



WASHINGTON STATE  
BOARD OF NURSING  
111 Israel Road SE  
P.O. BOX 47864  
Olympia, WA 98504

**Washington State Board of Nursing (WABON)  
Education Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 4:00pm-5:00pm  
Nursing Assistant – Skills Testing Rule Making**

**Committee Members:** Kim Tucker PhD, RN, CNE, Chair  
Ajay Mendoza PhD, CNM, ARNP CM  
Renee Hoeksel PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN Pro Tem  
Julie Benson MHA, MN, RN, CNE Pro Tem  
Patty Cochrell, MBA, RN, NE-BC Pro Tem  
Fionnuala Brown, DNP, MSN, FNP-C, RN Pro Tem (Excused)  
Helen Myrick, Public Member  
Tracy Rude, LPN Member

**Staff:** Alison Bradywood, DNP, MPH, RN, NEA-BC, Executive Director  
Jessilyn Dagum, Policy Analyst  
Christine Tran, Nursing Assistant Program Specialist, Testing Lead  
Amy Murray, Nursing Education Consultant  
Gerianne Babbo, EdD, MN, RN, Director of Nursing Education  
Sarah Bear, EdD, MSN, RN, Nursing Education Consultant  
Kathy Bay, PhD, MN, RN, Nursing Education Consultant  
Margaret Holm, JD, RN Nursing Education Consultant Practice  
Sara Kirschenman, WABON Attorney  
Seana Reichold, WABON Attorney  
Judy Soeum, BA, Health Services Consultant

**Meeting Minutes**

WABON records meetings to help write accurate minutes. Minutes are then approved at the WABON business meeting. WABON posts minutes on our website [nursing.wa.gov](https://nursing.wa.gov).

All minutes and recordings are public record. They are available on request from DOH at [doh.wa.gov/about-us/public-records](https://doh.wa.gov/about-us/public-records)

**12:00 PM Opening – Kim Tucker Chair Call to Order**

- Introductions
- Public Disclosure Statement
- Roll Call

**1. Standing Agenda Items**

**a. Announcements**

- None

**b. Old Business**

- None

**c. New Business**

- Nursing Assistant – Skills Testing Rule Making

**Ending Items**

- Public Comments
- Date of Next Meeting: TBD
- Adjournment

**Nursing Assistant – Skills Testing Rule Making**

Dr. Alison Bradywood and Ms. Christine Tran presented on the nursing assistant skills testing pilot project.

**Background:**

Mass skills testing occurred through May 2023. When the mass testing ended, a backlog occurred of applicants who needed skills testing. In October 2023, a pilot program began where sites volunteered to offer skills testing.

**Request:** Subcommittee recommendation to bring the request to the WABON to open rulemaking to formalize the nursing assistant pilot program

**Rationale** was reviewed for the request. Examples included:

- Spread testing volume across programs and across the state.
- Decrease volume for Regional Test Sites (RTS) (sites take students other than their own).
- Increased student confidence in testing through familiarity with environment and instructors.

- Decrease testing delays.
- Decrease “no-show rate with in-program testing.”

### **Pilot results**

A survey was distributed to the RTS testing sites asking what programs liked and what issues were encountered:

Examples of what programs liked included:

- Ability to test quickly.
- Good use of space when classes weren't scheduled.

Examples of Issues:

- No shows.
- Candidates not coming consistently prepared (proper ID, certificate of completion)

When asked why programs were not offering skills testing, responses included:

- Working with administration to accept testing fee.
- Finding other RN evaluators to test their students.
- Strict schedules and one RN on staff.
- Need time to review new process.

Positive stories from the pilot were shared.

### **Next steps:**

- Continue to offer RTS testing to students of programs not eligible to test own.
- WABON support through implementation (payment, best practice sharing, individual support).
- Rulemaking to address the following:  
     Program eligibility, student accommodation/grievance process, payment structure, testing integrity, and continued monitoring for approval.

**Comments from subcommittee:** Several comments were made commending the staff for their hard work to develop and implement the pilot project. Subcommittee members also spoke in support of formalizing the pilot project through the rule making process.

### **Public comments:**

Love the self-testing. Would like to see opportunities for flexibility and adaptability because they are still learning how to do this, and it is a work in progress.

One comment directed toward staff was a thank you for the support and quick response to questions as well as being excited about continuing this option.

**Subcommittee** unanimously recommended the request to seek approval to open rulemaking to for nursing assistant skills testing at the May WABON meeting.