



Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Joey Ridenour
Executive Director

Arizona State Board of Nursing

ANNUAL REFRESHER COURSE PROVIDER MEETING DRAFT MINUTES April 9, 2010

ATTENDEES:

Ilene Borze, GateWay Community College
Terri Crews, Mesa Community College
Diane Dietz, Mesa Community College
Diane Hultquist, Pima Community College CTD
David Kutzler, Pima Community College CTD
Debra McGinty, Northland Pioneer College
Jeanette Peterson, GateWay Community College
Linda Riesdorff, Mohave Community College
Brian Stewart, Pima Community College CTD

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

Judy Bontrager, Assoc Dir Operations/Licensing
Pamela K. Randolph, Associate Director
Education and Evidence-Based Regulation
Karen Gilliland, Board Staff

I. CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTIONS

Randolph called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Program representatives present introduced themselves.

II. REPORTS/DISCUSSION REFRESHER PROGRAM ISSUES

Randolph offered a presentation on a literature review for her IRE project. The focus was on workforce patterns.

Randolph thanked the programs for submitting survey data. Randolph noted that there was an increase in enrollments and graduates of refresher courses.

Program representatives shared the following information with regard to enrollment trends:

Mesa Community College: Dietz reported that there is an increased demand for refresher courses. Nurses with active licenses are applying. Agencies are advising nurses applying for jobs to take a refresher course if they have been out of practice for 2 years.

Mohave Community College: Riesdorff receives a lot of inquiries; however, it is difficult to obtain clinical placements, so candidates are being referred to programs in the Phoenix metro area.

Northland Pioneer College: McGinty has a small program but receives several calls from candidates in the valley. NPC has an on-site program and can not accommodate students in the Phoenix metro area.

Pima Community College: Hultquist stated that nurses seeking to change areas of practice are enrolling in refresher courses. As there is a need for LPN refresher courses, Pima Community College CTD will begin a LPN refresher program in May.

Active nurses enrolling in refresher courses vary from 10-30%. Recruiters are advising nurses with active licenses to enroll. Some programs are cutting enrollment numbers in response to reports that refresher course students are having trouble finding jobs. Randolph stated that there is a 22% unemployment rate among newly licensed registered nurses. Randolph also reported stable statistics on attrition rates.

Randolph will revise report to include the information shared by programs.

A. Refresher Course Data

No additional data was reported.

B. Program Innovations/Challenges/Successes

Randolph asked representatives to share any innovations implemented by the programs.

GateWay Community College

With the economic crisis, GateWay has students that are on payment plans for tuition which results in a problem with showing proof of payment. Bontrager shared that Board is accepting proof of partial payment in those cases. GateWay has increased simulation. Peterson stated that it is a valuable learning method. Randolph shared that University of Phoenix reported that once introduced simulation, HESI scores increase by 100-200 points.

Mesa Community College

Dietz stated that with grant money MCC was able to develop specialty tracks. MCC is using the Clinical Agency Preceptor Scheduling System for clinical placement. Because of the system, students are not allowed to make personal contact with agencies participating in the CAPS system. Eighty percent of students are being placed through the CAPS system. The grant money also allowed MCC to enhance courses, supplement equipment, and move into a new building with new labs. Simulation has also been incorporated. For students not in Maricopa County Skype was used. The course is now being offered three times a year.

Mohave

Riesdorff stated that Mohave is currently on a year's extension for approval. The LPN renewal is ready. The biggest concern is candidates with Consent Agreements. Riesdorff expressed concern with the course being online and the ability to supervise. Some have worked out, but others have not. Riesdorff will look into and report factors that seem to influence outcomes.

Northland Pioneer College

Because of budget NPC had to turn down 2 students. At this time the program is unable raise tuition. There is a movement for the college to go online; however, the program is reluctant to extend to the valley.

Pima Community College CTD

Kutzler reported that LPN program will begin in May. The LPN program will start with 7 students. Hultquist distributed a proposal for a new course for candidates with active RN licenses. Hultquist reported a low drop-out rate for the online portion. The drop-out rate

increases as nurses are hired by clinical sites. The proposed course is designed for nurses with active licenses and provides a shorter didactic period, preceptorship in area of their choosing, and two shadowing experiences. Course length would be approximately six months. Randolph suggested Pima Community College market the course to new graduates who haven't had a job in six or more months.

Randolph will prepare a survey to gather data from all programs on Board ordered refresher students and prepare a report.

III. Board Update – Discussion of Lit Review

Literature review was discussed under Agenda Item II.

IV. Clinical Placements and Preceptorships for Refresher Course Students

Program representatives discussed the challenges in obtaining clinical placements for refresher course students, particularly in the Phoenix metro area. Approximately one-third of refresher course students do not return to direct patient care. Alternatives sites have been used and explored. Some programs find shadowing to be helpful, and others offered that some student have done school nursing and parish nursing. There are also concerns with agencies decreasing the number of placements. Nurse Practitioner students are placed in specialty areas.

V. Licensure Issues/Notification of Course Completion

Bontrager informed program representatives that the Board will no longer be charging a fee for temporary licenses for refresher course applicants. Bontrager discussed the process for obtaining a temporary license for refresher course candidates and noted that I-9 requirements state that passports must be current. Bontrager will investigate whether the Board needs to adopt standard. The application packet will be placed online.

VI. Curriculum – Issues

Curriculum issues discussed included enhancing pharmacology courses. Pima Community College CTD noted that they are adopting a new text which has a chapter on evidence based practice.

VII. Other Issues

Program representatives discussed some of the challenges older refresher course students face, including technology.

VIII. Adjournment

There being further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED BY:

Handwritten signature of Pamela Randazzo in cursive script.

Signature

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