



**Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC)
Licensing Subcommittee Minutes
April 19, 2022 1: 00 pm to 2: 00 pm**

Committee Members: Dawn Morrell, BSN, CCRN, RN, Chair
Adam Canary, LPN
Helen Myrick, Public Member
Yvonne Strader, RN, BSN, BSNA, MHA

Staff: Amber Zawislak-Bielaski, MPH, Assistant Director of Licensing
Shana Johnny, MN, RN, Nurse Practice Consultant, Ad- Hoc
Karl Hoehn, JD, Assistant Director of Discipline- Legal Services
Lori Underwood, Licensing Supervisor

This meeting was 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 8, 2022**, NCQAC meeting. For a copy of the actual recording, please contact the Public Disclosure Records Center (PDRC) at PDRC@doh.wa.gov.

I. 1:00 PM Opening – Dawn Morrell, BSN, CCRN, RN Subcommittee Chair

- **Roll Call**
- **Call to Order** - Commissioner Dawn Morrell, Commissioner Helen Myrick, Commissioner Adam Canary, Commissioner Yvonne Strader, Mr. Karl Hoehn, Mr. Shad Bell, Dr. Shana Johnny, Ms. Amber Zawislak-Bielaski, Ms. Lori Underwood

II. Standing Agenda Items

- **Announcements/Hot Topic/NCQAC Business Meeting Updates** - Commissioner Morrell asked the committee if there were any topics to be discussed. No topics were brought forward.
- **Approve Minutes for February 15, 2022** - Commissioner Myrick moved with a second from Commissioner Strader to approve the minutes for February 15, 2022 with corrections.

III. Old Business

- **Florida School Issues and Current Actions** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski advised that the main item to discuss regarding this issue will be addressed under the New Business section. We are limited on what we can share due to the ongoing investigations. The updates we do have can be found on our website. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski asked Ms. Underwood if there was anything else to add. Ms. Underwood replied that there were no other updates to add.
- **Temporary Practice Permit Rules** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski advised the CR101 package was drafted and was filed. We are working with Ms. Bonnie King to plan interested party meetings. She advised that we will be having these meetings in the next few months and will send the information to the Licensing subcommittee members for optional attendance. Commissioner Morrell inquired as to how many meetings we would be having. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski

replied that we typically have three for rules workshops and we will send the announcements out on GovDelivery once we have those meetings scheduled.

IV. **New Business**

- **Governor's Weekly Report** – Ms. Underwood reviewed the Governor's report highlighting that although the report shows eight days, we are currently at a seven day turn around to issued Temporary practice permits.
- **Current Challenges and Recent Accomplishments** – Ms. Underwood explained that staff had been working overtime this past month to help get our numbers down. We have also hired additional temporary staff to address the upcoming graduation season. Commissioner Morrell asked if we could address why the numbers were higher before this week. Ms. Underwood explained that we have been seeing an increased number of applications. She also added that she believes these applications reflect those nurses practicing under the 70.15 and are now applying for a Washington license. Ms. Underwood also addressed the importance of these nurses practicing under the 70.15 to submit their application for a license as soon as possible as we will not be able to expedite any one applicant. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski explained the 70.15 Emergency volunteer program to our public members attending. She also added that we have been working with Volunteer Management Team in charge of this program and requested a list to determine how many nurses are practicing in Washington with their out of state license. The list provided to our unit reflected about 10,000 nurses; about 3,000 nurses already had started or had been issued a Washington license, and roughly 7,000 nurses remain practicing with their out of state license. We began working with the Volunteer Management Team to start getting communication out to these nurses, facilities, and staffing agencies encouraging them to apply for licensure before the Emergency Proclamation comes to an end. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski added that she also believes this increase in applications is due to the 70.15 nurses finally applying for their Washington license. Commissioner Morrell asked if any members had any other questions regarding this. Commissioner Morrell also inquired if we had any indication as to the status of the state of Emergency. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski explained that we did not have an update; however, the Volunteer Management Team did say that they are hopeful to receive a sixty-day notice before the Emergency Proclamation is lifted and would share this information with our unit.
- **ESSB 5229 Health Equity Rules and the Impact on Continuing Competency and Licensing** – Dr. Shana Johnny provided an update on this. She explained that this is a bill about health equity continuing education training. It is required for all health care professionals licensed under the Title 18 RCW. This bill adds a new section in RCW under Chapter 43.70. It requires the Commission to adopt rules to require all licensees to complete health equity continuing education training. Licensees must complete this at least once every four years. The model rules will be found under 246-12 of the WAC. The Commission is tasked with developing rules around this by January 1, 2023 and the training for the Licensees will be required by January 2024. This bill is still in the implementation phase. Dr. Johnny further explained that Department of Health currently has a Health Equity Continuing Education webpage where you can view the status of rulemaking. stat RCW Dr. Johnny also provided a quick

