



## Ohio Board of Nursing

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### Advisory Group on Nursing Education Minutes May 6, 2021

**Members Attending:** Patricia Sharpnack, Chair; Kimberly Regis; Tiffany Kennerk (10:48 am); Christina Devlin; Camden Seal; Judy Kreye; Jennifer Johnson; Suzanne Smith; Connie Bowler; Cecilia Bidigare; Crystal Goods; Shelby Stout; Esmeralda Donesa-McCahan; Tonika Johnson; Judith Brachman; Katrina Kelley

**Members Absent:** None

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

**Guests:** Gary Neale, OET; Joy Ingwerson, OET

#### **Call to Order and Welcome**

Patricia Sharpnack, Board member and Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Open Meetings Act as amended by HB 404.

#### **Approval of the February 4, 2021, Minutes**

Camden Seal noted she was present at the February meeting. The minutes, with the correction, were approved by consensus.

#### **Legislative Report**

Tom Dilling provided an update on HB 6, which would authorize temporary licenses for exam applicants prior to passing the NCLEX if they completed a nursing education program within two years of the effective date of the bill and had no previous NCLEX failures. HB 6 temporary licenses would expire July 1, 2021.

Judy Kreye asked about SB 135 stating it would eliminate the state's authorization process for Community Colleges to provide post licensure nursing education. T. Dilling said he would review the bill and provide information at the next meeting.

Camden Seal inquired about HB 263 regarding criminal offenses. T. Dilling stated Board staff will provide additional information. A. DiPasquale added that nursing education programs would continue to establish their own admission requirements and standards.

#### **Occupational English Test (OET)**

Lisa Emrich introduced Gary Neale from Occupational English Test (OET), a global English language testing company for health care professionals. Rule 4723-7-04, OAC, requires foreign educated nurse graduates to obtain the minimum passing score on the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL iBt). Gary Neale requested that the Board consider using other English testing companies including OET and provided an overview of the company and the test. The OET nursing test assesses language skills using health care communication scenarios that candidates are likely to encounter in the workplace. Joy Ingwerson, who previously worked as an education consultant for the Oregon Board of Nursing and who now works for OET, reviewed the practice tests and materials.

G. Neale stated Phil Dickison from NCSBN reviewed the test and deemed it was psychometrically valid and but noted that Boards using the OET would establish the cut score. The Advisory Group discussed the passing standard of the OET test. L. Emrich stated she will follow up with other boards and contact Phil Dickison as needed.

**Rule 4723-7-04, OAC**

L. Emrich summarized the previous Advisory Group discussion regarding the Board to use additional companies to evaluate the education of foreign educated applicants. The Board will discuss the requested changes at the May Board meeting, however, revisions may not be considered until 2022, to allow Board staff more time to gather additional information.

**Competency Based Education: Survey Results to Date**

The Advisory Group reviewed the responses from a survey of other nursing boards regarding their use of competency-based education and competency expectations for graduates as outlined by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in “The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education.” Of the 62 boards responding, 23 stated they have not considered or made regulatory changes as result of the document being published.

It was noted that the Connecticut Board of Nursing approved a prelicensure nursing education program with a competency-based curriculum. L. Emrich stated she would review Connecticut’s applicable regulations.

**Draft Revisions Chapter 4723-5, OAC**

Kristie Oles and Anita DiPasquale reviewed the proposed revisions to Chapter 4723-5, OAC. The Advisory Group agreed to all recommendations and recommended the following:

- Rule 4723-5-09(B)(5), add “as applicable” to follow “and termination.”
- Rule 4723-5-13(C), do not delete sub paragraphs (3) and (4) as deletion would substantially change the paragraph.
- Rule 4723-5-14(C), do not delete sub paragraphs (3) and (4) as deletion would substantially change the paragraph.
- Rule 4723-5-20(D), remove the word “preceptor.”

The Advisory Group members stated they did not have additional recommendations for the Chapter 4723-5 rules.

**Licensure Unit Updates**

L. Emrich stated that the Licensure Unit has experienced a significant increase in the workload since March 2020 including an increase in applicants who completed out-of-state education programs.

The Board continues to increase the efficiency of processing license applications. For example, the automated process for Program Completion Letters (PCLs) has been effective. In addition, to project the increase in workload, Kristie Oles and Lisa Hashemian asked programs to provide graduation dates and the anticipated number of graduates. L. Emrich stated staff are actively adding criminal records check results to applications to expediate processing.

**Nurse Education Grant Program**

In late April, nursing education programs were notified that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2021-2023 grant cycle will be available on the Board website by May 28, 2021.

**Other**

The Board's next Nursing Education Program Workshop will be held virtually on July 29, 2021.

**Next Advisory Group Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 7.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.