



**Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC)
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2022
8:00 AM- 5:00 PM**

Commission Members:

Laurie Soine PhD, ARNP, Exiting Chair
Tiffany Randich, RN, LPN, Exiting Vice-Chair
Adam Canary, LPN, Secretary/Treasurer
Yvonne Strader, RN, BSN, BSPA, MHA, Rising Chair
Helen Myrick, Public Member, Rising Vice-Chair
Jonathan Alvarado ARNP, CRNA
Ella B. Guilford, MSN, M.Ed., BSN, RN
Dawn Morrell, RN, BSN, CCRN
MaiKia Moua, RN, BSN, MPH
Sharon Ness, RN
Kimberly Tucker PhD, RN, CNE

Excused

Quiana Childress, GCertHealthSc, BS, LPN
Mabel Ezeonwu PhD, RN
Judy Loveless-Morris – Public Member
Emerisse Shen, ARNP
Joan Madayag, LPN

Assistant Attorney General:

Sierra McWilliams, Assistant Attorney General

Staff:

Paula R. Meyer, MSN, RN, FRE, Executive Director
Chris Archuleta, Director, Operations
Gerianne Babbo, Ed.D, MN, RN, Director, Education
Shad Bell, Assistant Director, Operations
Amber Bielaski, MPH, Assistant Director, Licensing
Debbie Carlson, MSN, RN, CPM, Director, Practice
Mary Sue Gorski, PhD, RN, Director, Advanced Practice,
Research and Policy
Karl Hoehn, JD, FRE, Assistant Director, Discipline –
Legal
Grant Hulteen, Assistant Director, Discipline –
Investigations and WHPS
Bethany Mauden, Administrative Assistant
Kathy Moisio, PhD, RN, Director, Nursing Assistant
Programs
Catherine Woodard, Director, Discipline and WHPS

I. 8:00 AM Opening – Laurie Soine, Chair – DISCUSSION/ACTION

II. Call to Order

A. Introductions

B. New officers take their seats

1. Yvonne Strader, Chair
2. Helen Myrick, Vice Chair
3. Adam Canary, Secretary/Treasurer

C. Order of the Agenda

D. Land Acknowledgement – Sharon Ness

E. Announcements

Ms. Meyer announced the resignation of Dr. Ezeonwu from NCQAC effective July 31, 2022.

III. Consent Agenda – DISCUSSION/ACTION

Consent Agenda items are considered routine and are approved with one single motion.

ACTION: Ms Ness motioned to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Guilford. The motion passed.

A. Approval of Minutes

1. NCQAC Business Meeting –
 - a. May 13, 2022
2. Advanced Practice Subcommittee –
 - a. April 20, 2022
3. Discipline Subcommittee – February 15, 2022
4. Consistent Standards of Practice Subcommittee – April 1, 2022
5. Licensing Subcommittee –
 - a. April 19, 2022
 - b. No May Meeting
6. Research Subcommittee –
 - a. April 18, 2022
 - b. May 16, 2022

B. Performance Measures

1. Investigations
2. Legal
3. Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS)
4. Nursing Program Approval Panel (NPAP)
5. Nursing Assistant Program Approval Panel (NAPAP)
6. Weekly Licensing Report to Gov

C. Washington Center for Nursing/NCQAC monthly meetings

1. April 2022
2. June 2022

D. Out of state travel reports

1. NCSBN IT conference, May 5-6, St. Petersburg FL; Adam Canary, Chris Archuleta, Shad Bell
2. National Organization of Alternative Programs (NOAP), May 16-19, Albuquerque NM; John Furman, Grant Hulteen, Paula Meyer
3. NCSBN Discipline Case Management, May 23-25, Milwaukee WI; Catherine Woodard, Barbara Justice, Karl Hoehn

IV. NCQAC Panel Decisions – DISCUSSION

The NCQAC delegated the authority as provided by law for certain decisions to a panel of at least three members. A member of the NCQAC must chair panels. Pro Tem members of NCQAC may serve as panel members. The following decisions were provided for information and are available in the packet.

