

Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee Report

Summary of Request: Consider the report of the August 15, 2007 meeting of and requests from the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee (APNAC).

Meeting Report: The APNAC met on August 15, 2007 to discuss proposed amendments to Rule 219 based on recommendations from the Sunset review and subsequent changes to the Nursing Practice Act. The committee's recommendation for amendments to Rule 219 is provided for the Board's consideration as agenda item 7.2.

The committee members were also updated on the public hearing and subsequent Board action to send the position statement regarding nurse work hours back to the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee. Committee members expressed concern that they did not have an opportunity to provide input as a committee prior to the position statement being shared with the Board. They had significant discussion regarding how a position statement on work hours would impact advanced practice nursing care, concluding that each of the four advanced practice roles would be affected differently. The APNAC moved and unanimously approved to submit a request that the Board allow four members of the APNAC, one representing each of the advanced practice roles, to participate in continuing discussions related to work hours. In the spirit of collaboration and cooperation, the APNAC further requests that the committee be granted an opportunity to review the position statement draft and make recommendations back to the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee before it is presented for the Board's consideration. The APNAC's motion is submitted for the Board's consideration.

Changes have also been made to the composition of the committee following the Sunset review. James Walker, a CRNA representing nurse anesthesia education, was unanimously elected to chair the committee. Additional organizations represented on the committee are as follows:

Clinical Nurse Specialist Education	Kathleen Baldwin
Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice	Lynda Woolbert
Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse-Midwives	Sr. Deborah Fuchs
Nurse-Midwifery Education	Mary Brucker
Nurse Practitioner Education	Gayle Varnell
Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists	Susan Willis
Texas Clinical Nurse Specialists	Linda Harrington
Texas Nurse Practitioners	Pamela Brown Stewart
Texas Nurses Association	Stanley Harmon
Texas Organization of Nurse Executives	<i>Currently vacant</i>

The committee makes two requests of the Board related to committee composition. First, the APNAC requests that Carolyn Sutton be reappointed to represent certificate level nurse practitioner education. Although current rule requires a master's degree for authorization to practice, individuals who completed certificate level programs prior to implementation of that requirement are grandparented and, therefore, eligible to apply. Issues still arise related to certificate-level education. Therefore, the committee and staff request that Ms. Sutton be reappointed for a three year term.

The second request is that the Board allow for two former committee members to serve in a consultant role. Deborah Antai-Otong previously represented clinical nurse specialists in practice, and Glenn Alexander previously represented nurse practitioners in practice. These groups are represented by professional organizations and do not require separate positions on the committee. However, because these individuals have served the committee for many years,

both the APNAC members and staff believe it would be helpful to retain them as non-voting members given their knowledge and experience with the committee.

Issue One:

Pros and Cons related to Nurse Work Hours Motion:

Pros: The APNAC has concerns that the differences between the four roles may be significant such that one individual might not be familiar with all of the issues related to practice in all four roles.

Cons: It is likely that the Advisory Committee for Education may also wish to review and provide input related to this position statement. In light of this consideration, it is staff's recommendation that the Board delay action on this motion at this time so that staff may explore workable options for obtaining input from all appropriate committees.

Staff Recommendation Regarding Nurse Work Hours: Move to delay action on the requests from the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee related to the nursing work hours draft position statement so that staff may explore options for incorporating input from all committees as appropriate.

Issue Two:

Pros and Cons related to Committee Membership:

Pros: Adding the additional committee member and two consultants will provide opportunity for the APNAC to benefit from the expertise of these individuals. Ms. Sutton has significant experience with certificate-level education and can provide valuable assistance as these issues present themselves for consideration. Ms. Antai-Otong and Mr. Alexander, although not voting members, would benefit the committee through their considerable experience with the advisory committee and knowledge of past committee actions.

Cons: None noted.

Staff Recommendations Regarding Committee Membership:

Recommendation to Reappoint Carolyn Sutton: Move to re-appoint Carolyn Sutton to a three year term representing certificate-level nurse practitioner education on the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee. Ms. Sutton's continued participation shall be re-evaluated at the end of the three year term.

Recommendation to Appoint Consultants: Move to approve the appointment of Deborah Antai-Otong and Glenn Alexander as consultants to the committee. As consultants, Ms. Antai-Otong and Mr. Alexander shall not have voting privileges.