



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Licensing Subcommittee Minutes

August 20, 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 **November 8, 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 Adam Canary, Board Member Yvonne Strader, Dr. Shana Johnny, Ms. Miranda Bayne, Ms. Jessilyn Dagum, Mr. Karl Hoehn, Ms. Amber Zawislak-Bielaski, Ms. Lori Underwood.

II. Standing Agenda Items

- **Announcements/Hot Topic/WABON Business Meeting Updates** - Board Member Morrell asked the committee if there were any topics or announcements to be discussed. Board member Myrick mentioned that although she was not present at the last business meeting, she knew there was much discussion regarding the addition of the nursing assistants. She shared that she was excited about this because it's been something the Board has been talking about for some years now. It will not take effect for another year and a half, but it is wonderful to see the progress we have made in that regard. She also shared that there may be an additional one to two members added to the WABON for the nursing assistants. Board member Morrell added that legislation must be passed before we can actually start taking action; but the good news is that we are working towards this.
- **Approve Minutes for June 18, 2024** - Board Member Strader moved with a second from Board Member Myrick to approve the minutes for the June 18, 2024 meeting.

III. Old Business

- **Nurse Licensure Compact Implementation Update** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski advised that there was really not anything new to add as an update other than we've been fully implemented now since January 2024. We continue to see both initial applications and conversion applications. With regards to the upgrade/conversion applications, we are still trying to get the word out there about our multistate license. We are still waiting for data as well to see what the trends will be over the course of the first year of implementation. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski asked if there were any questions regarding the multistate license. None were brought forward.
- **HELMS Update** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski provided an update on the HELMS project. She shared that she will be one of our HELMS business subject matter experts, or what they refer to as a BSME. She will be helping with all the testing they are working on in the continued development of HELMS. She also explained that they are in the development of release two. The date changed as far as the implementation of release two as it pertains to our internal credentialing. Release three encompasses more of the discipline side of things. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski asked Mr. Hoehn if he could share what the date for release three could be. Mr. Hoehn advised that the release of three would be at the end of next year. He also shared that the updated deadlines for release two are now the middle of February 2025. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski shared that they were able to resolve many of the bugs that were in the first release, HELMS lite. Mr. Hoehn added that there were lots of lessons learned from the first release rollout and that they will not be repeated in release two.

IV. New Business

- **Governor's Weekly Report** – Ms. Underwood provided an update on the Governor's report. She shared that we were averaging an eight-day processing of temporary practice permits in the month of July. Much of this we attributed to HELMS lite issues, which began to cause bottleneck issues in our process. We revamped our process a bit, and now we are seeing better results. In the beginning of August, we were able to get our processing days down to under seven days. We have been able to keep our processing days between four to five days. Ms. Underwood asked if there were any questions regarding the report. Board member Morrell asked if we knew what new graduates were choosing, multistate license or single state license. Ms. Underwood explained that we are still trying to collect that data. She also shared that the benefits of having a multistate license are included in the exam presentations for new graduates.
- **Phase One of Chapter Rewrite Rules Project Introduction and Approval** – Ms. Dagum introduced herself to the committee as WABON's policy analyst. She also introduced the assistant director of regulatory affairs, Mr. Anthony Partridge. Ms. Dagum presented a power point to the committee sharing information about a new and upcoming rule project, a chapter rewrite of our current chapter of rule 246-840 practical and registered nursing. Ms. Dagum advised that committee that they were not asking for any action from the committee today. Today's presentation was only informational and a preview of what will be shared with the board in September. Ms. Dagum shared background on the project. She explained that boards and commissions are

required to do a five-year formal review of their existing rules in accordance with RCW 43-70-041. The entire project will take about four to five years, it will be divided into phases and these phases will take about twelve to eighteen months. Ms. Dagum continued to present the phases to the committee. After the presentation, Ms. Dagum asked if there were any questions. None were brought forward.

- **Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses – NPAP approval** – Ms. Underwood explained to the committee that the Nursing Program Approval Panel (NPAP) reviewed, evaluated and have recommended that the Licensing subcommittee consider presenting CELBAN to be approved by the full WABON. Board member Strader asked how many of the other approved providers we had. Ms. Underwood shared that we also use TOEFL, MET, OET, and IELTS as approved providers for the English proficiency examination. Mr. Hoehn further explained that we have had conversations with the British Columbia Board of Nursing over the past few months and have tried to figure ways that we can streamline the process for our nurses to become Canadian nurses and vice versa. Board member Morrell asked for a motion to approve bringing CELBAN to the full board. Board member Strader moved with a second from Board member Myrick to approve. All were in favor, and motion was approved.
- **International Education Evaluations, LLC – NPAP approval** - Ms. Underwood explained to the committee that the Nursing Program Approval Panel (NPAP) reviewed, evaluated and have recommended that the Licensing subcommittee consider presenting IEE, LLC to be approved by the full WABON. Board member Morrell asked if there were any questions regarding the IEE documents. None were brought forward. Board member Morrell asked for a motion to approve bringing IEE to the full board. Board Member Myrick moved with a second from Board member Strader to approve. All were in favor, and motion was approved.

V. Ending Items

- **Public Comment** - None
- **Review of Actions** -
- **Meeting Evaluation** - All
- **Date of Next Meeting** - October 15, 2024
- **Adjournment** 1:41 PM

