



**Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC)
Education Subcommittee Agenda
February 14, 2023 3:00 to 4:00pm**

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Committee Members:

Kim Tucker PhD, RN, CNE, Chair
Laurie Soine PhD, ARNP Pro tem
Renee Hoeksel PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN Pro Tem
Julie Benson MHA, MN, RN, CNE Pro Tem
Fionnuala Brown, DNP, MSN, FNP-C, RN Pro Tem
Helen Myrick, Public Member
Tracy Rude, LPN Member

Staff:

Gerianne Babbo, EdD, MN, RN, Director of Nursing Education
Sarah Bear, EdD, MSN, RN, Nursing Education Consultant
Marlin Galiano, MN, RN, Nursing Education Consultant
Margaret Holm, JD, RN Nursing Education Consultant Practice
Sara Kirschenman, NCQAC Attorney
Sierra McWilliams, NCQAC, Assistant Attorney General
Kathy Moisio, PhD, RN, Director of Nursing Assistant Education
Amy Murray, MSN, RN, Nursing Education Consultant
Seana Reichold, NCQAC, Attorney
Judy Soeum, BA, Administrative Assistant
Dennis Gunnarson, Administrative Assistant
Tim Talkington, NCQAC Attorney

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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 March 10th, 2023, 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 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.

3:00 PM Opening – Kim Tucker Chair Call to order

- Introduction
- Public Disclosure Statement
- Roll Call

Standing Agenda Items

- Announcements/Hot Topics
 1. None
 - Minutes
 1. Nov. 22, 2022

Old Business

- None

New Business

1. Timeline considerations for NAs who pass the state exam but delay certification.

Dr. Kathy Moisio shared background/overview information applicable to both topics on the agenda. This included information about: (1) the nursing assistant (NA) exam in Washington; (2) important statutes related to nursing assistant training and testing; and (3) important statutes related to the Commission's role with NA training, testing, and regulating for competency and quality in NA practice.

Amy Murray then began her presentation on the first topic. Ms. Murray stated that Credentialing staff from the Department of Health discussed that some nursing assistants who complete training and pass the state certification exam do not apply for certification right away. She stated that, currently, there are no state regulations addressing gaps of time between testing and certification, which are significant in some cases (5-10 years, for example). Also, Ms. Murray stated that other inconsistencies have been identified regarding regulatory timelines for nursing assistants.

Ms. Murray presented a few realistic, fictional case studies to demonstrate the need for clearer, more consistent timeline standards. The goal would be to support safe

NA practice without creating unnecessary barriers for entry and re-entry into the profession. Ms. Murray stated this complex topic may be best addressed using the Commission's Strategic Planning Process.

Discussion began with Dr. Julie Benson, who supports moving forward as a recommendation to move into the Strategic Planning Process, to be acted upon the next Commission business meeting.

2. Language considerations for the nursing assistant (NA) written (or oral) exam.

After being introduced, Marlin Galiano presented considerations relating to a written concern from the public, which advocated for the availability of the written NA exam in more languages, or the availability of translators. Ms. Galiano presented WAC 246-841-400(7)(a) which includes communication and interpersonal skills as an NA competency--including the ability to read, write, speak, and understand English at the level necessary for performing duties of a NA. She indicated the rationale for this WAC is safety in practice and provided specific examples of NA competencies that require use of language skills. Ms. Galiano stated it is clear that language skills are central to the role of NAs and that some English language learners report the state certification exam is a challenge to them and then posed the following questions:

- What can be done to better support students with the language skills needed for their important role as NAs and beyond into nursing—not only for exam—but throughout their education, for the exam, and—most importantly—for practice?
- What are the maximally effective policies, programs, and approaches we can adopt for smooth entry into nursing by English language learners?

Ms. Galiano gave examples of some important work in Washington to support English language learners (i.e., the I-Best or Integrated Basic Education Skills and Training programs in Washington), but stated there is room to do much more. She concluded by stating this work is multi-faceted, requires focused exploration, and may be best explored through the Commission's Strategic Planning process.

Discussion started with a question to explore: Are there are federal regulations related to language considerations for competency? Then Dr. Renee Hoeksel agreed that the topic is important and needs exploration to identify resources that can be helpful with education, the exam, and practice. Helen Myrick commented that this is a wonderful opportunity to diversify all levels of nursing. Sandra Graham suggested that we consider potential rubrics for evaluating language competency.

Dr. Julie Benson recommended both of the day's topics for consideration by the Commission as additions to the strategic plan for NAs. Tracy Rude, Dr. Laurie Soine, Dr. Renee Hoeksel, and Dr. Kim Tucker agree on this recommendation.

Ending Items

- Public Comments

Comment was made regarding language considerations for NAs. It was mentioned that

first-generation students at the high school level struggle with success due to language and that teaching materials are not available in many other languages, but translating materials at a meaningful level is a challenge.

- Adjournment 3:50pm