



**Washington State Board of Nursing (WABON)
Licensing Subcommittee Minutes
October 17, 2023 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, BSPA, 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
Miranda Bayne, Staff Attorney
Jessilyn Dagum, Policy Analyst
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 **January 12, 2024**, WABON 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** - Board Member Dawn Morrell, Board Member Helen Myrick, Board Member Yvonne Strader, Board Member Adam Canary, Dr. Shana Johnny, Mr. Karl Hoehn, Ms. Jessilyn Dagum, Ms. Lori Underwood

II. Standing Agenda Items

- **Announcements/Hot Topic/NCQAC Business Meeting Updates** – Board Member Morrell asked the committee if there were any topics to be discussed, no topics were brought forward.
- **Approve Minutes for August 15, 2023** - Board Member Myrick moved with a second from Board Member Strader to approve the minutes for August 15, 2023.

III. Old Business

- **Florida School Issues and Current Actions** – Ms. Underwood explained that since we have become part of the Compact, many of the files that we have been working on, we have had to close because those applicants also hold an active multistate license and we do not have jurisdiction over their multistate license. Mr. Hoehn added that we have worked on a process to send closure letters to these applicants, and we are able to share information and facts regarding our investigations with their home state of their multistate license. He also shared that we have had some interest from other states, including Florida to send them files. Board Member Morrell asked the committee if there were any questions. She also asked if we should continue to have this subject on the agenda in case

of any updates. Mr. Hoehn shared his opinion, he suggested that it not continue to be a standing agenda item. If there is a specific topic that we need to discuss, we can address it in the meeting. Ms. Underwood agreed with Mr. Hoehn. Board Member Strader and Myrick both agreed to remove this as a standing agenda item.

- **Temporary Practice Permit Rules** – Ms. Dagum provided an update. She shared that we filed the CR102 on October 12th and the hearing for this rule making is November 29, 2023, at 12 pm. She continued to share that we just sent out the Gov Delivery message and we're excited to have this rule hearing to receive testimony and for the Board to review this rule and move it forward in the rule making process. Board Member Morrell inquired how long after it is approved before it goes into effect. Ms. Dagum explained that after it is approved at the November 29th hearing, we will move forward with filing the CR103, and it will go into effect after thirty-one days. Board Member Morrell shared that it would be nice if we could see this one completed in 2023, but it may be a few days short of completing this in 2023.

IV. New Business

- **Governor's Weekly Report** – Ms. Underwood provided an update on the Governor's report. She shared that we are staying under seven days to issue a Temporary Practice permit and definitely seeing the impact on the number of applications since we joined the Compact. In September 2022, we received one thousand, nine hundred ninety-five applications; however, in this year in September, we only received a little over one thousand applications. She also pointed out that the number of licenses we issued in September of this year was one thousand, two hundred fourteen, whereas in September 2022, we issued two thousand, sixty-seven licenses. Ms. Underwood added that although we are seeing a decline in applications because of the compact, we are hopeful that once we are set to begin issuing multistate licenses, we will see these numbers rise again. Board Member Morrell asked if the multistate license information will be included in this report once we start issuing multistate licenses. She also suggested that we should include data on renewals and how many are converting their single state license to multistate license. Ms. Underwood confirmed that we will include this data in the Governor's report. Board Member Morrell asked if we will be able to see the data of how many multistate licensed nurses are being employed in Washington, or will we need to get that from HELMS? Ms. Underwood asked Mr. Hoehn to speak to this. Mr. Hoehn explained that this data will be housed in HELMS; however, for now, it is collected via Survey Monkey. Mr. Hoehn also added that there have been many hundreds of nurses that were reported working here with their multistate license. On the discipline side, we have a few cases that were open on nurses who are solely working here with their multistate license. We are working on coming up with a plan to either display this data or whether there will be any new tasks that are required in terms of going through the data regularly and looking for certain things. Mr. Hoehn added that these are being reviewed with the Research subcommittee. Board Member Morrell suggested to keep in mind the data we are collecting in Survey Monkey won't be absolute data, but maybe in HELMS, we'll have more absolute data.

Board Member Myrick asked if the data from September shed more light on where we are based on the projections that were made by Mr. Archuleta. She

also pointed out that the data reflected more than one third drop in applications. Ms. Underwood advised that she had a conversation with Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski in early September regarding the data and that it was aligning with what they had forecasted. Mr. Hoehn added that the prime directive right now is to issue multistate licenses. While we are waiting for the fee rules, we did have a good meeting with NCSBN and their IT department. We discussed what exactly was required so we can begin to issue multistate licenses. NCSBN explained to us which fields we need to supply to them so our data can be transferred to NURSYS. This was actually good news as we thought it was originally going to take three to six months before we were able to start issuing multistate licenses. Mr. Hoehn advised the committee that we are working on band-aid solutions to use in our current database while we wait for HELMS.

Board Member Morrell asked Ms. Dagum if there were any other updates. Ms. Dagum explained to the committee that the fee rule is under the Secretary's authority, so we need to work with their timeline. She also shared that we have been in communications with their office and expressed the need to move this forward as quickly as possible. They are aware of all the data and the financial impact of this rulemaking.

- **Nurse Licensure Compact Implementation Update** – Mr. Hoehn explained that we have been in phase one of the implementation of NLC and we are working on phase two. Ms. Underwood added that we have been working with our IT to update the language with online renewals to ask the licensee if they hold an active multistate license. If they choose yes, a message will appear providing information regarding NLC and advising them they cannot renew their WA license while holding an active multistate license in another state.
- **Review Request of Span Tran Transcript Evaluation Company and International Education Evaluations Company** – Ms. Underwood explained that we received requests from these companies asking for the Board to review and consider adding them to the list of approved transcript evaluation companies. Ms. Underwood provided an example of what these companies would be doing and when we would require them to evaluate education. Board Member Morrell shared her concern about the evaluation company as they listed in their packet of only have evaluated one thousand applications in South Carolina many years ago. The committee discussed the qualifications of these evaluation companies and how their analysis are evaluated. They discussed concerns of these businesses as being more of an advocacy for the foreign educated nurses as more of a factor than an equivalency. The committee discussed the already approved evaluation companies and what they currently provide to the Board. It was decided that at this time, the Board is not looking to add any additional credential verification services.

V. Ending Items

- **Public Comment** - None
- **Review of Actions**
- **Meeting Evaluation** - All
- **Date of Next Meeting** - December 19, 2023
- **Adjournment** 1:45PM

