



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation

Minutes

Illinois Nursing Center
Advisory Board Meeting
10:00 A.M., Thursday, February 1, 2007
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph, Room 09-939
Chicago, Illinois
OPEN SESSION

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present:
Michele Bromberg -Chairperson
Kathryn Christiansen
Nancy Cutler
Linda Fahey
Donna Hartweg
James Renneker
Maureen Shekleton
Deborah Terrell

TELE-CONFERENCE

Bridget Cahill
Marcia Maurer (Phone)

NOT PRESENT

Susan Ehlers

Other

Dovetta McKee, Facilitator

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

The first item on the agenda was the consideration of the minutes of the January 4, 2007 meeting. There was a motion by Jim Renneker, seconded by Kathryn Christensen, 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 of approved nursing education programs in the state of

Illinois. The goal of the survey as outlined during the December Advisory Board meeting was to define nursing student enrollment capacity and expansion issues among institutions located in Illinois. The survey requested information about barriers to program expansion. Chairperson Bromberg reported that the survey had been sent to 112 nursing education institutions in Illinois with only 44 responding, representing a 39% response rate. There was discussion by the advisory board members who considered this to be a low response rate. Board members speculated why the return rate was so low and discussed what strategies were needed to increase the return rate to 100%. Board members agreed more attention needs to be given to defining outreach strategies that increase the response rate to survey requests. A Board member pointed out that the Center needs to be more sensitive to the concerns that respondents may have about how information will be used. Another board member suggested that survey returns might be better if they rely more on networking to get the work out. Building communication networks with key stakeholders is the key to a better response rate. Chairperson Bromberg reported that to enhance the result they had received for this survey, her office plans to follow-up with telephone calls to the institutions that did not respond. The top five barriers to expansion are as follows:(1) lack of physical space, (2) lack of qualified faculty, (3) funding, (4) clinical placement, and (5) pre-requisite classes. The survey results were separated by regions in the state. Northern Region, Central Region, and Southern Region.

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPROVED SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS		
Northern Region	Central Region	Southern Region
62	36	14
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPROVED SCHOOLS RESPONDING TO SURVEY		
Northern Region	Central Region	Southern Region
23	15	6
PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS RESPONDING TO SURVEY		
Northern Region	Central Region	Southern Region
37%	42%	43%

Top Two Barriers To Capacity	
Northern Region	
Lack of qualified nursing faculty	
Lack of physical space	
Central Region	
Lack of qualified nursing faculty	
Lack of physical space / Lack of funding	

Southern Region
Lack of qualified nursing faculty
Lack of space in pre-requisite courses / Lack of physical space

Chairperson Bromberg reviewed the variance in results between the northern, central, and southern regions and reported that the survey provided good baseline information by region, but was not certain that it supported statements that schools have waiting lists. Members of the committee reported that they had knowledge that some institutions were considering closing their program because of low enrollment. One board member suggested that if this was true, the Board should consider finding ways to refer students to under capacity schools. Others suggested options that included creating a central database of the number of applicants and the number of students not admitted to programs; establishing cooperative relationships with hospitals to minimize issues related to limited physical space for classrooms and laboratory experiences. The DuPage Healthcare Leadership initiative was referenced as a model.

The Board then began a discussion about how the survey should be revised to better clarify the question of whether nursing education institutions in Illinois are at capacity and how many qualified students are being turned away. Chairperson Bromberg ended further discussion and confirmed that other questions designed to clarify the issues of how to increase student enrollments would be added to a revised survey and calls from Chairperson Bromberg's office would be made to all school Deans who did not respond to the original survey about nursing education program capacity.

The next item on the agenda was the continued discussion and review of survey questions that will help define the Center's research agenda. Chairperson Bromberg gave a brief explanation of the RFP process that will be used to identify and select the appropriate firm to complete the survey activity; the time commitment for the Board members who volunteered to be on the evaluation committee and how the larger board would be involved in the process. She confirmed that Gloria Schaeffer from the procurement office would come in later during the meeting to provide a more detailed orientation to the RFP review process. Chairperson Bromberg stated that two members of the Advisory Board would be needed to help meet the March deadline for selection of the survey research firm for this project.

Following a brief discussion of the state mandated RFP process, board members reviewed and made comments on both the LPN and RN survey documents. Review of the LPN survey was completed and further consideration of the RN survey was ended at this point by Chairperson Bromberg. Chairperson Bromberg confirmed that there was adequate time to

continue and complete the review of the RN and APN component of the survey, before the RFP process was implemented and the survey company selected. The final review of both draft surveys would take place at the next scheduled board meeting. Board members suggested that two questions should be added to the APN component: (1) If you have a graduate degree in nursing are you currently teaching in an approved Illinois program? (2) If you have a graduate degree in nursing would you consider teaching.

At this point in the meeting, Chairperson Bromberg explained that the agenda would be modified to accommodate a report from Gloria Schaeffer and that identification of the two volunteers from the advisory board would take place after the presentation about the process for selecting the survey company was completed. The discussion was ended and members welcomed Gloria Schaeffer who reviewed the State's guidelines for the RFP evaluation committee process. Gloria explained that the RFP evaluation process required a 5 member committee comprised of the Advisory Board Chairperson, two other members from the Advisory Board, and two staff members from her Department. She further explained the RFP was scheduled to be released that day, final bids were due by 2/28.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the list of programming ideas and the results of how these items were rated by all board members. A brief discussion followed, Chairperson Bromberg directed board members to review the survey results on programming ideas and to be prepared for further discussion and comments at the next Board meeting. At 11:30 A.M. Bridget Cahill left the meeting.

The discussion about programming ideas concluded and board members agreed to take a short break before beginning the Metro East Hospital presentation. Following the short break, the Board then took up the next item on the scheduled agenda, the presentation by Dale Kreienkamp from the Metro East Hospitals and Nursing Schools, Donna Meyer, Director of Nursing from Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois and Tim Mislán from Alton hospital in Alton Illinois. They presented information about a pilot project that seeks a five year exemption from state mandated academic teaching standards. The pilot project was offered as a way to increase the number of clinical faculty in nursing schools, increase the number of nurses working on their Masters degrees, and increase the number of students enrolled in nursing schools in the Metro East area. A lengthy discussion followed and representatives from Metro East responded to questions from various board members about the content and impact of this regional demonstration project. During the discussion one board member disclosed that their organization has hired graduates from the Metro East program and another board member discussed concerns about how such a proposal would impact traditional nursing programs that follow the state mandates for qualified teaching staff at the Masters Degree level. After a lengthy discussion, Board members thanked the Metro

East Presentation Team for their time and the discussions ended at 1:15 PM.

1:20 PM, Board members went into closed session. Closed session was ended at 1:50 PM.

The final item on the agenda was the website review. Chairperson Bromberg confirmed that the review of the website would be added to the April agenda.

There were no other matters to be brought before the Board, Chairperson Bromberg entertained a motion to adjourn at 2:00 P.M. by Board member Donna Hartweg and seconded by Nancy Cutler.