applicants of the required documents and processes.
- ✓ To reduce costs and time, an applicant attestation is now accepted rather than requiring a notarized license application.

Board staff participated in a conference call with NCSBN's development team for the Optimal Regulatory Board System to share the efficiencies achieved through the LeanOhio process.

## Contributions to Statewide Initiatives

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### Ohio's Workforce

#### ➤ *Nursing and Primary Care Workforce Data*

Governor Kasich and the Ohio legislature established growing Ohio's workforce as a priority. Data collection is a vital component of workforce planning and policymaking. The Board is pleased with its success in collecting comprehensive nursing workforce data for the renewal period ending August 31, 2013 and providing the data to assist with workforce planning initiatives.

To develop the workforce data questions, the Board worked with stakeholders, including the Ohio Department of Health, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, and the Ohio Action Coalition, and successfully embedded a complete set of RN and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) workforce data questions in the online renewal application. 166,764 RNs and 10,633 APRNs provided workforce data, reflecting 97% of RNs and 99% of APRNs, respectively, who were eligible to renew.

In October 2013, the Board distributed RN and APRN Workforce Data Reports summarizing the data collected by the Board. The Data Reports and the raw data are available to all interested parties through the Board web site. In addition, pre-licensure nursing education program data reports and raw data, which the programs submit on an annual basis, are also easily accessible on the Board web site.

#### ➤ *Nurse Education Grant Program*

The Board continued to provide grant funding through the Nurse Education Grant Program (NEGP) to nursing education programs for the purpose of increasing nursing student enrollment capacity. The program is funded by ten dollars of each nurse license renewal fee. For the September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2015 grant cycle, the Board awarded fourteen grants totaling \$2,392,108. Programs receiving the funds report they are increasing student enrollment.

NEGP was created by the legislature in the 2004-2005 budget bill (Section 4723.063, ORC), and the Board successfully sought sponsorship of an amendment in HB 303 (129th GA) to extend the grant program through December 31, 2023.

#### ➤ *Patient Centered Medical Homes*

House Bill 198 (128th GA) created the Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) pilot program as a way to provide comprehensive care at lower costs. Since the inception, Board member Judith Church has represented the Board on the PCMH Education Advisory Group. Nursing has been a component of PCMH development in Ohio: five APRN practices were converted into PCMH practices as part of the pilot program, numerous nursing education

programs have successfully implemented PCMH training and clinical experience in their curriculums, and thirty nursing scholarships have been awarded.

To further PCMH, the Board adopted rules to establish that PCMHs are eligible to partner with nursing education programs for NEGP funding.

➤ ***Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program***

To address Ohio's nursing workforce shortages and to encourage nursing graduates to remain in Ohio as they enter the workforce, the Board assists the Ohio Board of Regents in administering the Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP) which provides educational financial assistance to Ohio students seeking to become nurses or nursing faculty.

Five dollars of each nurse license renewal fee is used to fund NEALP. For the 2013-2014 school year, \$616,500 was awarded to applicants. NEALP loan recipients are eligible for 100% loan forgiveness based upon their commitment to remain employed as a nurse in Ohio.

➤ ***Ohio Action Coalition/The IOM Future of Nursing Report***

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* set forth eight recommendations for nursing. To implement the recommendations, the Ohio Action Coalition was established for nursing collaboration throughout Ohio for the advancement of the IOM recommendations. Board member Sue Morano and Executive Director Betsy Houchen represent the Board on the Coalition Steering Committee. Director Houchen is also one of the Co-Chairs for the Coalition's Data and Research Work Group.

**Veterans, Service Members and Spouses**

The Board is pleased to have streamlined and improved Ohio's licensure and certification processes for veterans, service members and spouses. In furtherance of the Governor Kasich's Executive Order 2013-05K and legislative initiatives in House Bill 98 and House Bill 488 (130th GA), the Board:

- Amended administrative rules to require that nursing education and dialysis, medication aide and community health worker training programs establish policies for review of military education and training, and also require education and training programs to award the student credit for any military education or skills training that are substantially similar to the curriculum established in rule.
- Adopted rules to specify that renewal and reinstatement fees for military personnel and/or spouses be waived according to Ohio law for LPNs, RNs, APRNs, dialysis technicians, medication aides and community health workers.
- Adopted rules allowing time extensions for completion of continuing education (CE) for nurses, dialysis technicians, community health workers, and medication aides called to active duty, equal to the number of months spent in active duty.

- Revised all applications, so veterans, service members and/or their spouses can indicate their military status on the application to enable Board staff to prioritize the application for immediate processing upon receipt.
- Implemented a new policy to decrease the processing time for veterans, service members and spouses licensed in other states seeking reciprocity by “endorsing” their out-of-state licenses into Ohio. Applicants no longer need to submit transcripts and photographs prior to the issuance of Temporary Permits and licenses. The Board determined that educational preparation could be verified and the identity of the applicant could be established through the use of the Nursys national database and other methods.
- Established a dedicated Military and Veterans web page on the Board web site that includes information related to availability of fee waivers and CE time extensions, and a crosswalk table mapping veterans’ pathway to licensure or certification. Updated and new information is posted on the Military and Veteran web page on an ongoing basis.
- Assured that the following licensure and certification examinations are on the Department of Veterans Affairs qualified list of non-federal government licensure and certification examinations allowing eligible veterans and their dependents to be reimbursed for the cost of the test:
  - Registered nurse (NCLEX-RN)
  - Practical nurse (NCLEX-PN)
  - Dialysis Technician
  - Medication Aide

The Board has received positive feedback regarding the new processes to assist veterans, service members and families. For example, the Board received a handwritten thank you from a veteran: “Thank you for being so helpful. You have made this a simple easy process for veterans coming home.” Another veteran wrote, upon learning that the Board was expediting his licensure application, “Wow, that is extremely nice for the OBN to provide. Nowadays, it’s hard to find companies or agencies that are still providing some form of incentive/benefit for veterans and/or service members. I’m extremely thankful for the OBN support to their troops and veterans!”

### **Opiate and Other Prescription Drug Abuse**

The Board is pleased to collaborate with the Administration, legislators, law enforcement, and other state boards and agencies in the continued fight against prescription drug abuse. Ohio’s commitment to end opiate and other prescription drug abuse is consistent with the Board’s mission of public protection.

The Board supported and contributed to efforts of the Governor’s Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT) and a group of professional health care provider regulatory boards, associations, individual providers and other key stakeholders to focus on educating health care professionals and patients to help reduce and eliminate the misuse and abuse of opioid drugs. The team established a website that features the Board accepted “Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for the Treatment of Chronic, Non-Terminal Pain,” a one-hour continuing education video, and information and links to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS).

This GCOAT Professional Education Workgroup reached consensus on recommended clinical guidelines when prescribing opioids to treat chronic, non-terminal pain and developed clinical guidelines for prescribers that use 80 mg morphine equivalency dosing (MED) as a “trigger threshold” for when the clinician should “press pause” and re-evaluate how to optimize therapy and ensure patient safety. The Board adopted these guidelines in May 2013.

The Board used the licensure renewal process to link APRNs to OARRS registration. The Board’s initiative to increase the number of APRN registrants resulted in an increase of 984 APRNs during the renewal period that ended August 31, 2013.

### **Human Trafficking**

The Board joined in the fight against human trafficking, one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises worldwide. Nurses and other health care providers are often the only professionals able to interact with trafficking victims. The Board encouraged nurses to become informed and understand human trafficking issues.

The Board created a permanent home for human trafficking materials on the Board web site under the RN, LPN, and APRN practice pages; disseminated information on the web site, through eNews, Twitter and Facebook; provided a link to the Ohio Department of Health’s materials for School Nurses; and assured that all Board Compliance Agents attended training about Human Trafficking.

## Program Area Highlights and Statistics – Fiscal Year 2014

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### Licensure and Certification

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**Strategic Initiative:** Assure licensees and certificate holders meet statutory and regulatory requirements to be licensed or certified to practice in Ohio and are appropriately credentialed to practice, while maintaining an efficient and effective system to license or certify applicants as quickly as possible to enter or remain in the workforce.

- ✓ The Board now regulates over 270,000 licenses and certificates, an increase from 233,000 in 2009.
- ✓ Each fiscal year since 2009, an average of 15,233 new licenses have been issued for RNs and LPNs in Ohio.
- ✓ The Board processed a total of 20,102 applications resulting in 17,707 new licenses and certificates being issued in this fiscal year.

Active Licenses and Certificates as of June 30, 2014	
Registered Nurses (RNs)	188,312
Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)	59,836
Certificates of Authority (Advanced Practice Nurses) Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist - 2,796 Certified Nurse Midwife - 361 Certified Nurse Practitioner - 7,565 Clinical Nurse Specialist - 1,596	12,318
Certificates To Prescribe (Advanced Practice Nurses)	7,613
Dialysis Technician – Ohio Certified	1,546
Dialysis Technician – Temporary Certificate 1 <sup>1</sup>	16
Dialysis Technician – Temporary Certificate 2	N/A
Dialysis Technician – Temporary Certificate 3	N/A
Dialysis Technician Intern Certificate	262
Community Health Worker	122
Medication Aide Certificates	192
<b>Total</b>	<b>270,217</b>

<sup>1</sup> House Bill 303, effective March 20, 2013, streamlined the dialysis technician certification process. The Board will no longer issue Temporary Certificates 1, 2, and 3, but instead issues a dialysis technician intern certificate leading to full certification. The remaining active Temporary Certificates 1 will expire in calendar year 2014.

<b>Nurses Licensed By Examination or Endorsement in Fiscal Year 2014</b>				
Type	Licensed by Examination	Licensed by Endorsement	Temporary Permit Issued	Total
LPN	2,606	88	114	2,808
RN	7,629	2,991	953	11,573
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,235</b>	<b>3,079</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>14,381</b>

<b>Newly Issued Licenses/Certificates in Fiscal Year 2014</b>	
Registered Nurses (RNs)	11,573
Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)	2,808
Certificates of Authority (Advanced Practice Nurses)	1,417
Certificates To Prescribe for Advanced Practice Nurses	1,444
Certified Dialysis Technicians Certificates	137
Dialysis Technician Intern Certificates	257
Community Health Worker Certificates	41
Medication Aide Certificates	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,707</b>

## Nursing Education

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**Strategic Initiative:** Approve pre-licensure education programs to assure the programs maintain academic and clinical standards for the preparation of entry-level nurses.

- The Board approves 178 nursing education programs (108 registered nurse programs and 70 practical nurse programs). In fiscal year 2014 the Board approved three new nursing education programs.

Comparison of Education Programs per Fiscal Year						
Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
RN	79	86	94	102	106	108
PN	66	73	74	72	72	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>178</b>

- The Board, in conjunction with NCSBN, hosted the first NCLEX Workshop in Ohio. NCSBN staff presented the Workshop to 124 nursing education program administrators and faculty who learned about NCLEX examination development.
- The Board appointed Board Member Lisa Klenke as the Nursing Education Liaison to review education program compliance with the requirements of the Nurse Practice Act and administrative rules.
- The Board monitored the effectiveness of nursing education programs by tracking the pass-rate of first-time candidates taking the NCLEX licensure examination. In addition, Board education surveyors conducted site visits to 46 existing nursing education programs.
- As a result of nursing education programs not meeting or maintaining the requirements of the Nurse Practice Act and administrative rules, the Board sanctioned fourteen programs: seven were placed on Provisional approval; six continued in Conditional approval status and were required to meet the terms and conditions specified in consent agreements; and one voluntarily surrendered their approval status and closed the program after the Board issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- The Board convened the Advisory Group on Nursing Education that provided recommendations regarding nursing education and the nursing education program rules.
- The Board regulated various training programs: 25 Dialysis Technician Training Programs, 15 Medication Aide Training Programs, and 6 Community Health Worker Training Programs.

## Compliance, Discipline and Monitoring

**Strategic Initiative:** Efficiently handle complaints, investigations, and adjudications to safeguard the health of the public and, in cases involving chemical dependency or practice issues, provide alternatives to discipline programs, if determined appropriate.

- The Board received 9,790 complaints in fiscal year 2014.
- Complaints were investigated by eight compliance agents and two enforcement agents (one added in 2014).
- Seven adjudication coordinators and one supervising attorney handled complaint intake, review and triage; the review of investigative reports; drafting and negotiating settlement agreements; conducting settlement conferences; drafting disciplinary actions, and serving as Board representatives to assist the Assistant Attorneys General in Chapter 119., administrative hearings.
- Board Member Sue Morano was elected to fulfill the term of Rhonda Barkheimer as the Board Supervising Member for Disciplinary Matters.
- Based on the evidence obtained, the Board pursued disciplinary action, admitted eligible licensees into the Practice Intervention and Improvement Program or Alternative Program for Chemical Dependency, issued advisory letters to resolve minor violations, or closed the complaint due to insufficient evidence of a violation.
- To target prescription drug abuse and fraud cases, Compliance staff, including an APRN investigator, collaborated with law enforcement, other state agencies, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office.
- Monthly meetings were held with the Assistant Attorneys General representing the Board to coordinate disciplinary and hearing processes and assure the timely resolution of disciplinary cases.
- 14% of applicants applying for licensure in Ohio were referred to Compliance for review of potential violations of the Nurse Practice Act or administrative rules, including criminal histories.

Licensure Applicants Referred To Compliance For Review		
Type	Total Number	Referred to Compliance
Licensure by Examination	10,235	1,567
Licensure by Endorsement	3,079	286
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,314</b>	<b>1,853 (14%)</b>

<b>Complaints</b>	
<b>Type of Complaint</b>	<b>Number</b>
Action Taken in Another State or Jurisdiction	936
APRN Practice Issues	98
APRN Lapses	108
Boundaries	36
Community Health Worker Applicant	8
Confidentiality	37
Criminal	367
Default/Child Support	0
Dialysis Applicant	54
Drugs/Alcohol	762
Endorsement Applicant	286
Fraud (Theft)	37
Fraud (Medicare/Medicaid)	9
Imposter/Never Licensed	23
Invalid License (lapsed/inactive)	43
Medication Aide Applicant	4
Miscellaneous	1,998
NCLEX Test Applicant	1,567
Non-compliance	578
Nursing Student	7
Patient Abuse	83
Practice	1,240
Physical Impairment	1
Psychiatric Impairment	14
Renewal Applicant	1118
Reinstatement	376
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,790</b>

<b>Board Actions</b>	
<b>Type of Action Taken</b>	<b>Number</b>
Board Order	268
Permanent Surrender	54
Default Order	46
Consent Agreement	620
Notice of Opportunity	364
Immediate Suspension	94
Temporary Suspension	8
Summary Suspension	5
Automatic Suspension	118
Suspension Without Stay	307
Stayed Suspension (Probation)	290
Revocation/Denial	6
Permanent Revocation/Denial	130
Reprimand with requirements	206
Permanent Withdrawal of Application	2
Non-Permanent Withdrawal of Application	9
Voluntary Retirement	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,541</b>

### Alternative Program For Chemical Dependency

- The Board provided the Alternative Program for Chemical Dependency, a confidential alternative to discipline program.

Case Description	Number
Applications mailed	41
Applications returned	32
Active cases	73
Admissions	14
Successful completions	9
Terminations	10

### Practice Intervention and Improvement Program

- The Board provided the Practice Intervention and Improvement Program, a confidential alternative to discipline program for licensees with a practice deficiency that can be addressed through remedial nursing education.

Case Description	Number
Referrals	52
Cases admitted	5
Cases active (June 30, 2014)	11
Successful completions	4
Not eligible/not admitted	47
Failed to complete terms of program agreement	4

## Monitoring Compliance

- Six monitoring agents provided oversight to determine that licensees fulfilled the terms and conditions of their disciplinary agreements, Board Orders, or Participant Agreements for the Alternative Program for Chemical Dependency or the Practice Intervention and Improvement Program.

Cases	Number
Active cases	1,355
Inactive cases <sup>2</sup>	2,083
Monitoring ceased – issued Automatic Suspension and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing	118
Monitoring ceased – released from the terms and conditions of their Board Order/Consent Agreement	91
Removed from monitoring due to permanent licensure surrenders/retirement	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,668</b>

## Continuing Education

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**Strategic Initiative:** Assure that licensees and certificate holders maintain competency based on continuing education requirements set forth in the Nurse Practice Act and the administrative rules.

