



# Ohio Board of Nursing

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## Advisory Group on Nursing Education

### Meeting Minutes June 6, 2019

**Members Attending:** Patricia Sharpnack, Board President, Chair; Andrea Scurria; Tiffany Kennerk; Patricia Schrull, Christina Devlin; Barbara Ratliff (arrived at 10:23 a.m.); Crystal Goods; Cynthia Wilkins; Melissa Bennett; Sheryl Feeney

**Members Absent:** Camden Seal; Sandra Harris; Connie Bowler

**Staff Attending:** Lisa Emrich; Anita DiPasquale; Lisa Hashemian; Kristie Oles; Chantelle Sunderman

**Guests Attending:** Jo Clarke, The Ohio State University College of Nursing; Scott Rowley, The Ohio State University College of Nursing

#### Call to Order and Welcome

Patricia Sharpnack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests. Advisory Group members introduced themselves.

#### Approval of the February 7, 2019 Minutes

Patricia Schrull moved to approve the minutes; Tiffany Kennerk seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### Follow-up Recommended Revisions to Chapter 4723-5, OAC; Report of Ohio Council of Deans and Directors Meeting; and Rule 4723-5-12(B), OAC

Lisa Emrich recently provided a Board update to the Ohio Council of Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree programs at its request. At the meeting members asked that the Board re-evaluate Rule 4723-5-12(B), Ohio Administrative Code, that states a program shall not implement changes to policies for student progression or requirements for completion of the program, for students already enrolled in the program at the time the changes are adopted. The rationale for requesting this change is that accrediting bodies expect institutions to engage in continuous quality improvement, but some changes cannot be immediately implemented because of this requirement.

L. Emrich stated that the rule was adopted because some programs were adding requirements and new content at the end of its program after students had completed the requirements initially identified by the program. Discussion ensued regarding types of changes that solely benefit the program and not the student.

C. Wilkins stated she attended the meeting when the Rule was discussed, and she provided examples where she believes more expedient changes would benefit both the program and students. A program may revise its curriculum to increase the likelihood of students passing the

NCLEX examination; however, students who are currently enrolled in the program cannot take advantage of the positive changes. Also, if a program admits only one class per year, it may take up to four years for the curriculum changes to be fully implemented for all students.

Chair Sharpnack stated that the current rule is consistent with the contract agreed upon between students and the program. Students may have enrolled because the predetermined curriculum plan fit their needs and schedules. Changing the curriculum for existing students could create inconveniences for some students like adjusting work schedules and finding transportation. It is not possible to guarantee that any change would benefit all students, and changes that may benefit some students may not benefit others, which is the reason the rule exists. The Advisory Group discussed application of new requirements to different cohorts of students within a program as they are admitted.

C. Wilikins stated that instead of the removal or addition of a course, to consider permitting the movement of hours between clinical and theory within a course. She believes there is confusion as to what can and cannot be changed. It was clarified that the rule does not permit a program to move hours between clinical and theory but does permit a program to move hours between clinical and laboratory.

Lisa Hashmian recommended that programs contact the Board with questions regarding a change to a course or the curriculum. Each program is required to follow the rules of Chapter 4723-5, OAC, and the program's written policies. Kristie Oles added that the requirements of Chapter 4723-5, OAC, including the moving hours between laboratory and clinical experiences within a course, will be discussed at the Nursing Education Program Workshop in June.

The Advisory Group suggested conducting a survey of other states regarding moving hours between laboratory, clinical, and theory. P. Schrull suggested providing information on "Catalog Rights." L. Emrich stated the Board discussed defining "program completion" in Rule 4723-5-01, OAC, but determined that no additional definition is needed and may create unintended consequences.

#### **Discussion: Faculty Supply and Demand**

Chair Sharpnack stated the Board received an email from a program administrator voicing concern about an incident where a clinical faculty member quit while monitoring students and asked if this should be reported to the Board as a possible violation of law and rules. It was clarified that this type of incident would be an employment matter, not a regulatory issue. Chair Sharpnack encouraged the strategic selection of clinical faculty, even with the growing shortage, and to continue to build strong partnerships with clinical partners and facilities to provide qualified clinical staff.

#### **Article: 2:1 Clinical to Simulation Ratio**

Chair Sharpnack summarized the articles provided to the Advisory Group. The quantity of learning with simulation is now greater than that in a clinical setting. The future of healthcare continues to shift toward more community-based care and virtual reality education. The definition of "clinical experience" may need to be revised to accommodate change.

Andrea Scurria agreed and stated that programs are increasing the use of simulation and virtual reality-based education because a diversity of patients, conditions and illnesses are not available in the clinical setting. Clinical partners are limited to what they can provide at their facility.

P. Schrull said she believes the NCLEX is based on acute care and programs will not transition to educate community-based healthcare until it is reflective in the NCLEX examination. C. Wilkins agreed. The Advisory Group agreed that seeking additional information and querying other states regarding their definition of “clinical experience” will be good next steps going forward.

### **Trends in Competency-Based Education**

Chair Sharpnack summarized previous discussions regarding competency-based education and said the Advisory Group will continue to evaluate competency-based education for prelicensure nursing programs. There was a discussion regarding current dual enrollment options.

L. Emrich reviewed discussions held by the Advisory Group on Continuing Education regarding Chapter 4723-14, OAC, which provides an equivalency for academic credit based on time. Western Governors University (WGU) grants academic credit by competency units rather than time. After speaking with WGU, the Board was informed that WGU transcripts will provide a statement converting competency units to credit hours. Individuals using academic credit for CE hours will keep the transcripts with the conversion statement as proof of CE completion.

### **2019 Annual Report Survey**

This year the Annual Report Survey is being revised to be congruent with the requested data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Access to the survey will be available by the end of June, and responses will be due by the end of July. The Annual Report will be reviewed at the Nursing Education Program Workshop.

### **2019 RN and APRN Licensure Renewal**

Renewal is July 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019. A late processing fee goes into effect on September 16, 2019. All RNs and APRNs are encouraged to renew early to avoid system delays. The Board updated the *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* documents for Continuing Education which are available on the Board website. RNs must complete at least 24 contact hours of CE that includes at least one contact hour of Category A. APRNs are not required to complete any contact hours of CE for the 2019 APRN license renewal, but they must meet the requirements to maintain their national certification and complete the CE requirements to renew their RN license. L. Hashemian encouraged education programs to complete license verifications in accordance with Rule 4723-5-21(D)(3), OAC, prior to November 1, 2019.

### **NCLEX Regional Workshop**

The NCSBN NCLEX Regional Workshop will be held on November 6, 2019, at the Department of Transportation (ODOT) located at 1980 W. Board Street, Columbus. Information regarding registration will be distributed at a later date. The Board will continue to host the workshop annually in November.

### **Nursing Education Program Workshop**

The Nursing Education Program Workshop is June 13, 2019 at ODOT with almost 200 individuals registered. The fall workshop is November 14, 2019.

**Future Meetings:** The next meeting is October 3, 2019.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.