

**STATUS REPORT RELATING TO
DEVELOPMENT OF A PROCESS ALLOWING FOR
BOARD APPROVAL OF HOSPITAL-BASED DIPLOMA PROGRAMS**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

This is a status report relating to the development of a process allowing for Texas Board of Nursing (BON) approval of hospital-based diploma programs in response to the Sunset Advisory Commission recommendation, Management Action 1.8.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- The Sunset Advisory Commission Report to the 80th Legislature, May 2007, under Recommendations, Management Action 1.8 states "The Board should develop a process to allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma programs."
- At the July 2007 Board meeting, the Texas BON issued a charge to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) to recommend to the Board a process to allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma nursing programs.

ACTIONS TO DATE:

- On August 28, 2007, ACE met and began discussions regarding the development of a draft process that would allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma programs, and directed Board staff to develop a crosswalk of regulating agencies, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and the current Texas BON approval processes for a proposed new professional nursing educational program for further discussion.
- In September 2007, the ACE reviewed the crosswalk of regulating agencies and determined that a recommended approval process should include requirements that the controlling agency (hospital or consortium of hospitals) of a proposed new hospital-based diploma nursing program:
 - meet the recommended licensing/approval eligibility criteria (See Attachment);
 - acquire approval from TWC for the proposed program;
 - submit to the Texas BON, in addition to the current required proposal documentation, a mission statement for the controlling agency (hospital or consortium of hospitals), organizational charts for the controlling agency, and documentation of financial support (budgets) for the proposed program; and
 - submit to the Texas BON a written plan addressing the legislative mandate that all nursing diploma programs in Texas must have a process in place by 2015 to ensure that their graduates are entitled to receive a degree from a public or private institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the THECB and at a minimum, entitle a graduate of the diploma program to receive an associate degree in nursing as required by § 215.3(a)(1)(G) and §215.4(a)(6), adopted on February 19, 2008.
- Board staff have been working with TWC and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to develop an overall streamlined approval process for new nursing educational programs with delineated responsibilities for each of the involved agencies, TWC, THECB, and the Texas BON.

FUTURE ACTIONS:

- When development of the overall streamlined approval process for new nursing educational programs with delineated responsibilities for each of the involved agencies is completed, Board staff will develop specific Texas BON streamlined approval processes and education guidelines

for the approval of both new vocational nursing educational programs and new professional nursing educational programs.

- A specific Texas BON approval process and an education guideline for approval of a new hospital-based diploma nursing educational program will be developed as part of the approval process and education guideline for new professional nursing education programs.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros -

- The specific approval process and education guideline for approval of a new hospital-based diploma nursing educational program will address the Sunset Advisory Commission Recommendation, Management Action 1.8, that states "The Board should develop a process to allow for Board approval of hospital-based diploma programs."
- The licensing/approval eligibility criteria to be met by the controlling agency (hospital or consortium of hospitals) of a new proposed diploma nursing program will ensure that federal/state licensing/approval requirements are met.
- The actions to date provide a foundation for development of a specific approval process and an education guideline for approval of a new hospital-based diploma nursing program as a by product of the overall streamlined approval process for approval of new nursing educational programs in Texas.

Cons -

- The rules and processes at TWC and other agencies related to new nursing educational program approval may change periodically.
- Periodic review of the Texas BON rules and processes related to new nursing educational program approval will need to occur to ensure that any changes in the rules and processes at TWC and other agencies related to new nursing program approval are addressed appropriately.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for information purposes only. No action is required.

Language to be included in the Approval Process for a New Hospital-Based Diploma Nursing Educational Program:

“The proposal for a new hospital-based diploma nursing educational program shall include documentation that the hospital or consortium of hospitals is/are:

1. Licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and
2. Either -
 - A. approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or
 - B. accredited by a CMS-approved organization.”