

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the
NEBRASKA BOARD OF NURSING
Issues Forum
April 13, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Nursing's Issues Forum was called to order by Maxine Guy, Board President, at 2:17 p.m., April 13, 2016, at the Nebraska State Office Building, Room LL-D, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. 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. Guy 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
- Anne Dey, RN
- Maxine Guy, LPN, *Board President*
- Louise LaFramboise, RN
- Anthony LaRiche, *Public Member, Secretary*
- Kathleen Pepin, RN
- Kristene Perrin, RN
- Rita Thalken, *Public Member*
- Karen Weidner, RN

The following Board member was not present during roll call: Dawn Straub, RN (arrived at 2:27 p.m.)

The following Board member was absent: Kelley Hasenauer, APRN-NP, *Vice-President*

The following staff members from the Department were also present:

- Becky Wisell, *Administrator, Licensure Unit*
- Sherri Joyner, *Health Licensing Coordinator*
- Christopher "C.J." Roberts, *Attorney* (left at 2:50 p.m.)

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

INCORPORATING LPN-C DUTIES INTO LPN SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Weidner described the Board's goal to incorporate intravenous activities into the LPN scope of practice. Doing so would streamline processes at healthcare facilities because employers would no longer need to keep track of which LPNs are also LPN-Cs. Weidner also noted that the NCLEX-PN exam already includes items on intravenous skills. Pepin reported that she has talked with Sen. Hilkekmann about the possibility of introducing legislation.

Members reviewed the LPN/LPN-C workgroup's draft Letter of Intent. Weidner explained that the letter was the first step in the "407 Review" process that is required before legislation can be introduced to change the scope of practice of a health care profession. Crystal Higgins has agreed to participate in the 407 application process. Members are also interested in finding someone from the long-term health field to serve on the group.

These minutes were approved by the
Board of Nursing on May 12, 2016.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Pat Geary from the FGR Group introduced himself and explained his role in facilitating the discussion around the Board's next strategic plan. Geary asked each person to state what he or she thought was the most important issue the Board needed to address. Members and staff contributed the following suggestions:

- Public safety
- Integrity of the profession
- Retention of nurses
- Licensing recommendations
- Working with educational institutions to increase number of nurses
- Scope of practice
- Ensuring disciplinary processes are consistent
- Ensure effectiveness of three new staff members (when hired)
- Join the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact
- Ensure quality of nursing education programs
- Strengthen advisory capacity of the Board
- Improve efficiency of Board processes
- Enhance communication with stakeholders
- Assure transparency of Board actions
- Increase collaboration with other nursing organizations and related fields

Geary asked members how the above items might fit into the six categories of the Board's 2013-2015 Strategic Plan: 1) licensure, 2) discipline, 3) education, 4) practice, 5) governance/regulation, and 6) communication. Members noted that many of the items could belong to two or more categories. Straub said that it seemed like they were splitting hairs. Members discussed whether they should keep the structure of the previous strategic plan. LaRiche said he thought the six categories were helpful to staff.

Straub noted a distinction between Board goals and Department responsibilities. She thought that Department items might not need to be included in the strategic plan. Instead, the plan should focus on items that the Board "owns." Geary advised against including maintenance items, such as routine duties and responsibilities in a strategic plan. He encouraged members to define their strategic vision and then make goals based on that vision. Wisell noted that the number of items on the previous strategic plan seemed overwhelming. She asked if members could first prioritize items that the Board specifically wanted to accomplish, and then they could work on items for the Department.

Weidner said that major goals should include adopting the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact and moving forward with LPN/LPN-C legislation. Perrin said she was particularly interested in making the disciplinary process more efficient. She was concerned that the length of time it takes to discipline nurses who have committed crimes might negatively affect public safety. Straub said she wanted to clarify how and when advisory opinions are issued. Pepin said that in the past the Board seemed to be more of an educational and collaborative resource, rather than a punitive entity, and she would like to see the Board collaborate more with other groups.

From the discussion, members formulated eight major goals:

1. Achieve membership in the Enhanced Compact.
2. Pass LPN-C legislation
3. Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of disciplinary process.
4. Develop a framework for advisory functions and opinions.
5. Revise the regulations for Nursing Education Programs.
6. Develop a process to enhance the continuous support of the Board's skills and knowledge bases to assure informed functioning of the Board.



7. Be more actively involved in the NCSBN.
8. Increase collaboration between the Board and Department staff to enhance communication to the public regarding the roles and functions of the Board of Nursing and nursing profession.

Geary said he would prepare worksheets that Board members could use to provide feedback on how to proceed with the goals. Feedback from members can then be used to draft an action plan.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Joyner
Health Licensing Coordinator

