



The Transition of Internationally Educated Nurses to Illinois Nursing Licensure



Left-Right: Linda B. Roberts, MSN, RN/Illinois Center for Nursing Manager; Franciszka Staszewski, RN, BSN, CNOR, International Polish Nurses Association; Jolanta Mirecka, RN/IPNA; Carmen Hovanec, MSN, RN/Chairperson, Illinois Center for Nursing; Fran LaMonica, MS, RN/Chicago Bilingual Nurses Consortium; Susan Mathew DNP, RN/Indian Nurses Association of Illinois; Gloria Simon, MSN, RN/President Philippine Nurses Association of Illinois; Michele Bromberg, MS, RN/IDFPR Nursing Coordinator; Susan Edamala, MSN, RN/Indian Nurses Association of Illinois.

The IDFPR/Illinois Center for Nursing hosted a roundtable discussion focused on the transition of internationally educated nurses to Illinois licensure. The discussion's purpose was to obtain input regarding the process, explore available information, and share resources among participating organizations. The discussion also provided an opportunity to review the barriers and facilitators to obtaining an Illinois nursing license.

Carmen Hovanec, MS, RN, Illinois Center for Nursing/ICN Chairperson led the group, which included representatives of Illinois minority nurses' associations. The groups shared personal accounts of similarities and differences in professional nursing education in Eastern European countries and in countries such as the Philippines and India where nursing instruction is in English and the nurse graduates with a bachelor's degree. Other topics of discussion included English as a second language, British vs American English language, and variances amongst state licensure requirements. Association resources and programs were also mentioned.

Michele Bromberg, IDFPR Nursing Coordinator, reviewed changes to the 2015 Illinois Nurse Practice Act Rules that are directed at the Foreign Educated Nurse/FEN who is unable to provide proof of successful completion of primary and secondary education requirements. Details of this change may be found in

the Nurse Practice Act Rules, 1300.320 subsection (a)(5)(A)(i): the applicant may be allowed to provide proof of successful passage of the General Education Development Test/GED. Fran LaMonica, Executive Director Chicago Bilingual Nurses Association stated this is an issue for nurses educated in Eastern European countries. For some this was new information.

In summary, we had a lively discussion of resources, barriers and regulatory differences amongst states for the licensure and education of nurses, as well as the variances amongst different countries. M. Bromberg spoke at length about the enhanced Nursing Compact proposed legislation and the potential impact for Illinois, in addition to answering other licensure questions. The group also delved into how we, as nurses, work to support and transition foreign educated nurses in our community as they seek Illinois licensure. The group plans to meet again later this year.