

## **Report on Communication Activities by the Texas Board of Nursing Consultants for Education**

### **SUMMARY:**

This report describes participation of the education consultants in activities to promote communication and sharing of information with the Texas nursing programs.

### **Implementing the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) in Nursing Programs**

A Board of Nursing (Board or BON) sponsored workshop entitled *Implementing the DECs in Nursing Education Programs* was held May 26, 2011, at Texas State University, Round Rock, Texas. The purpose of the workshop was to provide vocational and professional nursing educators with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to embed the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) into the nursing program curricula to ensure that graduates are competent for entry into practice. The workshop was attended by over 200 individuals including deans, directors, coordinators, and faculty of professional and vocational nursing education programs throughout the state. Representatives from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board were also present.

The Director of St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University in Round Rock, Marla Erbin-Roesemann, PhD, RN, welcomed the educators to the new campus. Mary Beth Thomas, PhD, RN, Director of Nursing at the Texas Board introduced the key-note speaker, Nancy Spector, PhD, RN, from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, who presented "The Focus on Competencies in Nursing". Other speakers included Elizabeth Poster, PhD, RN, Dean of the Nursing School at the University of Texas in Arlington; Susan Sportsman, PhD, RN, Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services at Midwestern State University; and April Ernst, MSN, RN, Director of the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Hallmark College. Three panel groups comprised of nurse educators, practice nurses, and students provided the afternoon sessions. (See Attachment #1 for the agenda.)

Evaluations of the workshop were largely positive, and the majority of attendees indicated that the program objectives were met, and the teaching methods/strategies, as well as the relevance of the overall objectives, were deemed effective. Overall, participants rated the student panel as the highlight of the workshop. Several participants commented to Board Staff that, as a result of attending the workshop, they feel more confident and comfortable as they incorporate the DECs into the nursing curricula. Negative feedback centered around the fact that the participants did not receive hard copies of the PowerPoint Presentations prior to the event. However, the audience was informed that all PowerPoint Presentation Slides would be available on the BON website shortly after the workshop.

Board staff would like to acknowledge and thank Board President, Kristin Benton, MSN, RN, for attending the workshop.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information report. No action is recommended.

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**  
**Implementing the Differentiated Essential Competencies**  
**in Nursing Programs**

**Texas State University**  
**Round Rock, Texas**

**May 26, 2011**  
**8 am to 4 pm**

<b>8:00 am - 8:30 am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>8:30 am - 8:45 am</b>	<b>Welcome and Update from the Texas BON Introduction to the Workshop and Overview</b>
<b>8:45 am - 9:30 am</b>	<b>Keynote Address: The Focus on Competencies in Nursing</b>
<b>9:30 am - 10:15 am</b>	<b>History of the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs)</b>
<b>10:15 am - 11:00 am</b>	<b>Major Themes and Concepts in the DECs</b>
<b>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch - On Your Own</b>
<b>12:30 pm - 1:15 pm</b>	<b>Process of Reviewing the Curriculum for Currency and Implementing the DECs</b>
<b>1:15 pm - 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Panel of DEC Work Group <u>Educators</u> on Implementation of the DECs</b>
<b>2:00 pm - 2:20 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>2:20 pm - 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Panel of DEC Work Group <u>Practice</u> Nurses on Implications of the DECs</b>
<b>3:00 pm - 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Panel of <u>Students</u> - Their Experiences in Nursing Education with Implications for the DECs</b>
<b>3:30 pm - 3:50 pm</b>	<b>Questions</b>
<b>3:50 pm - 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Evaluations</b>