



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation

Minutes

Illinois Nursing Center
Advisory Board Meeting
10:00 A.M., Thursday, January 4, 2007
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph, Room 09-939
Chicago, Illinois

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present:

Michelle Bromberg -Chairperson
Bridget Cahill
Kathryn Christiansen
Nancy Cutler
Susan Ehlers
Linda Fahey
Marcia Maurer (Phone)
James Renneker
Maureen Shekleton
Deborah Terrell

Absent

Donna Hartweg

Center Staff

David Johnson

Governor's Office

Emily MacGruder

DPH Staff

Mark Gibbs

Other

Dovetta McKee, Facilitator

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairperson Michele Bromberg. There were eight board members present and one member present by teleconference call, representing a quorum.

The first item on the agenda was the consideration of the minutes of the December 4, 2006 meeting. There was a motion by Jim Renneker, seconded by Maureen Shekleton, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was a review and discussion of the results of an informal survey given to all the approved nursing education programs in Illinois. The survey requested information about student enrollments and waitlist numbers at their schools. Chairperson Michele Bromberg advised in her report that based on the information provided from the approved nursing programs, it is possible that recruitment is not a factor to consider at this point regarding the nursing shortage. This is based on the high number of qualified applicants that are either turned away or waitlisted.

The next item on the agenda was the revision and adoption of a "merit matrix" statement defining the requirements and criteria scholarship applicants must meet to qualify under the "Merit" component of the DPH nursing scholarships. Staff from DPH Mark Gibbs delivered a report of their findings, comments and recommendations regarding the Merit evaluation tool submitted to DPH for review by the Board after the December 4th Board meeting. Following discussions with DPH staff, the Board revised the merit criteria to establish leadership and community service as evidence of "Merit". The Board further refined the process for integrating the merit component into the scholarship application process. The Board recommended the application process be amended to allow applicants to submit verifiable proof of leadership and community services. The application process will require applicants to submit a statement on official letterhead, signed and verified by a person of authority and official capacity within the organization where the applicant served. The statement must describe the nature, duration, amount of hours completed, responsibilities, and special accomplishments of the applicant. Board member Kathryn Christensen suggested that DPH file a report one year after the merit factor is integrated into the application process detailing when and how the merit component was used, how often it was used, was it helpful, and what type of student benefited from the application of the Merit criteria.

There was a motion by Linda Fahey, seconded by Bridget Cahill, to define the merit component of the DPH scholarship as leadership and community service. The re-designed tool for implementing the merit component would be forwarded to IDPH for review and final implementation. The motion was unanimously carried.

The next item on the agenda was to continue discussion and refinement of the Center's Research Agenda. Board members received copies of the RN and LPN Illinois Workforce surveys used in 2000 and 2001. Using the old documents as a starting point, board members selected questions from the

two surveys as well as questions from other examples that can be combined in a draft survey that will be implemented statewide to compile data about the Illinois Nursing workforce of 2007.

Chairperson Michele Bromberg recommended that the board conduct another informal survey of all the approved nursing educational programs in Illinois to focus on capacity issues - the follow-up survey would look like this:

Is your program at full capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
What County is your school located in?		
What have you identified as barriers to increasing enrollment in your nursing programs or reason you are not at capacity? (Please rank those that apply from 1 - 5. 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)		
<p>_____ Lack of space in pre-requisite courses or science courses needed in the nursing program</p> <p>_____ Lack of qualified nursing faculty</p> <p>_____ Lack of opportunities for clinical placements</p> <p>_____ Lack of physical space (classroom and laboratories)</p> <p>_____ Lack of qualified applicants</p> <p>_____ Lack of funding</p> <p>_____ No interest in expansion</p>		

The next item on the agenda was to review and adopt the center's vision and goals. Suggested modifications to the vision were discussed and the goals and mandates contained in the legislation were reviewed. There was a motion by Linda Fahey, seconded by Susan Ehlers, to adopt the following mission statement revision: "The mission of the Illinois Center for Nursing is to ensure an exceptional nursing workforce to meet the healthcare needs for the people of Illinois". The motion was unanimously carried.

The goals and mandates reviewed by the committee were:

1. Create public awareness of the nursing shortage in Illinois
2. Develop recruitment strategies to stimulate continued attraction to the nursing profession
3. Maintain a database on nursing supply and demand within the state
4. Translate and select Center's research findings into priorities to be addressed within the state
5. Convene groups of stakeholders to recommend strategies/systematic changes
6. Develop statewide access to capacity-building, life-long learning opportunities for nursing personnel

7. Promote innovation that increases workforce retention and professional satisfaction
8. Enhance and promote recognition, reward, and renewal activities for nurses
9. Establish the Center as a sustainable resource for the public and healthcare communities
10. Seek non-state funds to implement nursing policy
11. Assist students in finding a school of nursing and explore available financial aid
12. Assist nurses who are returning to school for an advanced degree
13. Inform students, out-of-state and foreign educated nurses of professional standards and licensing requirements

The next agenda item was the development of a list of programming ideas consistent with the goals and mandates outlined in the legislation. The Board identified 8 programming ideas and aligned them to the various goals and mandates defined in the legislation.

- 1) *Develop statewide access to capacity-building, life-long learning opportunities for nursing personnel:* Idea - Excellence in nursing - 2-day clinical faculty academy
- 2) *Promote innovation that increases workforce retention and professional satisfaction:* Idea - Promote centralized Statewide On-Line Access to Clinical Placements
- 3) *Convene groups of stakeholders to recommend strategies/systematic changes:* Idea - Conduct focus group to identify barriers to clinical placements in urban/rural areas
- 4) *Develop statewide access to capacity-building, life-long learning opportunities for nursing personnel:* Idea - Create professional development opportunities to build computer simulation skills
 - a. Train the trainer
 - b. Faculty workshops
- 5) *Develop statewide access to capacity-building, life-long learning opportunities for nursing personnel:* Idea - Create statewide databank of simulation case studies
- 6) *Assist students in finding a school of nursing and explore available financial aid; Assist nurses who are returning to school for an advanced degree:* Idea- Host networking meetings for college and graduate school recruiters and high school counselors and prospective graduate school candidates
- 7) *Inform students, out-of-state and foreign educated nurses of professional standards and licensing requirements:* Idea - Create and implement a Standardized Student Orientation to Nursing Practice
- 8) *Create public awareness of the nursing shortage in Illinois; Develop recruitment strategies to stimulate continued attraction to the nursing profession:* Idea - Center for Nursing Logo scholarship contest

There were no other matters to be brought before the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.