



Ohio Board of Nursing

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Advisory Group on Nursing Education

Minutes October 7, 2021

Members Attending: Patricia Sharpnack, Chair; Camden Seal; Judy Kreye; Jennifer Johnson; Connie Bowler; Cecilia Bidigare; Crystal Goods; Shelby Stout; Esmeralda Donesa-McCahan; Judith Brachman; Katrina Kelley

Members Absent: Suzanne Smith; Kimberly Regis; Christina Devlin; Tonika Johnson; Crystal Goods; Shelby Stout; Tiffany Kennerk

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

Guests: None

Call to Order and Welcome

Patricia Sharpnack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., announced that the meeting is being live-streamed and recorded for purposes of the minutes. Members introduced themselves and were welcomed.

Approval of the May 6, 2021, Minutes

The minutes were approved by consensus as submitted.

Wendy Bowles, OSU, Comments Rule 4723-5-01 and 4723-5-13, OAC

The Advisory Group reviewed the letter from The Ohio State University College of Nursing (OSU) requesting revision to Rules 4723-5-01(C) and 4723-5-13(E), OAC, to change the course definition of an “accelerated program” by changing “fifty-two weeks” to “twelve months.”

Cecilia Bidigare stated she researched the average length of accelerated BSN programs in the United States and found that the majority span over fourteen months. In Ohio, the shortest one spans thirteen months. On an academic semester system, there are only about forty-two weeks of instruction in one calendar year. She expressed concern for the lack of data on attrition rates; Chair Sharpnack stated attrition rates are higher for accelerated programs.

Camden Seal questioned how the Board would articulate a month. She said if academic instruction is only provided two or three weeks out of the four or five in a month, then how would the Board define a month of instruction.

Chair Sharpnack stated the rule was previously changed from twelve months to fifty-two weeks of clinical courses. Some programs were cutting corners regarding the length of time in the classroom. Connie Bowler agreed, stating she recalled the original discussion about minimizing the length and content of a program for financial benefit. The rule revision was to preserve the quality of the education. She said the request letter does not contain evidence that the change would benefit the student and academic quality of an accelerated program.

The Advisory Group agreed by consensus not to recommend the requested Rule revisions at this time. OSU may return with more data and a response to these expressed concerns.

Rule 4723-5-23, OAC, Board Meeting Discussion

Chair Sharpnack stated that during the Board’s September 2021 meeting, Board Member Sandra Ranck

discussed the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on programs' calendar year 2021 NCLEX pass rates. Chair Sharpnack said Ohio's current pass rate 79.1% and the National average is 81.1% with 50% of programs below the national average.

Lisa Hashemian provided the adjusted pass rates for calendar year 2020, as was used for application of the Rule for programs' first-time test candidates, who took NCLEX within six months of their program completion. She provided these percentages:

- 71% of RN programs were above Rule benchmark of 95% of the National Average
- 63% of PN programs were above the Rule benchmark of 95% of the National Average
- For RN test candidates the national average was 86.58% and Ohio's was 84.41%
- For PN test candidates, the national average was 83.09% and Ohio's was 80.33%

Kristie Oles stated that three programs incurred three consecutive years below 95% of the national average in 2020; therefore, only three programs are at risk of being placed on provisional approval in 2021 depending on their pass rates by the end of the year.

The Advisory Group discussed making 2021 a "Pass year" for the application of Rule 4723-5-23(B), OAC due to the impact of Covid-19 and HB197 and HB 6 granting temporary licenses without the required passing of the NCLEX. Judy Kreye said the effects of Covid-19 on nursing education are ongoing and will be felt beyond 2021. C. Bowler stated that allowing a "Pass" during the current pandemic may be set a questionable precedent for any future emergencies, including regional emergencies or natural disasters.

L. Emrich said allowing such a "Pass" per se for a state of emergency would require a rule change and may not be effective for this current year.

Holly Fischer joined the meeting to provide the Advisory Group a timeline and information regarding the request, and a recommended rule revision that would permit the Board discretion pertaining to its approval based on program pass rates. She recommended that the proposed rule revision be filed separately to allow it to be vetted through Common Sense Initiative and interested parties. In terms of the language, she rerecommended adding a subparagraph (5) to paragraph (B) of Rule 4723-5-23, OAC, that states during a declared emergency the Board may abstain from changing a program's approval status. She suggested that in a best-case scenario the rule could become effective this Spring with a narrow timeline. The Board could also consider the pass rate later in the Spring if the rule becomes effective and they wished to utilize their discretion for programs' 2021 NCLEX pass rates. The Advisory Group agreed by consensus to the proposed rule revision.