summary on an additional bill for Forensic Nurse Examination training strategy. This is a new bill that has been developed; it is Senate Bill 5183. It is a new program training that is funded by legislature through Washington State University. The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy is consulting with the Commission. The Washington State Department of Commerce is the lead and they are assisting the Crime Victims program in drafting best practices in training and development strategies for better access to sexual assault nurse examiners. This group has already developed best practices this year; these are located on the Department of Commerce website. Now they are tasked with developing the strategy for how people will access this training. This is where the Commission will come in. These strategies will be crafted by the Office of Crime Victims and it will go into a report to the Governor and Legislature in October 2022. There will be two more meetings regarding this Bill. There is a huge need for nurses to get training in this area. Dr. Johnny asked if there were any questions regarding these updates. Commissioner Strader inquired whether we have reached out to the Emergency Nurses Association as a lot of these nurses are emergency nurses. She explained that this organization may be able to provide ideas. Dr. Johnny advised that they do have a host of partners but was not sure if Emergency Nurses Association was one of these. Commissioner Morrell inquired if they funded this legislation to do the work. Dr. Johnny confirmed that they did, in fact, fund this and now they are looking for strategies to access to this.

- **Review Procedure B45.01 Suspected Fraudulent Application Documentation Review Process** – Amber Zawislak-Bielaski reviewed the procedure line by line with the subcommittee. She explained that this procedure was drafted to not be specific on a certain document, but to use with any suspected fraudulent document. The WACs were referenced in the procedure. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski took a moment to ask if there were any questions regarding the procedure so far. A public member inquired if the subcommittee was taking questions from the floor. Commissioner Morrell explained that there would be an opportunity for public comment and questions at the end of the meeting. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski continued to explain the proposed procedures. Commissioner Morrell inquired whether the subcommittee needed to approve this procedure and a motion to move this proposed procedure forward to the full Commission. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski replied that we will need a motion to move this forward and another motion by the subcommittee at the Commission business meeting. Commissioner Morrell asked for a motion to move this procedure forward to the full Commission. Commissioner Strader motioned with Commissioner Myrick making the second motion to move this procedure forward. Commissioner Morrell confirmed moving this procedure to the full Commission at the next business meeting.
- **HELMS – Are we ready to move forward to completely be online, no paper.** Commissioner Morrell presented a topic to consider; is the Commission ready to be 100% paperless? Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski provided some background to this topic and explained that with HELMS progressing, Executive Director, Paula Meyer requested the Licensing subcommittee begin to discuss this topic and determine whether we are at a point where the Commission feels we could be 100% paperless. Commissioner Strader suggested everyone to consider what, if any circumstances there would be that would prevent any individual from using online services. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski explained that this has been

a topic of this discussion. Commissioners Strader, Myrick and Morrell had conversations about new graduates versus international nurses being able to use online services to apply for their license. Commissioner Strader inquired whether any other states are 100% paperless. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski confirmed that there are several states that are totally paperless. After some discussion, Commissioner Morrell stated that she believes the Commission is ready to move forward and be paperless. She also asked if the Licensing subcommittee needed to decide on this. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski explained that Ms. Meyer was requesting the Licensing subcommittee to review and make a recommendation to the full Commission. Commissioner Morrell asked if other subcommittee members agreed with this. Commissioners Canary, Myrick, and Strader all agreed to recommend the Commission be 100% paperless. Commissioner Morrell inquired if we will need a motion to move this forward. Commissioner Myrick motioned with Commissioner Strader second to this motion to move this forward to full Commission. Commissioner Morrell confirmed the motion to move this forward to the Commission that when HELMS is implemented, the Commission become 100% paperless.

V. Ending Items

- **Public Comment** - Public attendee (Mike) inquired if there were any updates on our website with regards to the Florida schools that were not accepted in Washington state. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski responded that this was the most current update we have on those schools. He also questioned the length of time allowed for applicants to obtain transcripts (30 days). Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski spoke to this and explained that applicants can always reach out when they are having difficulty getting their transcripts to our office and we would update their files and allow additional time to complete this requirement. Commissioner Morrell asked if there were any other questions or comments from the public. Ms. Underwood read the question in the chat from public attendee, Tracy. She commented that she was waiting for the links on Health Equity Continuing Competency and Forensic Nurse Examination training. Dr. Johnny provided the links in the chat ([5229 Draft Rules - 4th.pdf](#) ([govdelivery.com](#)); [5229 Workshop 4 Presentation - PowerPoint.pdf](#); [5229-S.PL.pdf](#)). Tracy also inquired where to find the expectations of meeting. She also provided a comment regarding the Commission moving to 100% paperless. She explained that she believes it is never good to have only one door. It's always good to have a second exit or entrance. Given the nature of computers, we know that medical systems are often targets of hacking and security breaches. We need all the nurses we can get and closing that door even for just one nurse could have effects. She asked the Commission to consider this before making the decision to move 100% paperless. Commissioner Morrell thanked her for sharing her valuable thoughts and then explained the order of the meetings with public comment and questions being at the end of the meetings.
- **Review of Actions** – Commissioner Morrell advised that they take forward the two motions to the full Commission. She expressed her gratitude to the licensing unit and their hard work. Commissioner Myrick and Commissioner Strader also expressed their gratitude to the licensing unit

- **Meeting Evaluation** – Commissioners Strader, Myrick, and Morrell thanked Dr. Johnny for her updates on the Health Equity Rules and the Impact on Continuing Competency and the Forensic Nurse Examination training
- **Date of Next Meeting** - June 21, 2022
- **Adjournment at 1:58 PM**

