



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Licensing Subcommittee Minutes

October 15, 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 **January 10, 2025**, 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 – Jacob Garcia, MBA, MSN, RN, PCCN Board Member

- **Roll Call**
- **Call to Order** - Board Member Jacob Garcia, Board Member Helen Myrick, 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 Garcia asked the committee if there were any topics or announcements to be discussed. None were brought forward.
- **Approve Minutes for August 20, 2024** - Board Member Myrick moved with a second from Board Member Strader to approve the minutes for the August 20, 2024, meeting.

III. Old Business

- **Nurse Licensure Compact Implementation Update** – Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski advised that there was really not much to update as we are still collecting data. She also shared that employers have been reaching out with questions regarding the PSOR – primary state of residence. There seems to be some confusion from other states as far as when to deactivate their multistate license. We have reached out to NCSBN for guidance and clarification. We are trying to make sure we are following the NLC rules in providing updates to the other boards when nurses are changing their PSOR to WA. Board member Garcia 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 the HELMS team is working on keeping the February go-live date for the HELMS release 2. We are currently testing, testing, and more testing as we move into November. Next month is when we will ramp up our staff internally, especially for the credential side. We will also be having testing for staff as well as training. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski shared that we will be having in-office training for our staff in January to prepare for the February HELMS 2 release. She also added that they are working on discovery for the enforcement side. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski asked the board if there were any questions. No questions were brought forward. Board member Garcia emphasized that we are trying to modernize our data management system to make it a bit more up to the 21st century and hopefully make it easier for tracking purposes. He also added that it will be easier for the end user, the nurses.

Board member Garcia shared highlights from the WABON 2024 Voices and Vision Conference before moving to the next order of business. Board member Garcia continued to add that it was a great conference and people were feeling inspired. He also commented that it was great to meet so many people that attended and we hope to continue providing these kinds of different conferences that will continue to inspire and help thinking about nursing differently.

IV. New Business

- **Governor’s Weekly Report** – Ms. Underwood provided an update on the Governor’s report. She shared that we have been consistent over the past few weeks with the processing time to issue a temporary permit at five days. In September, we received a total of one thousand, three hundred twenty-four new applications and of those, three hundred twenty-six were the multistate upgrade applications. Ms. Underwood also pointed out that we have received a bit more applications this year compared to September 2023. Last year in September, we received a total of one thousand, twenty-one new applications. Ms. Zawislak-Bielaski added that we are still seeing multistate applications and still getting questions regarding the multistate requirements. Board member Garcia asked if there were any questions regarding the report, none were brought forward.
- **Phase One of Chapter Rewrite Rules Project Update** – Ms. Dagum provided an update on our most recent projects, the rewrite of Chapter 246-840. She shared a power point slideshow that was presented at our September Board business meeting. She explained that the purpose of this project is for the board to meet the five-year formal review process for 16 rules requirement which is a requirement for all boards and commissions in accordance with our RCW 43-7 OO 41. But it also provides an opportunity for the board to assess our existing rules, to identify outdated or redundant sections, as well as rewrite and reformat those rules to reflect our current best practices. Ms. Dagum explained that this project will be accomplished in at least 4 phases, the first being the RN and LPN licensing and continuing competency rules. The second phase will then be dedicated to our advanced practice rules. Phase three is focused on nursing education programs and our nurse technician roles, and phase four will then be focused on practice standards and delegation. Ms. Dagum shared that each of

these phases will take about twelve to eighteen months for each package. She continued to share an overview of phase one.

In phase one, we will clear up the rules surrounding the RN and LPN licensing and competency requirements. We'll also explore how we can reduce barriers for multistate licensure applicants and applicants educated outside the United States. She continued to share that we will introduce a new WAC section for applicants who passed the NCLEX from another jurisdiction outside the United States, such as Canada or Australia. These rules currently are part of the endorsement WAC, we're looking to move it into its own new WAC. This will help to make it clearer for applicants. In addition to this, we will also explore limiting NCLEX attempts in order to address applicants using fraudulent diplomas and other concerns which were raised by Operation Nightengale.

Ms. Dagum asked if the committee had any questions so far. None were brought forward. Ms. Dagum continued to explain the next steps in phase one. In September's business meeting, the Board approved the Chapter rewrite project, and we have drafted the CR-101 and it is currently being reviewed and we anticipate having this filed either by end of this month or early November. We'll be able to provide a more detailed update at the November business meeting. Once the CR-101 is filed, we will move into the research part of this phase. We'll work with our subject matter experts and prepare for rule workshops.

- **Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses – Approval of Passing Scores** – Ms. Underwood explained to the committee that the Board approved CELBAN as a provider for applicants to use in obtaining their English proficiency exam requirements; however, we still needed the Board to approve the CELBAN passing scores. Ms. Underwood shared information provided by CELBAN where their scores were in comparison to others such as IELTS, OET, and TOEFL. Ms. Underwood asked the subcommittee if they would consider approving the CELBAN passing scores. Ms. Bayne provided guidance to the subcommittee to discuss and make a motion to present this to the full Board at the next business meeting. Board member Garcia asked for a motion to approve bringing CELBAN passing scores 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.
- **World Education Services (WES) – Education Evaluations Provider. Request for WABON approval** - Ms. Underwood explained to the committee that the World Education Services, WES had reached out to our office requesting approval from the Board to provide education evaluations to our applicants who need this requirement. Board member Garcia clarified with Ms. Bayne that no motion would be required as they were only discussing and referring this review of WES to the Education unit where NPAP would meet and make a determination.

V. Ending Items

- **Public Comment** - None

- **Review of Actions** - Board member Garcia reviewed actions. He confirmed that information about the Chapter rewrite was provided, a formal motion approving CELBAN's passing scores will be presented to the full Board at the next business meeting, and the committee will send to education unit for review of WES services.
- **Meeting Evaluation** - All
- **Date of Next Meeting** - December 17, 2024
- **Adjournment** 1:31 PM

