



Advisory Group on Nursing Education August 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members Attending: Patricia Sharpnack, Board Member, Chair; Judy Kreye; Connie Bowler; Suzanne Smith; Cynthia Wilkins; Katrina Kelley; Andrea Scurria; Camden Seal; Tiffany Kennerk; Barbara Ratliff; Christina Devlin

Members Absent Crystal Goods

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

Call to Order and Welcome

Patricia Sharpnack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held through audio-visual conferencing in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, in accordance with HB 197.

Approval of the February 6, 2020, Minutes

The Advisory Group agreed by consensus to approve the minutes as submitted.

COVID-19

Lisa Emrich stated that in early March the Board began developing and distributing guidance documents to assist pre-license nursing education programs make adjustments to their clinical resources necessitated by the COVID-19 declared emergency. The guidance also addressed the Board's regulatory response regarding consideration of a program's approval status.

HB197, enacted in response to the COVID-19 declared emergency, extended the approval status dates of nursing education programs, training programs, and OBN CE Approvers, for those whose approval status would otherwise expire or require reapproval by the Board during the period of the declared emergency. In addition, staff began using electronic and virtual platforms to conduct program surveys. These allow virtual tours of lab facilities and video conferences with staff and students. Lisa Hashemian and Kristie Oles stated that overall the electronic and virtual surveys have been successful.

Revisit Definition of Clinical Experience

Chair Sharpnack stated the definition of "Clinical Experience" has evolved not just in response to COVID-19, but since the introduction of population health and telehealth. Board staff recently re-surveyed NCSBN Member Boards for their definition of "clinical course" or "clinical experience" and the Advisory Group reviewed the responses. They discussed the current challenges due to COVID-19 that have caused practice facilities to limit or refuse access by nursing program students.

Cynthia Wilkins stated the responses to the survey indicated most Boards are operating with a similar definition. She said the Advisory Group needs to consider changes in responses to the

current impact of COVID-19; however, it is likely that the current changes will be more permanent than temporary.

Judy Kreye stated that students, using virtual platforms to connect with clinical agencies, have enabled students to work with nursing staff to engage in practice situations and procedures. She said the current emergency has forced nursing educators to look outside the box and beyond the traditional clinical experience.

Camden Seal stated clinical facilities in her area are not accommodating nursing programs for clinical access. Since the implementation of HB197 many facilities in the area have issued a hiring freeze due to the lack of confidence in new graduates who have not been required to pass the NCLEX, and in light of programs providing minimal hands-on clinical experience. She said she is concerned her RN class will not be able to engage in clinical experiences if facilities continue to prohibit access.

Chair Sharpnack stated that facilities in the Cleveland area are motivated to continue offering clinical experiences for nursing students. Her practice partners have noticed that providing clinical experiences ensures the valued in-person patient experience and decreases costs of orienting new nurse employees.

Katrina Kelley said MetroHealth implemented an intern program to employ students who are enrolled in a baccalaureate nursing program as unlicensed assistive personnel and provide patient care under the direction of a registered nurse.

Christina Devlin stated the National League for Nursing (NLN) released a statement encouraging clinical partners to continue allowing clinical experiences for students, as students should not be categorized as “visitors”, but rather as health care personnel.

Chair Sharpnack read the current definition of clinical experience and asked the Advisory Group about barriers programs are facing under the current definition, and what changes should be considered. Discussion ensued regarding various clinical agencies and locations such as health care clinics, schools and daycare.

Cindy Wilkins stated there is a misperception of the implementation and the definition of clinical versus observation, which has caused some programs to miss-label clinicals as observation. The Advisory Group discussed examples of observation and clinical experience. L. Emrich stated the main difference between observation and clinical, is in a clinical experience the students are engaging in the authorized practice of nursing under the auspices of the program. In an observational experience, students are not required to be supervised because they are not engaging in the practice of nursing. She said Board staff can develop a guidance document to assist with distinguishing the difference between an observational experience and clinical experience. Board staff can address the topic at the upcoming Nursing Education Workshop.

The Advisory Group agreed by consensus to retain the current definition of “clinical experience.”

Curriculum Rules: 4723-5-13 and 4723-5-14, OAC

Cynthia Wilkins stated administrators should be permitted to make a more expedient movement of hours between clinical and theory, without changing the total number of contact hours of the course. Chair Shapnack stated the restriction is not only with the Board but with programs’ signed contracts with the student at enrollment. L. Emrich stated it would require a rule change in 4723-

5-12 (B), OAC with public input. The Advisory Group agreed by consensus to not make a recommendation for changes at this time.

LPN Renewal began July 1, 2020

L. Emrich reported that 16,500 LPN licenses have successfully renewed and summarized the impact of the COVID-19 emergency. The Board is encouraging LPNs to renew early; however, if the emergency does not end, the expiration date for unrenewed licenses will be extended as established by HB 197. In addition, based on HB 197 provisions regarding deadlines, the late fee deadline will not be in effect this year and no late processing fee will be charged.

Board's Education Program Workshop, Virtual (11/5/2020)

The Board's next Nursing Education Program Workshop will be held virtually on November 5, 2020. The Workshop will include information and updates, including additional information regarding eLicense enhancements and information to convey to students to ensure a seamless application process.

Regional NCLEX Workshop

The NCSBN NCLEX Regional Workshop will be a 90-minute virtual presentation on November 4, 2020 at 10 a.m. focusing on the Next Generation NCLEX. Information regarding registration will be distributed at a later date.

Other

The Advisory Group discussed the implications of HB197 on program graduates. Concern was raised that individuals who have failed the NCLEX retain their license. L. Emrich stated that exam applicants with prior unsuccessful attempts to pass the NCLEX have not been issued the temporary license authorized by HB197; however, the bill did not give the Board authority to inactivate the license if the individual fails the NCLEX after the license has been issued. L. Emrich summarized the process for issuing the HB197 license and said the Board is encouraging those with a HB197 license to take the NCLEX as soon as possible to avoid disruption of authorization to practice.

T. Dilling stated HB197 was created within a few weeks as an emergency legislation without the time for committee meetings and interested party discussions. It was anticipated that hospitals were going to be overwhelmed with a surge of very sick patients, and NCLEX testing facilities were closing. Legislation was implemented to protect the public as best as possible under these circumstances. The Board and other entities have expressed the importance of the NCLEX.

Agenda Building, October 2020

Chair Sharpnack stated she would provide an update to American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) Essentials Series regarding the shift to competency-based outcomes.

Next Meetings Date: The remaining meeting for 2020 is October 8.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.