- Ten Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN) Approvers of Continuing Education continued to assure that providers of continuing education met the requirements set forth in the administrative rules.
- Board staff conducted Continuing Education audits to monitor compliance with continuing education requirements.

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<sup>2</sup> Cases on inactive monitoring status generally involve suspended licenses or certificates. The case is assigned to “active” monitoring status upon an individual’s request for reinstatement and/or entry into a post-suspension consent agreement.

## Regulatory Clarity and a Common Sense Approach

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**Strategic Initiative:** Address pertinent nursing regulatory issues and requirements for licensees and certificate holders and provide greater clarity about the requirements to those regulated by the Board and to the general public.

### ➤ Nursing Practice

Board staff responded to an average of 372 nursing practice questions per month and provided additional practice guidance to licensees and certificate holders through articles in each *Momentum*, reviewing and updating Interpretive Guidelines, and developing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). In addition, Board staff:

- ✓ Conferred with PCMH representatives, physicians, and others to answer practice questions related to prescriptions and medication reconciliation in the PCMH setting.
- ✓ Convened a Board Committee on Practice to discuss the law pertaining to LPN IV therapy and the need for revisions to provide greater clarity.
- ✓ Convened two Advisory Groups that address practice:
  - The Advisory Group on Dialysis advises the Board regarding the regulation of dialysis technicians
  - The Committee on Prescriptive Governance (CPG) regarding APRN prescriptive authority and the APRN Formulary
- ✓ Met with representatives of the Medical Board and the Nursing and Physician Assistant Associations to clarify regulations about administration of medications and treatments.
- ✓ Met with the State Board of Pharmacy to clarify the use of protocols and attended two interested party and stakeholder meetings convened by the State Board of Pharmacy, to discuss the protocols and future administrative rule amendments.
- ✓ Provided advanced nursing practice information to representatives of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services regarding a Behavioral Health project to increase the use of APRNs within the Department and fund education for RNs interested in becoming APRNs specializing in mental health.

### ➤ Legislation

The Board monitors and advocates regarding proposed legislation that impacts the practice of nursing and Board operations. Bills related to the Board that became effective in fiscal year 2014 include:

- ✓ House Bill 44, effective June 10, 2014, requires the Director of Health to develop protocols regarding the authority to administer, deliver, distribute, or dispense drugs during certain public health emergencies in consultation with the appropriate professional regulatory boards, including nursing.

- ✓ House Bill 98, effective November 15, 2013, requires each licensing agency to adopt administrative rules regarding military training related to licensing, and license renewal while the holder or the holder's spouse is serving in the military.
- ✓ House Bill 123, effective May 20, 2014, requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid to establish Medicaid payment standards for the provision of telehealth services, defining the use of "telehealth service" and directing the Department to establish standards for Medicaid payments for "health care services."
- ✓ House Bill 139, effective May 20, 2014, permits certain APRNs and physician assistants to admit patients to hospitals. The bill requires an APRN to notify their collaborating physician within 12 hours of admitting the patient and to have a standard care arrangement with a physician who is a member of the medical staff at the hospital where the patient is admitted.
- ✓ House Bill 170, effective March 11, 2014, permits certain health care professionals, including APRNs with prescriptive authority, to personally furnish or issue a prescription for naloxone to a friend, family member, or other individual in a position to provide assistance to an individual at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose; grants immunity from criminal or civil liability or professional disciplinary action when acting in good faith; and requires the health care professional to instruct the individual to whom the drug is furnished or prescription is issued to summon emergency services immediately before or immediately after administering naloxone.
- ✓ House Bill 170 permits APRN prescribers seeking endorsement (reciprocity) in Ohio without recent experience in prescribing Schedule II controlled substances, to complete certain Schedule II coursework through online education.
- ✓ House Bill 483, effective June 16, 2014, was initiated as part of the Governor's Mid-Biennium Review, and included nursing related amendments:
  - Permits CNPs and CNSs to be added to a list of professionals who may supervise various Chemical Dependency Counselor professionals when treating gambling disorders and various substance abuse disorders.
  - Permits a prescriber to request OARRS information for the mother of a newborn or infant patient, for the purpose of providing medical treatment to the newborn or infant after being diagnosed as opioid dependent.
  - Requires certain health care professionals, including APRNs, when ordering a test for the presence of Lyme disease, to provide written notice about the possibility of false testing results that is documented and signed.
- ✓ Senate Bill 57, effective October 11, 2013, established a pilot project in Lorain County where qualified emergency responders in that County could obtain and administer naloxone to revive a person suffering from an apparent opioid-related overdose.