Legislative Report

Tom Dilling provided the following legislative updates:

- **HB 122:** HB 122 expands the types of providers who may utilize and bill for services provided via telehealth. The Board would create rules aligned with a health care professional's telehealth nursing practice and their negotiation of reimbursement rates for fees associated with the administrative costs of providing telehealth services. Certain rules will most likely mirror that of the Medical Board, but the Advisory Group can provide feedback regarding curriculum over telehealth.
- **HB 402:** The bill is proposing the regulation of the practice of certified professional midwives.
- **HB 142:** The bill is proposing a path at the Ohio Board of Nursing for doulas to become professionally certified.
- **HB 176:** The bill would revise and enhance the scope of practice of athletic trainers under the referral of a certified nurse practitioner.

T. Dilling stated the Health Policy Institute of Ohio has published a new fact sheet that outlines actions state and local policymakers can take to support the health and well-being of Ohioans of color and move Ohio toward a more economically vibrant and healthier future. He said there is a national push for more health equity education in programs and in practice.

T. Dilling also noted a bill proposal that would permit exemptions from receiving COVID-19 vaccination. A

proponent of the bill stated that his daughter in her fourth year of a nursing program is being asked to get vaccinated to complete her clinical education, but did not advocate for language specifically addressing this situation.

Survey: Program Feedback, Effectiveness Simulation-related Rules

The Advisory Group reviewed the program feedback survey results on the effectiveness of current Rules addressing use of simulation. Discussion included the definitions of laboratory experience and clinical experience, and the difficulties some programs encounter securing clinical sites depending on the program type and its location.

The Advisory Group agreed the simulation-related Rules should not be revised at this time, but it will continue to monitor and evaluate the use and benefits of simulation.

Education Program Workshop 11/4/2021

The Board's next Nursing Education Program Workshop will be held virtually on November 4, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Workshop materials will be distributed to all Program Administrators approximately one week prior to the Workshop.

NG-NCLEX Webinar tentative 11/3/2021

The NCSBN NCLEX Regional Workshop will be a 90-minute virtual presentation on November 3, 2021, at 10 a.m., focusing on the Next Generation NCLEX. Information regarding access to the streamed meeting and materials will be distributed prior to the meeting. Registration will open in the near future, and will be limited by NCSBN to 150 attendees.

Licensure-related Updates

L. Emrich congratulated Pam Simmons, former Licensure Unit Supervisor, on her promotion to Program Manager of the Licensure. The Board's lobby has re-opened to the public, Licensure Unit staff began taking incoming calls in June, and additional staff are being added to take calls. She said about 26,000 RNs and 2,000 APRNs are eligible for renewal but have not yet renewed. The late processing fee went into effect on September 16, 2021, and RN and APRN renewal ends October 31, 2021.

The APRN initial application was revised slightly to require completion of a graduate or doctoral degree and national certification prior to submitting the application. This change is anticipated to increase processing efficiency as staff will not need to await receipt of external documents and return to the application a second time. Also, an APRN applicant checklist has been published in the APRN licensure section, which will guide potential APRN applicants through the process.

Schedule 2022 Meetings

The Group scheduled meetings in 2022 for March 10; May 12; and October 13.

Other

The Advisory Group discussed the published list of Potentially Disqualifying Crimes, and programs' current processes to address affected admission applicants.

Camden Seal mentioned that her program's clinical partners will not permit nursing students using medical marijuana.

Judy Kreye inquired on behalf of the Ohio Council of Deans and Directors about requiring Covid-19 vaccinations of nursing students. L Emrich stated the Pfizer Vaccine is FDA approved and may fall into the same category as all other vaccinations currently required for clinical experience participation. She said programs may change their program admission policy, as supported by the systematic plan of evaluation, at any time. Vaccination requirements are determined by the clinical facility and the program. As indicated in the NSCBN guidelines, there is no requirement for a program to provide an alternative clinical site/experience for unvaccinated students.

Cecilia Bidigare provided an overview of her presentation to the Advisory Group on Continuing Education

to require implicit bias training as a continuing education topic for renewal every two years. She asked the Advisory Group on Nursing Education to consider adding Implicit Bias education to the required nursing curriculum content.

Chair Sharpnack stated that diversity equity inclusion is mandated for programs by most accrediting bodies. The Board's rules need to reflect what is in current standards for curriculum and practice, which they do; however, implicit bias is a societal issue and is not specific to nursing. Societal issues change and may change more frequently than a rule. The Advisory Group agreed not to recommend revision of the curriculum rules to include "implicit bias," and discussed resources available for courses on diversity.

L. Emrich stated that the Application for Advisory Group Appointments and information about open positions are posted on the Board website. The deadline for application submission is Monday, November 1, 2021. The Advisory Group reviewed its current member roster and terms. The Board will make appointments to its advisory groups at its November 2021 meeting.

Chair Sharpnack stated this is her last term as a Board Member and last meeting as chair of the Advisory Group on Nursing Education. Committee members applauded her significant contributions to the Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:28p.m.

DRAFT