A. Nursing Program Approval Panel (NPAP)

1. May 5, 2022
2. May 19, 2022
3. June 2, 2022
4. June 16, 2022

B. Nursing Assistant Program Approval Panel (NAPAP)

1. May 9, 2022
2. June 13, 2022

V. Chair Report – Yvonne Strader – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Search Committee

Ms. Strader reported the NCQAC delegated to the executive director search committee to complete the search and recommend decisions to the full NCQAC. Co-chairs of the search committee are Ms. Strader and Mr. Archuleta. Members are Helen Myrick, Adam Canary, Gerianne Babbo, Catherine Woodard and Amber Zawislak. During the workshop, the NCQAC members and protoms reviewed and provided input on the position description.

B. Joint Operating Agreement (JOA)

Ms. Strader reported the JOA was revised and Ms. Meyer reported that the JOA draft was sent to the Secretary of Health, Dr. Umar Shah, to begin negotiations.

C. Letter from Bob Ferguson, Attorney General

Mr. Ferguson sent a letter to the NCQAC requesting information on the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v Wade. The letter requested the NCQAC to give information to nurses, especially nurse practitioners, on the current Washington State laws. A Frequently Asked Questions document was developed with the WA Medical Commission, the Board of Osteopathic Surgeons and the Pharmacy Commission.

D. Committee chairs and members

Helen Myrick, as the vice chair, will chair the legislative panel. Dawn Morrell will become the chair of the Substance Use Disorder Review Panel. Ms. Strader appointed

- Judy Loveless-Morris to the Discipline Subcommittee
- Joan Madayag to the Legislative Panel
- Emerisse Shen to the Advanced Practice Subcommittee and the Case Management Panel
- MaiKia Moua to the Licensing Subcommittee

VI. Executive Director Report – Paula Meyer – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. State Auditor Office, Prescription Monitoring Program report

Ms. Meyer explained the purpose of the legislated audit of the Prescription Monitoring Program to determine if there are ways to improve actions. The report is due to be completed in early fall and may be presented at the November meeting.

B. Rules Update – Shad Bell

Ms. King gave a rules update. There are several rules are in process. There are interested parties' meetings upcoming on the rules changes.

C. HELMS Update

Ms. Meyer discussed HELMS. With the recent change in a subcontractor, the project is back on time, and on budget. Demographic data is required from nurses as they apply and renew licensure.

D. National Council of State Boards of Nursing Annual Meeting, August 17-19, Board of Directors recommendations

Ms. Meyer discussed the NCSBN board recommendations and candidates for elections. Ms. Morrell and Ms. Meyer are the delegates for the annual meeting. Several NCQAC members and staff are attending the meeting in Chicago.

E. Electronic Signatures

New board members will receive an email for approval to use their electronic signatures. Continuing NCQAC members will receive a request to continue using the esignatures.

VII. Subcommittee Reports – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Advanced Practice – Jonathan Alvarado, Chair

Mr. Alvarado gave a report on the Advanced Practice Subcommittee. The subcommittee offered two rules workshops, one on opioids and the other on housekeeping recent changes. Mr. Alvarado thanked Dr. Gorski for her assistance with the workshops.

B. Consistent Standards of Practice – Sharon Ness, Chair

No report

C. Discipline – Adam Canary, Chair

1. WRAMP transition – WRAMP is the substance monitoring program for professions other than nursing, doctors and pharmacists. The WRAMP program staff will transition to work with the WHPS staff. WRAMP staff will continue to serve the programs currently served. This transition allows for additional support and will coexist within WHPS. Ms. Woodard and Mr. Hulteen will communicate with the program managers for the professions and provide them with annual reports.
2. Remote testing in WHPS – GenoTech is a new company that uses DNA identifiers in urine to match the sample with the person being monitored. The person being monitored voluntarily chooses to use this method to submit body fluid samples. The person being monitored provides a cheek swab to the company. The company provides all the testing materials and mailing pouches. The person then sends the sample(s) back using FedEx to remove barrier for testing. There is an observational process to prevent issues. Once the program is complete all identifying information is destroyed. WHPS participants are very happy about this option since it provides them with a way to conveniently provide their body fluid tests. There are times when participants have not been able to test due to distances from a lab and hours of operation of the lab. With this test, the participant can travel and continue to provide the sample to a FedEx center or drop box.
3. SUDRP launched July 1st – Ms. Morrell will serve as the chair. The target date identified in the strategic plan has been met.