## ➤ **Administrative Rules**

The Board timely completed its five-year review of applicable administrative rules as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 119.032. These rules became effective on February 1, 2014 and included the following:

- Chapter 4723-4, Standards of Practice Relative to RN or LPN
- Chapter 4723-6, Alternative Program for Chemical Dependency
- Chapter 4723-18, Practice Intervention and Improvement Program
- Chapter 4723-20, Prevention of Disease Transmission

Also amended were individual rules not slated for five-year review, but rules that were updated due to changes made by House Bill 303, Senate Bill 83, and House Bill 490 (129th GA), or for technical or non-substantive reasons.

As part of rule review, Executive Order 2011-01K, “Establishing the Common Sense Initiative” (EO), requires agencies to draft rules in plain English. Since 2005, and on a continuing basis, the Board conducts a “plain English” review of its rules and amends or rescinds rule language that is obsolete, ineffective, contradictory or redundant.

The Board also implemented rule language consistent with Executive Order 2013-05K and legislative initiatives in House Bill 98 and House Bill 188 (130th GA).

## ➤ **Communication and Collaboration**

Throughout the year, the Board informed the public, licensees, certificate holders, and other interested parties about the Nurse Practice Act and administrative rules, proposed statutory and administrative rule changes, and other issues relating to regulation through a variety of means. The Board:

- ✓ Published *Momentum*, a magazine issued quarterly at no cost to the taxpayers or the Board, to provide the public providing articles regarding compliance, practice, administrative rule and/or legislative updates, FAQs, and other regulatory information based on questions received by the Board.
- ✓ Used its web site, eNews, a web based listserv, and social media to deliver Board information.
  - 3,000 eNews subscribers
  - 1,358 Twitter followers
  - 6,798 Facebook “likes”
- ✓ Provided over 1,000 records to the public in response to public records requests, with over 92% provided in five business days or less.
- ✓ Designed specific pages on the web site to provide quick links to locate information:
  - Military and Veterans
  - APRN Prescriber Resources
  - Workforce Data

- ✓ Maintained the Ohio Center for Nursing website to promote nursing as a career and provide information about the nursing workforce in Ohio, in conjunction with the Ohio Network for Nursing Workforce.

Board staff worked collaboratively with state agencies and stakeholders and provided presentations regarding nursing regulation. Board staff:

- ✓ Presented to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Annual Meeting about the Ex-Offender Coalition work related to boards and commissions.
- ✓ Presented on drug diversion and prescription drug abuse in health care to local law enforcement officials across the state.
- ✓ Shared information regarding prescription drug abuse at the Ohio Medicaid Program Integrity Group meeting, convened by the Attorney General's office.
- ✓ Provided information at a meeting of the Public Consulting Group for the Ohio Home Care Waiver and the Ohio Home Care Carve-Out Waiver about how to investigate issues such as maintaining professional boundaries, drug diversion, and fraud in the home care setting.
- ✓ Provided a presentation on compliance/discipline at the Annual Meeting of the Ohio Organization of Nurse Executives and to OhioHealth.
- ✓ Presented education updates for the Ohio Council of Associate Nursing Degree Nursing Education Administrators, the Ohio Council of Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nursing Programs, and the Ohio Organization of Practical Nurse Educators.
- ✓ Provided a nursing education Program Administrator Workshop twice during the year.
- ✓ Participated in a meeting convened by the Ohio Department of Health regarding the optimization and expanded use of OARRS data for public health, data analysis, and collaboration.
- ✓ Met with the Career-Technical Education Unit of the Ohio Department of Education to discuss nursing scopes of practice and nursing career preparatory education in secondary education.
- ✓ Presented information about the Board's complaint, investigative, and disciplinary processes to representatives from various state agencies, the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Aging, Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Department of Mental Health, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.
- ✓ Participated in the inter-professional PCMH Curriculum Meeting to address how to better achieve team-based patient-centered care in Ohio.

