



**Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC)
Licensing Subcommittee Minutes
June 21, 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 **September 9, 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 Yvonne Strader, Commissioner Adam Canary, Commissioner Helen Myrick, Dr. Gerianne Babbo, Mr. Karl Hoehn, Dr. Sarah Bear, Ms. Amber Zawislak-Bielaski

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 April 19, 2022** - Commissioner Strader moved with a second from Commissioner Canary to approve the minutes for April 19, 2022.

III. Old Business

- **Florida School Issues and Current Actions** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski explained that there were no new issues; however, there was a discussion item under the new business section that would be discussed. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski advised that we will discuss the limiting of NCLEX attempts and the possible requirement for adding a review course after an applicant has so many failed attempts.
- **Temporary Practice Permit Rules** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski shared that the upcoming rules workshop would be the evening of the Commission workshop day on July 7, 2022 at 8pm to 9:30pm. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski also advised that she had been working on a PowerPoint presentation for the Rules Workshop.

Commissioner Morrell inquired if Commission members could attend this Rules Workshop. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski responded that members are invited to attend.

IV. New Business

- **Governor's Weekly Report** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski reviewed the Governor's report explaining that we had a couple of really busy months. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski pointed out that in March we had our highest record month on the books for applications received. We received a record high of 3,774 new applications. These numbers did not include the reactivation applications or the fair volume of renewals we receive. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski further explained that the majority of these applications were endorsements. She additionally pointed out that the spike in applications was higher than our previous high which was March 2020 when we received these COVID related applications. The next highest months were April and May of 2022. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski advised that we are now seeing that these numbers are starting to decline. She continued to share that we believe the high numbers are attributed to the 70.15 applicants who were working in Washington with their out of state credentials. We have been sending out communications for a while now advising these nurses to get their applications submitted so we can process and issue their Washington state license. We also are in graduation season. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski also commented that we should begin to see the numbers decline and level off. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski reviewed the graphs on the Governor's report explaining the how it reflects the input versus the output. She explained that the graphs gave a clearer picture on the numbers. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski concluded by explaining that we were currently at nine days to issue a Temporary Practice permit, and that this was a decline from a peak of fourteen days earlier this year. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski asked if there were any questions regarding the report.
- **Discussion on limiting NCLEX testing attempts and the possible requirement review course after x-number of failed testing** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski discussed how the unlimited NCLEX test attempts may make us more ideal for applicants to license with our state when they have already surpassed testing attempts in other states. Mr. Hoehn provided the subcommittee with data from NCSBN environmental scan on NCLEX attempts in other states. The Licensing subcommittee requested more data on Washington state applicants before proceeding with a decision.
- **HELMS Discussion** – Ms. Zawislak Bielaski discussed the impact HELMS (Healthcare Enforcement Licensing Management System) will have on nurse licensing processes in Washington state after implementation of the new system. The Licensing subcommittee supported moving forward with paperless applications and renewals for all registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and nursing technicians. The Licensing subcommittee is going to recommend the requirement for all nursing applications and credential renewals to be completed online through the new HELMS system. The Licensing subcommittee is also going to recommend all nursing applicants and licensees electronically submit the required demographic data in accordance with WAC 246-840-015 when HELMS is implemented.

- **Updates on ESSB 5229 Health Equity Rules, SB 5183 Forensic Nurse Examiner rules, JP module update, and Emerging practice trends** – Dr. Johnny provided documents in the packet updating the Licensing subcommittee on ESSB 5229 ad SB5183. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski advised the subcommittee to send and questions regarding the materials to Dr. Johnny.
- **NPAP Recommendation for Michigan English Test (MET)** – Dr. Bear reviewed the materials provided on the Michigan English Test and the Education subcommittee’s recommendation to approve the MET as an additional English proficiency examination for licensure. The Licensing subcommittee is going to recommend approval of the MET to the full Commission.
- **August Meeting** – Due to the NCSBN meeting being the third week of August, the subcommittee agreed to move the meeting up a week to August 9th, 2022.

V. Ending Items

- **Public Comment** - None
- **Review of Actions** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski will work on getting NCLEX data for our next meeting. The Licensing subcommittee will have three motions to bring forward to the July Commission meeting.
- **Meeting Evaluation** – The subcommittee agreed this was a good meeting.
- **Date of Next Meeting** - August 9, 2022
- **Adjournment**