D. Licensing – Dawn Morrell, Chair

1. Paperless Process and Requirement for Demographic Data when HELMS is Implemented
ACTION: It was moved by Dawn Morrell, with a second by the licensing subcommittee, to require the electronic submission of applications and renewals for all registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and nursing technicians when HELMS is implemented and fully functional. The motion carried.
ACTION: It was moved by Dawn Morrell, with a second by the licensing subcommittee, to require all nursing applicants and licensees electronically submit the required demographic data in accordance with WAC 246-840-015. The motion carried.
2. Michigan English Test Recommendation – The licensing subcommittee recommends adding the Michigan English Test to the tests of English comprehension required for licensure for internationally educated nurses. The passing score is 55 on speaking and overall.
ACTION: It was Moved by Dawn Morrell, with a second by the licensing subcommittee, to adopt the Michigan English Test as an approved English proficiency exam to meet Licensing requirements. The motion carried.

E. Research – Sharon Ness, Chair

No report.

F. Education – Kimberly Tucker, Chair – Meets quarterly, no meeting held.

No report.

VIII. Education – Dr. Gerianne Babbo, Dr. Kathy Moio - DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Education Report – Dr. Gerianne Babbo, Dr. Mary Sue Gorski

1. Clinical Placement Summit – July 29 at 8:00 am to 12:00

a. Industry partners, education, and interested parties will attend.

2. Preceptorship Grant Update – the new staff have been hired to administrate the grant and develop infrastructure. The new staff begin on August 1.

3. 2020-2021 Education Report Annual Survey –

In WA State, there are nursing education programs at 12 universities; 29 community and technical colleges (CTC); Eight of the AD-RN programs offer a pathway from LPN to AD. There are 94 out of state schools that completed the out-of-state survey for clinical placement; 242 approved tracks (49 prelicensure and 193 post-licensure); Total approved tracks :528.

Analysis/Recommendations

- Diversity/Inclusion
- Faculty Recruitment and Retention
- Academic Proression
- Workforce Data

B. Nursing Assistant Updates

1. Training - the common curriculum will be complete and ready to use this fall as reported on July 7.

2. Testing – **Issue:** Due to an ongoing backlog resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, most nursing assistants in Washington, while trained are still unable to complete the certification examination and become certified within 120 days as required in federal statute.

Washington has taken and continues to take proactive steps to facilitate timely certification examinations for all nursing assistants; however, it is clear that our state will not succeed in achieving this goal unless the end of the federal CMS waiver is extended beyond June 5, 2022.

With the staffing crisis in nursing homes, losing any nursing assistants from the workforce poses serious risks to the health and safety of Washington’s nursing home residents.

Conclusion

Improvement in Washington’s capacity to implement the certification examination for nursing assistants has been slow; and, currently, Washington is functioning at about 80% of its prepandemic capacity. While this is progress,

it still means only 80% of current nursing assistant graduates can take the certification examination timely.

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services and the Washington State Department of Health submitted a joint letter to CMS to request a state level extension of the 1135 federal waiver for 42 CFR §483.35(d) to allow more time for Nursing Assistants-Registered (NA-Rs) to work in skilled nursing facilities while they complete their Nursing Assistant-Certified (NA-C) credential.

IX. Education Session

VLBSN Nursing Program Update (Veterans, LPN to BSN)– Dr. Alicia Nye, Olympic College

Dr. Nye provided information on the VLBSN program, progress of the first class admitted to the VLBSN program, and future plans.

X. Public Comment

Public comment is for public presentation of issues to the NCQAC.

Public comment from Ms. Ross – Providence healthcare worker in Spokane, COVID vaccine requirements for nurses and religious beliefs concerns. Asked the education subcommittee to make exceptions to the Governor’s mandate.

XI. Budget Report – Miceal Carnahan and Pam Raney; Adam Canary, Chris Archuleta – DISCUSSION/ACTION

Ms. Carnahan and Ms. Raney presented on the allotment for the coming year and actions needed. Mr. Archuleta presented on actions that may be needed by the NCQAC.

Mr. Canary and Mr. Archuleta presented on the monthly budget and expenditures.

This report covered the period of July 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022, eleven months into the biennium, with thirteen months remaining. The NCQAC budget is underspent by 7% and the current revenue balance is \$5.8M.

REVENUES:

The recommended revenue balance or “reserve” should be 12.5% of biennial budgeted allotments, or approximately \$4.3 million. NCQAC continues to operate above the recommended reserve balance and May revenues continue the trend of exceeding licensing projections. As a result, revenues currently outpace projections by approximately 8%, or just over \$1M. This is due in part to the continued high volume of endorsement applications and volunteer nurses applying for licensure to remain in Washington after the emergency.