## Technology

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**Strategic Initiative:** Implement technological systems and innovative regulatory programs to increase organizational efficiency and use of resources.

To achieve the ability to provide more efficient and effective services to licensees and the public, the Board has provided extensive materials to DAS regarding the capabilities needed in the second-generation licensing system known as eLicense 2.0. Eric Mays is an active participant of the new system's Steering Committee and implementation sub-committees.

The Board has used technology to make licensure and disciplinary information about Ohio licensees readily accessible to other state boards of nursing, other regulatory boards and commissions in Ohio, nursing employers, and the public. The Board:

- ✓ Submitted initial and updated licensing and disciplinary data to Nursys, a national nursing database, on a daily basis.
- ✓ Reported Board disciplinary actions to national disciplinary data banks: Division of Practitioner Data Banks, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and Sanctions & Exclusions, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.
- ✓ Provided data on Ohio nursing cases involving practice breakdown for the NCSBN national patient safety database.
- ✓ Promoted eNotify, a system that automatically provides the Board's licensure and publicly available discipline data to nursing employers.

To increase the use of technology for operational processes, the Board:

- ✓ Mandated online license renewal
- ✓ Began testing an online initial licensure application
- ✓ Developed online access for renewal applicants to obtain their passwords and user IDs
- ✓ Accepted nursing education program completion letters electronically
- ✓ Began using credit or debit cards for all financial transactions.
- ✓ Modified the online nursing education program annual report questionnaire.
- ✓ Began developing electronic records for all licensure applicants

**APPENDIX A - Board Members  
(Members for All or Part of Fiscal Year 2014)**

<b>Name/Position</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>End of Term</b>
Judith A. Church, DHA, MSN, RN President	Miamisburg	2016
J. Jane McFee, LPN Vice-President	Perrysburg	2017
Susan Morano, RN Supervising Board Member for Disciplinary Matters (effective March 20, 2014)	Lorain	2014
Janet Arwood, LPN Chair, Advisory Group on Continuing Education	Hilliard	2017
Brenda Boggs, LPN	Germantown	2015
Nancy Fellows, RN	Willoughby Hills	2016
Lisa Klenke, RN Chair, Advisory Group on Nursing Education	Coldwater	2015
Maryam W. Lyon, RN Chair, Advisory Group on Dialysis	Sidney	2017
Patricia Sharpnack, RN	Chardon	2017
Sheryl Warner, JD, Consumer Member	Canal Winchester	2015
Rhonda Barkheimer, RN Supervising Board Member for Disciplinary Matters (resignation effective March 20, 2014)	Canton	2014
Tracy Ruegg, RN, CNP	Powell	2013*
Roberta Stokes, RN, CNP	Cleveland	2013*

\*Served until end of appointed term

APPENDIX B - Fiscal Report

<b>Revenue</b>	
Income from Fees	\$10,407,512
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$10,407,512</b>

<b>Payroll &amp; Personal Services</b>	
All Staff Payroll	\$5,802,574
Payroll Savings Transfer	\$0
Training and Registrations	\$3,665
Court Reporting	\$52,098
Hearing Officers	\$52,692
Expert Witnesses	\$0
Subpoena Fees	\$21,556
Advisory Group Travel	\$4,051
Legal Notices/Other Services	\$16,534
<b>Actual Spent</b>	<b>\$5,953,170</b>

<b>Maintenance</b>	
Rent (+space repairs, improve)	\$ 321,025
Maintenance & Repairs	\$9,606
Office Supplies	\$41,315
Staff Travel	\$28,405
Board Member Travel	\$21,444
Telephone	\$35,279
Telephone (DAS)	\$31,121
Printing (DAS)	\$5,934
Printing (Other)	\$32,533
Mail Services (DAS)	\$60,847
Auditor of State (Audit Fees)	\$4,936
Ohio Shared Services	\$5,684
Bank Lock Box & Bank Fees	\$195,100
Computer Services (DAS)	\$86,084
Computer Maintenance (other)	\$14,499
Other	\$103,300
<b>Actual Spent</b>	<b>\$977,112</b>

