

**MINUTES OF THE
NEBRASKA BOARD OF
NURSING**

ISSUES FORUM

June 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Nursing was called to order by Dawn Straub, Board President, at 1:34 p.m., June 13, 2018, at the Nebraska State Office Building, Room Lower Level B, Lincoln NE 68508. Copies of the agenda were mailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health & Human Services website. Straub announced the location of an available copy of the Open Meetings Act within the room.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present to answer roll call:

- Janet Andrew, LPN, *Board Vice-President*
- Anne Dey, RN
- Louise LaFramboise, RN
- Patricia Motl, RN
- Kristene Perrin, RN
- Dawn Straub, RN, *Board President*
- Karen Weidner, RN, *Secretary*
- Katherine Werth, APRN

The following Board members were absent: Maxine Guy, LPN, Kristin Ruiz, RN, LaFonda Tanner, *Public Member*, and Rita Thalken, *Public Member*.

The following staff members from the Department were also present during all or part of the meeting:

- Ann Oertwich, RN, *Executive Director*
- Kathy Hoebelheinrich, RN, *Nursing Practice Consultant*
- Jacci Reznicek, RN, *Nursing Education Consultant*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Andrew made the motion, seconded by Motl, to adopt the agenda for the June 13 2018, Board of Nursing meeting.

Voting Yes: Andrew, Dey, LaFramboise, Motl, Perrin, Straub, Weidner, and Werth. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guy, Ruiz, LaFonda, and Thalken. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Straub reviewed the mission statement, vision statement, and BHAGs (“Big Hairy Audacious Goals”) developed during the Board’s previous strategic planning sessions. She asked members and staff to work in three small groups (one group for each goal) and develop tactics for their assigned goal. She asked each group to identify a “what,” “when,” and “who” for each tactic. Afterwards, each group reported back on the tactics they developed.

These minutes were approved by the
Board of Nursing on July 12, 2018.

Goal #1 – Promote a Unified Professional Identity for All Nursing Roles

- A. **What:** Change Nurse Practice Act (NPA) to change Board Composition. **When:** 2 years. **Who:** staff, NPA legislative workgroup.

Oertwich said that the APRN Coalition will be the lead for adopting the APRN Compact and APRN Consensus Model. The Board would probably need to work with the Nebraska Nurses Association in order to get legislation passed in order to change the Nurse Practice Act. Oertwich said that Board members can help by testifying when the time comes.

- B. **What:** Required Regulatory Refresher for Renewal. **When:** 3 years. **Who:** NCSBN pilot program.

Motl explained that this tactic involves mandating that nurses take a test as a license renewal requirement. Nurses who pass the test would not be required to complete continuing education. She noted that research indicates that continuing education and practice hour requirements are not effective in terms of assessing competency. Oertwich said that the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) might be willing to partner with Nebraska to pilot the program.

- C. **What:** Promote RN role as care manager. **When:** 5 years. **Who:** Center for Nursing.

Goal #2 – Enhance Public Safety

- A. **What:** Streamline the disciplinary process by identifying triggers, i.e. offenses that are of the greatest concern. **When:** Not specified. **Who:** Internal staff

Dey explained that identifying triggers might help get more egregious issues brought before the board more promptly.

- B. **What:** Complete a literature review for discipline effectiveness. **When:** 6 months – 1 year. **Who:** Board of Nursing small groups.

- C. Benchmark with other umbrella state boards of nursing.

1. **What:** Members and staff who attend NCSBN Annual Conference will ask 5 people from other states 3 questions. **When:** Report out at September 2018 Board meeting. **Who:** Members and staff who attend conference.

2. **What:** Send surveys to other boards. **When:** Not specified. **Who:** Not specified.

- D. **What:** Develop a template to be used by Board members when reviewing investigation reports. **When:** 6 months. **Who:** Volunteers.

Dey said that the template could include places to record items such as diagnoses, sobriety dates, and whether mandatory reports were filed.

- E. **What:** Implement purposeful continuing education, including the use of community service. **When:** 2-3 years. **Who:** Volunteers.

Dey explained that the group was interested in exploring the potential of assigning community service in lieu of coursework in disciplinary cases, although the feasibility of the plan needed to be determined.

- F. **What:** Identify nursing gaps via a survey. **When:** Next renewal. **Who:** The Board.

Oertwich noted that the renewals completed by RNs and LPNs when they renew their licenses are intended primarily to capture workforce data. Adding lots of additional questions could negatively affect the surveys' response rates.

Goal #3 – Promote Regulatory Excellence

- A. Implement alternative to discipline program.

1. **What:** Find out what kinds of programs other states have. **When:** After internal disciplinary report is finished. **Who:** Staff.
2. **What:** Gather data on effectiveness of alternative to discipline programs. **When:** After internal disciplinary report is finished. **Who:** Staff; NCSBN might have resources.

- B. Develop processes to ensure safe re-entry into nursing practice.

1. **What:** Gather data on temporary licenses issued for completing refresher courses, including a survey to capture employment info. **When:** 12 months. **Who:** Staff.

Given the relatively small number of people completing refresher programs, the workgroup was uncertain if this issue warranted the time and effort that might be required to complete the project.

2. **What:** Find out what other states do for reentry. **When:** 12 months. **Who:** Staff; NCSBN might have data.

- C. **What:** Develop targeted communication to nurses to promote knowledge and safe practice.
When: Need more information. **Who:** Need more information.

- D. **What:** Develop minimum standards for new hire orientations.
Group did not recommend proceeding with this tactic. Other members and staff also thought it was primarily an employer issue.

- E. **What:** Finish Department internal report on disciplinary terms. **When:** End of 2018. **Who:** Staff.

- F. **What:** Review/update nursing regulations for effectiveness. **When:** Monthly progress reports.
Who: Board members and staff.

The Governor's office establishes which regulations have priority for review, and the primary responsibility for drafting new regulations is with staff. Members, however, would like monthly reports on the status of regulations currently being drafted or revised.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator