



Janet Napolitano
Governor

Joey Ridenour
Executive Director

Arizona State Board of Nursing

MEDICATION TECHNICIAN PILOT STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 30, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pamela Randolph, RN, MS, CPNP Co-Chair
Joey Ridenour, RN, MN Co-Chair
Jane Black, RN, MS (telephonically)
Kathleen Collins-Pagels
Betty Earp, RN
Helen Houser, RN
Deborah Piluri, DHS
Patt Rehn, AzNA
Christine Walker, RN, NHA

AnnaMarie McNeese, Arizona State University

GUESTS

Maureen Armaswass, ASU West Student
Julie Gordon, Exec Director AZAHA
Pam Koester, AZAHA
Anthony Liven, ASU West Student
Stephanie Moldavan, ASU West Student
Sara Thomason, ASU West Student
Pat Wasleotten, ASU West Student

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joyceen Boyle, RN, PhD
Kathy Boyle, RN
John Durbin
Sarah Ellis, RN
Lindsey Norris, AZAHA
Mary Fermazin, MD, MPA
Sue Macdonald, RN, MSN
Dean Wright, Pharm Board

Sunny Feeley, ASU West Student
Sterling H. Griffin, ASU West Student
Michael Nhi Lam, ASU West Student
Ryan Meana, ASU West Student
Sandra Santana, ASU West Student
Christa Walker, ASU West Student
Megan Wilkerson, ASU West Student

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL MINUTES

The Certified Medication Technician Pilot Study Steering Committee was called to order by Pamela Randolph at 9:30 a.m.

Patt Rehn requested the October 11, 2005 minutes state that Mary Griffith requested to amend the August 9, 2005 minutes regarding AzNA's opposition to the controlled substances protocol under Agenda Item I Call to Order/Introductions/Approval Minutes.

Houser moved and Collins-Pagel seconded to approve the October 11, 2005 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update from Board/Michigan Participation

In her statement to the Committee Randolph reported that Michigan remains interested in participating in the study and will be adopting all of Arizona's protocols. The Request For Proposal was sent to universities in Michigan.

B. Applications

1. Facility Applications

Applications were received from the following facilities: Copper Mountain Inn, Good Shepherd Retirement and Care Center, Heritage Healthcare, Mi Casa Nursing Center, Mountain View, Shadow Mountain, Silver Ridge Village, and Villa Maria.

Collins-Pagels provided an overview of each facility with regard to history, ownership and administration. Piluri provided clarity on DHS citation levels and their survey process. Randolph provided information regarding past or present nursing assistant training program and the status of the current training programs.

Committee members reviewed each facility noting strengths and concerns. Facility representatives will be invited to attend the next meeting to provide further information and answer any questions Committee members might have regarding their applications.

No decisions on selection were made at this time.

2. Research Applications

The deadline for research proposals is December 31, 2005. To date no proposals have been received. However, D&S Diversified Technologies has expressed interest and intends to submit a proposal for Committee review. Possible Conflict-of-Interest issues will be discussed at a future meeting if an application is received.

C. Report from Educational Subcommittee

1. Written Test Workshop Report

Members of the subcommittee met with Paul Dorrance of D&S Diversified Technologies to continue working on this item. A review of 500 test questions took place. Subcommittee members wrote in excess of 157 items. Syntax, content and grammar were reviewed collectively. Participants in the project

shared their perspective on item writing and its value. Other states also working with D&S Diversified Technologies will be submitting test items as well which will increase the number of items in the pool.

2. Manual Skills Test Plan/Criteria

In her statement to the Committee, Randolph stated that D&S Diversified Technologies has offered to administer the manual skills test for the same cost that was initially being considered for administering the test. After a review of the manual skills test plan, Dorrance shared that with regard to time and expense, requiring five medication tasks may not be necessary. Requiring five results in a confidence interval of plus or minus 6.17, whereas requiring three tasks results in a confidence interval of plus or minus 9.75. A difference of approximately three points that may not be worth nearly doubling the testing time.

D&S had a reviewer examine the criteria. Randolph is waiting for all of the feedback, but noted that all criteria require the cleaning of the hands and reporting unusual/abnormal findings. The reviewer suggested that those items not an immediate threat to the patient be weighted instead of making them absolute criteria as it may have a significant influence on pass rates. Reporting unusual findings would require setting up specific scenarios. The Committee may want to consider making reporting of unusual or abnormal findings weighted or allow for instructors to have students practice using scenarios rather keeping it on the exam as there will be no unusual findings in the test scenarios.

Lastly, Randolph stated that AnnaMarie McNeese, the RN to BSN nursing student from Arizona State University completing a preceptorship at the Board, developed a test manual that D&S is using and working with the Board on.

3. Train-the-trainer

No changes were made to the train-the-trainer course outline.

Motion: Committee accept the train-the-trainer course as written and submit it to the Board for approval.

Moved: Ms. Houser

Second: Ms. Walker

Vote: Motion carried.

D. Changes in Staffing for Pilot Facilities

This matter was placed on the agenda at the request of Deborah Piluri, Department of Health Services and Patt Rehn, Arizona Nurses Association. Ms. Piluri addressed the Committee stating that the DHS position is that medication technicians should remain under direct supervision of licensed personnel and that any changes in staffing patterns be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Rehn presented AzNA's position stating that their understanding of the legislation is that the change in staffing is only to be made to evaluate the effectiveness or lack of

effectiveness of the staffing change. Ms. Rehn requested there be ‘drop-dead’ essentials prior to a request for staffing change to demonstrate a frame of reference. Ms. Rehn expressed concern that there is the potential for licensed personnel to be replaced by medication technicians during the pilot study, thereby increasing the workload of remaining licensed personnel and thusly jeopardizing the patient standard of care.

Randolph suggested that Ms. Rehn and AzNA draft a statement/criteria for the Committee to consider. The following Committee members agreed to assist in this project: Ms. Piluri, Ms. Randolph, Ms. Rehn, and Ms. Walker.

The discussion continued as Committee members requested clarity on what AzNA envisioned, and noted that supervision by licensed personnel as well as delegation were addressed in existing documents. Ridenour cautioned that Committee members proceed with a clearly established frame of reference and noted that the amount of variables that go into staffing decisions makes it unclear as to how to describe such criteria. Ridenour reminded the Committee that the legislation requires that there be no staffing change while the research is being collected; if there must be a change it must be reviewed; and facilities must adhere to all state and federal laws.

Ridenour suggested Committee members have those facilities selected for the pilot study sign an agreement that states that during the research there will be no staffing change, should there be a violation of said agreement that facility would be withdrawn. Committee members unanimously agreed. Ms. Rehn accepted the suggestion and asked that after the study the Committee address the issue in order to protect the licensed personnel and the patient.

E. Time-lines and Assessment of Progress

Randolph reported that the project is on schedule, however the researcher proposal process may extend.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Randolph distributed a copy of a 1980s study from Wisconsin regarding medication technicians and error rates. The report was never published. In sum, the results were mixed. Two facilities participated. A medication index was used. The results showed an overall decrease in the number of errors, but an increase in omission error on the units with medication aides. There was also a significant increase in the number of mistakes reported when medication aides were present.

A. Call to Public

Students present shared their impressions of the meeting and its process.

IV. FUTURE TOPICS/DEBRIEFING

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 9:30 a.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Minutes Approved by:

Pamela Randolph, RN, Nurse Practice Consultant/Education

1/24/06
Date