<b>Equipment</b>	
Computer / IT	\$35,412
All other	\$46,789
<b>Actual Spent</b>	<b>\$82,201</b>

<b>Refunds</b>	
Actual Spent	\$1,400
<b>OPERATIONAL COSTS TOTALS</b>	<b>\$6,832,139</b>

<b>Special Issues Fund</b>	
<i>Beginning Balance</i>	\$17,319
New Donations / CE	\$0
<b>Actual Spent</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$11,819</b>

<b>NEGP Fund</b>	
Actual Disbursed	\$1,196,054
Administrative Expenses	\$12,102
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,208,156</b>

<b>FY 2014 Appropriations</b>	
<b>Operational Budget (4K90)</b>	\$7,181,743
<b>Special Issues (5P80)</b>	\$2,000
<b>Nurse Education Grant (5AC0)</b>	\$1,373,506
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$8,557,249</b>

**APPENDIX C - Board Staff  
(As of June 30, 2014)**

**Administrative**

Executive Director	Betsy Houchen, JD, MS, RN
Executive Assistant	Joseph Kirk
Chief Hearing Officer	Beth Hogon, JD
Hearing Officer	Brian Forbes, JD
Operations/IT Manager	Eric Mays
Network Administrator	John Robinson
Administrative Professional	Amanda Eisert

**Compliance**

Program Manager	Lisa Ferguson-Ramos, JD, RN
General Counsel	Holly Fischer, JD
Supervising Attorney	Jodi Crowe, JD
Adjudication Coordinator/Legislative Liaison	Tom Dilling, JD
Adjudication Coordinator	Mary Boyer, JD, RN
Adjudication Coordinator	Anita DiPasquale, JD
Adjudication Coordinator	David Geiger, JD
Adjudication Coordinator	Rebecca Green, JD
Adjudication Coordinator	Julia Hilty, JD
Adjudication Coordinator	Nick Siniff, JD
Adjudication Coordinator	Phalyn Williams, JD
Adjudication Coordinator	Michael Wise, JD
Program Administrator/Supervisor	Margo Pettis
Paralegal/Legal Assistant	Carl Hoffman
Administrative Professional	Peggy Carrier
Administrative Professional	Rose Ferguson
Administrative Professional	Debra Fulk
Administrative Professional	Cynthia Gossard
Administrative Professional	Melissa Malone
Clerk (Intermittent)	Emily Fischer
Advanced Practice Compliance Agent	Keeley Harding, CNP
Compliance Agent	Dennis Corrigan, RN
Compliance Agent	Janelle Freeman, RN
Compliance Agent	Diana Harris, RN
Compliance Agent	Melissa Knauss, RN
Compliance Agent	Pamela Morse, RN
Compliance Agent	Amy Sala, RN
Compliance Agent	Brian Torrence, RN
Compliance Agent	Richard Young, RN
Enforcement Agent	John Cover
Enforcement Agent	Timothy Fulk
Monitoring Agent	Monique Holokai-Kane, RN
Monitoring Agent	Catherine Kessler
Monitoring Agent	Susan Mann Orahood, RN
Monitoring Agent	Seallena Thurmond, RN
Monitoring Agent	Marion Wilson, RN

## **Licensure, Certification, and Continuing Education**

Program Manager	Lesleigh Robinson, RN
Initial Licensure Supervisor	Karen Scott
Renewal Supervisor	Brenda Murphy
Administrative Professional	Toni Notturniano
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Cheryl Brown
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Tami Earles
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Ruchi Grewal
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Melody Gullion
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Glenda Nunamaker
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Alisan Duran
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Brandy Smith
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Terry Tietz
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Ebony Turner
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Karen Unroe
Certification/Licensure Specialist	Angela White
Certification/Licensure Specialist (Intermittent)	Lydie Kisula

## **Education, Practice, and Administration**

Program Manager	Lisa Emrich, RN
Education Regulatory Surveyor	Kristie Oles, RN
Nursing Practice Consultant	Jennifer Wheeler, RN
Administrative Professional	Stephanie Sharp
Fiscal Officer	Kathy King
Fiscal Specialist	Katha Bloomer