



**Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC)**  
**Discipline Sub-committee Minutes**  
**February 18, 2020 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

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**Committee Members:**

Adam Canary, LPN, Chair  
Lois Hoell, MS, MBA, RN  
Sharon Ness, RN  
Tiffany Randich, RN  
Tracy Rude, LPN ad hoc  
Dawn Morrell, RN, BSN, CCRN  
Cass Tang, Public Member

**Staff:**

Catherine Woodard, Director, Discipline  
Karl Hoehn, Assistant Director, Discipline - Legal  
Grant Hulteen, Assistant Director, Discipline - Investigations  
John Furman, Assistant Director, Discipline - WHPS  
Teresa Corrado, LPN, CPM, Assistant Director, Discipline - Case Management  
Helen Budde, Case Manager  
Barb Elsner, HSC  
Margaret Holm, Nurse Consultant

**Public:**

Katherine Ander, RN  
Eileen Lombardi, PLU DNP student, WHPS Intern  
Debbie Schaffran

- I. 3:30 PM Opening – Adam**
- Call to order – Digital recording announcement
  - Roll call
- II. December 17, 2019 Minutes – Adam**
- Minutes approved.
- III. January 10, 2020 Commission Meeting Review – Adam**
- Adam noted that we removed W42 (related to WHPS monitoring interruptions) from the commission meeting agenda and will revisit the matter at the April Discipline Subcommittee meeting.
- IV. Performance Measures – Catherine, Grant, Karl, John**
- Grant noted an error in the original packet we distributed. He projected the correct numbers up onto the screen for Investigations and noted highlights.
  - Karl commented that Legal is seeing an influx of cases since there are now more investigators churning out cases. Plus, one staff attorney is out on extended leave and they have absorbed her cases among the group. They have been increasing their performance on completing legal reviews and drafting documents.
  - John recapped the compliance report and noted most relapses are alcohol-related. WHPS saw a few non-use related compliance issues, and three nurses withdrew from the program for financial reasons. They were not able to find a job because they were in the program. Lois asked if there's anything we can do to help those who drop out for financial reasons or do nurses deliberately drop out. John explained he has 50 scholarships from Recovery Trek he can use appropriately to assist nurses and he has used some. He also mentioned that peer support groups operate on a sliding fee scale.
- V. A.34.06 Early Remediation Procedure Review – Helen, Karl**
- Karl, Helen and Margaret touched on the high points of the newly revised procedure. This revision adds a definition of willful conduct, which Karl said is appropriate since the associated WAC also uses the term willful behavior. The DSC agreed to move this forward to the full commission.
- VI. WHPS Procedures Review – John, Catherine**
- W34.01 II.A.1 Substance Use Evaluation and Treatment Services: Updates licensure terminology from CDP to SUDP.
- This revision only updates the current credentialing term. Tracy wondered if this is nation-wide, or only our state. John said there was a push to elevate the professionalism of the Substance Use Disorder Professional. DSC agreed to present to move this forward to the commission.
- W40.01. I.C. Medication Use: Adds requirement for prescriber reporting.
- There was discussion around the need for this reporting. John explained it shows the nurse is consistently on the medication, to ensure the prescriber is appropriately managing the medication and the nurse, and requires an in-person appointment as an added layer of care. If a nurse has SUD and is using an opiate, it's important for the prescriber to maintain oversight. Commission members each had an opinion about what length of time they thought was appropriate for the prescription reporting. John said reporting every 90 days is

working well in most cases, and Dr Beck (medical advisor to WHPS) supports the timeline. The commission agreed to move this forward to the full commission.

**W43.01. I.C.4 Clarifies language about missed check ins.**

- Catherine explained the intent was to eliminate the ambiguity of the original language that used a pattern of missed check-ins as a basis for non-compliance. The DSC agreed to move the procedure forward to the full commission; however, John raised the issue of calling three missed check-ins in a three month period significant non-compliance. Tracy asked what is in the best interest of the public?
- Robust discussion followed and Adam and the rest of the DSC agreed with a plan to discuss more within a sub-group after staff had a chance to digest the comments and bring back ideas. The sub-group will consist of Cass, Lois, Sharon, and Tracy. We also agreed to wait until after NCSBN released their latest research about best practices related to SUD alternative to discipline programs in March. More to come on this!

**VII. Strategic Plan Update – WHPS – John, Catherine**

- John is busy making contacts with organizations. John, Catherine, and Paula met recently to discuss the strategic plan and talked specifically about the commission's position statement. One can find their position statement in the RCW, so we will be working on a one-page informatics document that anyone can take with them as part of a presentation to introduce WHPS and the advantages of enrolling in the program. C4PA will be able to produce a spiffy document with the information we provide.
- Eileen Lombardi (on the call) is a PLU DNP student and intern with WHPS for the purpose of developing training modules. John discussed the possibility of changing the law to require CEUs on SUD every few years; he thinks this would be more effective than him presenting all around the state. Lois is particularly interested in reaching nurses in the rural part of the state.

**VIII. Work Plan – Adam**

Review status of items on the work plan

- Few updates noted.

**IX. Meeting Evaluation – All**

- We were already at the end of the call so this was brief.
- Lois: great meeting and good ideas.
- Dawn: lots of work behind the calls.
- Cass: appreciated seeing some of us as we got the technology situated. Good to take things offline to discuss further and bring back to the group (referring to missed check-ins).
- Sharon: echos that.
- Tiffany: Agreed. Good discussions.

**X. Closing at 5:31pm**