



Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC)
Discipline Sub-committee Minutes
May 19, 2020 3:30 pm to 4:45 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

Public:

Marilyn Patterson – Lacey
Katherine Ander, RN - Bellevue

If you have questions regarding the agenda, please call the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) office at (360) 236-4763. Agenda items may be presented in a different order. If you wish to attend the meeting for a single item, contact our office at the number listed above and request a specific time scheduled for that item. If you have limited English language expertise call (360) 236-4763 before **May 15, 2020**.

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This meeting will be digitally recorded to assist in the production of accurate minutes. All recordings are public record. The minutes of this meeting will be posted on our website after they have been approved at the **July 10, 2020**, NCQAC meeting. For a copy of the actual recording, please contact the Public Disclosure Records Center (PDRC) at PDRC@doh.wa.gov.

If attending remotely, please mute your connection in order to minimize background noise during the meeting. Time permitting; comments from the public will be taken at the end of the meeting. Use the question box on the meeting control panel to submit questions.

Smoking and vaping are prohibited at this meeting.

I. 3:30 PM Opening – Adam

- Call to order – Digital recording announcement
- Roll call

II. March 17, 2020 Minutes – Adam

- Approved to move to the next business meeting (July).

III. Performance Measures - March and April – Catherine, Grant, Karl, John

- Grant: Investigators are working the priority A and B cases, which are down from 40 cases to 22.
- Cases may be down because of COVID and we are also seeing more COVID-related complaints.
- Speculation around a potential increase in cases with more furloughed nurses increasing nursing workloads.
- The average age of a case right now is 401 days.
- Cases continue to rise. When we look at the recent trend lines from the last two years of data, they remain largely the same.
- Karl noted that Legal has not quite met their performance targets; however, since the COVID response, they have taken on a great deal of extra work related to the response. They currently have more cases coming in than leaving the unit. Sarah B is now back to work and Jeff Lippert, the last staff attorney to be hired as part of the decision package from 2019, is learning his new work quickly. Everyone seems to be adjusting to working from home.
- John: Notably, three nurses withdrew from the WHPS program.
- The trend continues with 18/21 relapses being alcohol-related.
- John correlated the jump in non-compliance to increased stress related to COVID stressors: mental health + COVID 19 + financial strain + life.
- Currently 290 people in WHPS plus approximately 15 in intake.
- To answer Cass's question, criteria defining significant non-compliance is in procedure and WHPS reports those cases to discipline.
- Karl further explained the process. This report at DSC is for awareness.
- Adam remarked that Tracy and Lois do a great job at watching the trends.

IV. Strategic Plan Update – WHPS – John, Catherine

- John reported that work has pretty much come to a standstill because of COVID. No presentations. John is in contact with all the associations; several committee members urged John to use technology for virtual meetings.
- A recent DNP graduate, Dr Lombardi, is putting together a presentation regarding stigma and will present to the Research Subcommittee, then Discipline Subcommittee (DSC).
- Cass asked for more notes on progress in the far right column of the strategic plan document.
- Positive comments on the rough draft position statement. Good info about the voluntary arm of the program. John wonders how we'll use this and the nurses must feel safe. Tracy reminds that we must not lose sight of public safety; all is lost if we do.
- The plan is to take it to C4PA and have them translate the scientific position statement into something appealing to nurses. Cass also suggested that this work intersects with the communications task force. Catherine will move it forward and report on progress.

V. Work Plan – Adam

- We will be adding the WHPS strategic plan to the work plan.
- We discussed the status of future commission meetings and we know that at least the July workshop and meeting will be by webinar.
- Karl reported on the status of hearings given disciplinary matters must continue. The Chief Health Law Judge, Roman Dixon, is actively working on a solution to meet obligations and satisfy rights and due process. Identifying the litigation platform is a challenge. Emergency rules to file electronically is also helping.
- The subgroup formed to review and edit procedure *W42 Drug and Alcohol Testing* will be meeting soon.
- Heard at CDP: not all commission members have the current sanction standards that include the jurisprudence module. Karl reported NCSBN is still working through some glitches with links.

VI. Meeting Evaluation – All

- Lois: Takes a village. Complex issues.
- Sharon: Great meeting. COVID impacts everyone's life. Amazing work looking at W42, WHPS position statement, sanction standards. Will be great to participate in the annual (NCSBN) meeting virtually.
- Tiffany: Agrees with Sharon.
- Tracy: Appreciates the discussion and work. Thanks to legal and investigations for performance reports.
- Dawn: Thanks for a great meeting and work ahead of time.
- Cass: Appreciates the public joining the meeting so we can share our good work. Misses travel and misses seeing faces. Next meeting, let's turn on the cameras when we speak.
- Karl: Went well. Enjoy working with everyone. The 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale is pandemic-appropriate. Is humbled to work in Nursing.
- Grant: Thanks to all for your input.
- John: Echos everyone. Impressed with how well everyone is working in the new environment. The general meeting went so well and was productive.
- Teresa: Thinks we should show our animals on camera. Except she's not on camera because she's working with two monitors without a camera on. Echos John.
- Helen: Went well. Lots of interesting WHPS information.
- Adam: Haven't gotten a haircut so not looking good! Any comments from the public?
- Ms Patterson: Grateful for a commission who looks out for nurses.
- Ms Ander: Appreciates attending the meeting and receiving the documents.

VII. Closing

- 4:45pm