BUDGET/ALLOTMENTS:

The agency posted all indirect charges; therefore, this report contains actuals, and no estimates required. The allotment adjustments discussed in the previous segment and the allotments granted in the 2022 supplemental budget have been uploaded and are reflected in this report. For the most part expenses continue to follow recent trends.

FISCAL OUTLOOK:

The combination of revenues exceeding projections and underspending the budget resulted in a gain of more than \$1.5 M to our revenue balance to date. However, there are several upcoming key expenditures impacting the revenue balance. NCQAC still owes \$5.4M for HELMS to be withdrawn in the 21-23 biennium. The approval of the licensing and LTC decision packages grants the additional spending authority, however, it does not include the funding (dollars) needed to support the work. As a result, we anticipate the reserve balance dropping below recommended levels in FY23. In response, NCQAC requested the secretary open a CR-101 to increase fees. At the April special meeting, the NCQAC approved recommending fee increases to the secretary. The secretary held the rules hearing in June. The CR-103 was submitted and new fees are on track to be implemented on November 1, 2022 (See the meeting packet page 170).

Mr. Archuleta discussed the preceptor grant funding allotment technical correction decision package.

Decision packages are sent to the Governor's office for consideration for the next legislative session. In the 2022 supplemental budget the NCQAC was directed to create and implement a nurse preceptor grant program. NCQAC was appropriated \$3M in FY22, \$3M in FY23, and ongoing of General Fund State to accomplish this directive. Due to the short time frame between the approval of the supplemental budget and the end of the fiscal year, the appropriation for FY22 was not able to be spent. The NCQAC will draft a technical correction decision package to request the money appropriated in FY22 be reappropriated in FY23. The total amount appropriated in FY23 will be \$6M. The final package will be presented at the September 9 meeting.

ACTION: Mr. Canary moved to adopt the concept description for the nurse preceptor grant program technical correction decision package to request the \$3M appropriated in FY22 be reappropriated in FY23. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarado. The motion passed

When the NCQAC received the control numbers to begin preparing the 2021-2023 biennial budget, an error in the methodology used by DOH to allocate the health professions account occurred. Resulting in the NCQAC being over allotted by approximately \$1M. Decisions regarding decision packages and strategic

planning were based on these incorrect allotments. The error was not noticed until 9 months into the biennium, resulting in a scramble to reevaluate decisions made. To accomplish NCQAC strategic goals and outcomes, requesting additional allotment to offset the allotment error is recommended. The final package will be presented at the September 9 meeting.

ACTION: Mr. Canary moved to adopt the concept description for the decision package to request additional allotment to offset the allotment error encountered in FY22. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tucker. The motion passed

Mr. Archuleta discussed the proposed fee increase.

The Department of Health (department) in consultation with the NCQAC considered fee changes for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and nursing technicians.

RCW 43.70.280 requires the Secretary of the Department of Health (secretary), in consultation with NCQAC to establish by rule the administrative procedures, administrative requirements, and fees for initial issue, renewal, and reissue of a credential for professions under RCW 18.130.040, including procedures and requirements for late renewals and uniform application of late renewal penalties. "In consultation with" means providing an opportunity for meaningful participation in development of rules consistent with processes set forth in RCW 34.05.310.

RCW 43.70.250 requires that the costs of licensing each profession be fully borne by members of that profession.

Interested parties meetings to receive input from the public were held December 2nd, 8th and 10th, 2021 and March 21st and March 23rd, 2022 regarding the proposed fee increase.

Due to the unanticipated revenue from record volume of applications, the recommendation from the March 28 meeting is modified to reduce the RN fee increase from \$25 to \$15.

ACTION: Mr. Canary moved to support the NCQAC recommendation to the Secretary of the Department of Health for nursing fee increases as follows:

Profession	Application Fee	Renewal Fee
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner	\$130	\$130
Licensed Practical Nurse	\$69	\$69
Registered Nurse	\$114	\$114
Nursing Technician	No Increase	No Increase

The motion was seconded by Ms. Guilford. The motion carried. Implementation to take place December 1.

XII. Washington Center for Nursing – Sofia Aragon – DISCUSSION/ACTION

Ms. Aragon provided an update on the Center’s work on contract deliverables.
Ms. Aragon also reported on the Critical Gap Groups and their strategic plans.

XIII. Meeting Evaluation

XIV. Closing