



Ohio Board of Nursing

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT Administrative Reports and Updates January 2022

Administrative Updates

Human Resources

Three intermittent employees started on January 4, 2022, and are assisting our licensing team. They are performing tasks to progress the applications into queues so that our Examiners can then process them.

John Robinson, our IT manager, is retiring at the end of February 2022. He has been crucial to the Board's operation throughout his long tenure here, and staff could not have successfully transitioned to the work-from-home model in March 2020 without John's leadership. We wish John well as he embarks on this new chapter. We will soon post John's vacancy.

We are in the midst of hiring investigators and a Chief Communications Officer. We will also be hiring a Business Analyst contract employee who will serve as a liaison with eLicense for Compact implementation.

Fiscal

We received over \$16,000 in reimbursement from OBM pursuant to the Cares Act for IT related purchases we made to facilitate work during the pandemic.

Information Technology

The State of Ohio is rolling out multifactor authentication for all employees and board members who access Microsoft applications, including Teams. After the January Board meeting, John and Rich will help all Board members register with Duo so that when multifactor authentication goes live on January 25, 2022, all Board members will be able to seamlessly access Teams.

Licensure/Renewal

The week of December 6th through 10th, our licensing team, managers and two employees from other state agencies participated in a LeanOhio Kaizen to improve RN and LPN exam and reciprocity application processes. Later in this meeting I'll do a more detailed presentation on the event and our action items.

We have expanded our interpretation of Ohio R.C. 4723.32(G)(7) that allows nurses not licensed in Ohio, but who hold an active, valid license in another state to practice in our state during the federally declared COVID-19 national emergency. Nurses who previously were licensed in Ohio are also eligible for this exception and may practice in Ohio prior to reactivating their Ohio license so long as they hold an active, valid license in another state.

February 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022, is our renewal deadline for medication aides.

Customer Service

The call center is handling 200-250 calls per day. They generate 100–150 tickets per day. This requires 2-3 Examiners to work full time on tickets. We had a meeting in early January with the call center to work through how to reduce the number of tickets.

Nurse Licensure Compact

At the end of November, several Board staff and I met with the Executive Director of the Delaware Board of Nursing, to discuss their experience with compact implementation and their recent transition to a Salesforce platform.

We have had several requirements' gathering meetings with the DAS eLicense team, most recently on January 11th.

I've connected with the Chief Officer of Nursing Regulation at NCSBN and met with the Director of the NLC. I am also working with DAS on a detailed itemized budget for eLicense changes and a projected timeline (expected to be 24 weeks) for submission with grant application.

Education

On December 15, 2021, Lisa Emrich attended the second meeting of the Industry Recognized Credentials Transfer Assurance Guides (ITAG) panel at the request of the Ohio Department of Higher Education. The goal is to grant standardized academic credit for the LPN license credential when the LPN applies for public institution admission, and is in response to the Governor's and the Chancellor's priority to align workforce and higher education. The panel reviewed the 22 responses to a survey sent to 25 public institutions. Of the 22 responses, twenty responses were in favor of the ITAG. ODHE is proceeding with the ITAG approval.

Practice

Lisa Emrich attended the December 14, 2021 quarterly virtual meeting of the Ohio Nursing Collaborative. The attendees included family members and advocates of individuals with complex health needs, Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) representatives from the DODD and Ohio Department of Medicaid. The meeting discussion pertained to the dissemination of information to families through county DODD boards and through the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council webpage; shortage of individuals available to provide direct care services, and status of nursing delegation informational materials.

Over the past two months, Board staff responded to 450 practice questions.

- APRNs: Prescribing controlled substances; practice ownership; Schedule II prescribing requirements in private practices including that the collaborating physician practices primarily at same location as the APRN and is an owner of the practice; telemedicine; SCA requirements; authority to continue practice upon early termination of SCA; alignment of APRN practice with national certification; alignment of collaborating physician practice and APRN nursing specialty; delegation of medication administration to unlicensed individuals; and requirements for out-of-state programs' students to engage in APRN student clinical practice in Ohio.

- RNs and LPNs: Mandation/maximum number of hours worked; maximum nurse to patient ratio in various settings; LPN role in assessments; nursing students may not engage in nursing practice outside of the planned clinical experiences that occur under the auspices of their programs; recent nursing program graduates may not engage in nursing practice prior to licensure; medication administration based on protocols or standing orders; LPN IV therapy; infusion practices in a spa setting or mobile clinic; ownership of practices; specific procedures or treatments including aesthetic practices; practice in Ohio by non-Ohio licensed nurses; telehealth by Ohio-licensed nurses with patients in other states; delegation to unlicensed individuals.

Compliance

As of December 30, 2021, and compared with 2020 number in parentheses:

- Complaints received: 6,894 (6,139)
- Open investigations: 850 (769)
- Post-disciplinary monitoring active cases: 1,173 (1,174)
- Alternative Program for Substance Use Disorder: 41 (41) with 14 applications pending
- Practice Intervention and Improvement (PIIP): 4 (1)