

## **Nurse Licensure Compact Update**

### **Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)**

I am including this general information section again for the benefit of new Board members. The mutual recognition model of nurse licensure allows a nurse to have one license (in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states (both physically and electronically), subject to each state's practice law and regulation. Under mutual recognition, a nurse may practice across state lines unless otherwise restricted. In order to achieve mutual recognition, each state must enact legislation or regulation authorizing the Nurse Licensure Compact. States entering the compact also adopt administrative rules and regulations for implementation of the compact. Once the compact is enacted, each compact state designates a Nurse Licensure Compact Administrator to facilitate the exchange of information between the states relating to compact nurse licensure and regulation. On January 10, 2000, the Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) were organized to protect the public's health and safety by promoting compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each party state through the mutual recognition of party state licenses. The Executive Director of the Texas Board of Nursing serves as the Compact Administrator for Texas.

### **NLCA Meetings**

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) meet via teleconference once every other month and face to face twice a year. In March, the NLCA Executive Committee and the full NLCA met prior to the NCSBN Mid-Year meeting in Chicago.

The NLCA Executive Committee consists of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, two Committee Members-at-Large, and an APRN Administrator Member-at-Large. I serve on the Executive Committee as the APRN Administrator at Large. Texas is one of two states to have adopted the APRN Compact but it will be a few years before the states are ready to implement this more complex Compact.

At a face to face meeting in Chicago on July 7-8, 2008 the NLCA:

1. Reviewed Licensure Portability Grant proposals from two states. The National Council received the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant for Licensure Portability. The award is in the amount of \$342,000. The grant provides funding for implementation of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) by providing incentive grants for states to implement; provide funding to defray costs related to implementation of the uniform licensure requirements, including criminal background checks, by providing incentive grants to states; and provide funding for an annual nurse licensure portability summit to discuss licensure issues with states and stakeholders. A press release regarding the grant can be found at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/1097.htm>
2. Reviewed status reports for all grant awardees.

3. Met with the NCSBN Board of Directors to discuss recent focus groups of Compact and non-Compact states. The NCSBN recently conducted focus groups for the purpose of obtaining information on the interface between single state license and multistate license models and to identify issues of mutual concern. At this meeting between the NCSBN Board and the NLCA Executive Committee, feedback from these discussions guided development of education and research strategies to address the needs of states with both models of regulation.

The next meeting of the NLCA will be on Monday, August 4, 2008 in Nashville, preceding the NCSBN Annual Meeting.

### **Participating States**

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now passed in twenty-three states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. Kentucky's bill was implemented on June 1, 2007. Colorado's bill was implemented in October 2007. The 22 states which have implemented the Compact thus far are: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. Rhode Island adopted the Compact but will not implement until July 2008.

For future reference on the Nurse Licensure Compact, refer to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing web site at:

<https://www.ncsbn.org/156.htm>

### **Texas Compact Statute and Rules**

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/npa2.html#4-001>

The Texas Administrative Rules for the Compact can be found at this page by clicking on BON Rules and Regulations and navigating to Chapter 220.

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/rr.html>