



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Licensing Subcommittee Minutes

April 16, 2024 1: 00 pm to 2: 00 pm

Committee Members: Dawn Morrell, BSN, RN, Chair
Adam Canary, LPN
Helen Myrick, Public Member
Yvonne Strader, RN, BSN, BSPA, MHA
Jacob Garcia, MBA, MSN, RN, PCCN

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 records. The minutes of this meeting will be posted on our website after they have been approved at the **July 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, RN Subcommittee Chair

- **Roll Call**
- **Call to Order** - Board Member Dawn Morrell, Board Member Helen Myrick, Board Member Yvonne Strader, Board Member Jacob Garcia, Dr. Shana Johnny, Ms. Miranda Baines, Ms. Amber Zawislak-Bielaski, Ms. Jessilyn Dagum.

II. Standing Agenda Items

- **Announcements/Hot Topic/WABON Business Meeting Updates** - Board Member Morrell asked the committee if there were any topics to be discussed, no topics were brought forward by the Board members.
- **Approve Minutes for February 20, 2024** - Board Member Strader moved with a second from Board Member Myrick to approve the minutes for February 20, 2024.

III. Old Business

- **Nurse Licensure Compact Implementation Update** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski shared the most recent data. She explained that as we are only halfway through this month, we have received a total of six hundred, fifty-four new applications and of that, three hundred, seventy-nine are the multistate license upgrade applications. She continued to share that we are right on track with renewals and typically about halfway through the month we are at about four thousand, five hundred. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski explained to the committee that we have been trying to encourage our nursing population to apply for the multistate license by providing the many benefits. We have been sending messages out on GovDelivery, posting information on our website, social media and during any

presentations. We also added a few more slides to the power point presentations for new grads with a QR Code so they can easily get the information on how to apply for the Washington multistate license. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski also added that she will be presenting to Kaiser next month for Nurses Week; she will be presenting to their whole Northwest division. We're hoping to get the word out wherever we possibly can to educate people about the benefits of the nurses having a compact license. Board Member Morrell asked the committee if there were any questions for Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski.

Board Member Morrell asked Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski how we would account for nurses that are just not going to obtain the full license in Washington. She was interested in the nurses who would come into the state on a temporary assignment, get a temporary permit, and just practice with that permit. Ms. Zawislak-Belaski explained that if the nurse held a multistate license in another state and were on a temporary assignment, they could practice in Washington using their active multistate license if their primary state of residence was that other state. If they moved to Washington, and Washington was now their primary state of residence, they would have sixty days to obtain a Washington state license. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski continued to add that our Research unit is tracking this data and would be able to provide us with a bit more information regarding this population. In the coming months, we will be able to look more at that data and see what those trends look like.

IV. New Business

- **Governor's Weekly Report** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski provided an update on the Governor's report. She shared that we were at a five day turn around for processing applications. We have been working on getting that number back down. She added that it seemed like we had a massive rush of applications for the multistate license upgrade at the beginning, but it is starting to level off now. We have been trying to get that "rush" under control. For the month of March, we were averaging eight days turn around to process applications. Board Member Morrell asked if there were any odd situations with the multistate license applications that required additional time to review. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski reported that the background checks are getting completed quickly and the only delay we are seeing is that applicants are not sending in their primary state of residence verification.
- **International Education Evaluations, LLC – Request to add as WABON approved evaluation service** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski explained that International Education Evaluations, LLC is a company that would evaluate the education of our internationally educated nurse applicants. They would like the Board to consider approval of their company to be another option for applicants to utilize their services when completing the education evaluation requirement for licensure. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski shared the name of the companies Washington state has already approved: CGFNS, ERES, and Josef Silney Associates. She continued to provide the committee with an overview of the review process. Board Member Myrick asked additional questions regarding the review process. She inquired if the files would be reviewed by the staff after being evaluated by these agencies. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski confirmed that this was the process. Board Member Strader asked how we would know the legitimacy of these agencies. She wanted to know how the Board could be confident that these agencies have all the checks and balances. Ms. Zawislak-

Bielaski explained that we have our education unit review the documents that these evaluation agencies submit. They will research this company, review how they evaluate education and then will present their findings to the Licensing subcommittee and make their recommendation. Board Member Morrell asked if there were any other questions. None were brought forward.

V. Ending Items

- **Public Comment** - None
- **Review of Actions**
- **Meeting Evaluation** - All
- **Date of Next Meeting** - June 18, 2024
- **Adjournment** 1:24 PM

