

Nevada State Board of **NURSING**

MINUTES OF THE ADVANCED PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 24th, 2005

DRAFT

(Final minutes will be available on the Board's website <http://www.nevadanursingboard.org> after ratification by the committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting).

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nevada State Board of Nursing Advanced Practice Advisory Committee was called to order by Debra Scott, MSN, RN, APN, Executive Director, at 2:05 p.m., at the Board of Nursing, 5011 Meadowood Mall Way, Ste.201, Reno, Nevada, 89502, and via videoconference with other committee members at the Board of Nursing, 2500 W. Sahara, #207, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Scott, MS, RN, APN, Committee Chair
Tricia Brown, MSN, RN, APN
Martha Drohobyczer, MSN, RN, APN, CNM
Jeannette A. DiChiro, MSN, RN, APN
David Burgio, MS, RN, APN, Board Member Liaison
Amy E. Booth, MSN, RN, APN
Richard Null, MSN, RN, APN

MEMBERS ABSENT

George H. Cox, MS, RN, CRNA
Phyllis Suiter, MA, RN, APN
Richard Null, MSN, RN, APN

OTHERS PRESENT

Patty Towler, Certification Specialist, NSBN
Jeanette Belz, Universal Health Services
Elissa De Wolfe
Teri Kozik

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES— November 2, 2004:

B. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of actions taken at the November 2004 through May 2005 meetings of the Nevada State Board of Nursing: D. Scott gave an update of recent Board actions.
2. Discussion, actions and recommendations related to defining NAC 632.260 (1.e.) "...or in a related health field approved by the board": The relevant section of the regulation as written is: NAC 632.260 (1). An applicant for a certificate of recognition as an advanced practitioner of nursing must: (e) If the applicant completes a program designed to prepare an advanced practitioner of nursing on or after June 1, 2005, hold a master's degree in nursing or in a related health field approved by the Board. The members discussed the existing regulation in terms of what this actually means to individuals applying for certification in Nevada. The members stated that this regulation may suggest to individuals who are not prepared to practice as an APN that they meet the requirements for certification. The members suggested that the phrase, "and have completed a program designed to prepare an advanced practitioner of nursing which is a component of the masters or as a post-graduate certification program."
3. Report from members concerning proposed regulation changes:
 - a. NAC 632.020, NAC 632.255 through NAC 632.295 – Advanced Practitioner of Nursing: A. Booth, committee member, distributed the regulations regarding advanced practitioners of nursing which she had reviewed to update according to the actual APN practice environment in Nevada. The review included: NAC 632.255, 2555, 256, 257, 258, 259, 2595, 2597, 260, 265, 285, 290, 291, 292, 293, and 295.
 - b. NAC 632.037, NAC 632.300 through NAC 632.310 – Clinical Nurse Specialist: M. Drohobyczer, committee member, presented the regulations regarding clinical nurse specialists which she had reviewed to update according to the actual CNS practice environment in Nevada. The review included: NAC 632.037, 300, 305, and 310.
 - c. NAC 632.500 through NAC 632.550 – Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists: This agenda item was continued to allow the presenter to be in attendance.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Suggestions for agenda items for next meeting: There were no suggestions for upcoming agenda items.
2. Legislative update: D. Scott discussed recent legislative activities concerning bills that may potentially impact the Board.
3. Differences in the APN regulations concerning the hour requirements for continuous practice, renewal and prescribing privileges (NAC 632. 257, 260 and 291). D. Scott presented information submitted by Robert Buck, Application Coordinator, the staff member who is now responsible for the certification process of APNs in Nevada. Because of the difference in hour requirements, current regulations are causing confusion among applicants,

APNs and employers regarding hours required for certification by endorsement and for certification renewal, and hours required for prescribing privileges. The question was whether or not a uniform number of hours should be required for all situations. The three regulations involved are as follows: NAC 632.257 (2) Authorization to issue written prescriptions: requires an APN who does not hold a master's degree to submit documentation of 1,000 hours of practice in the immediately preceding two years.—The committee suggested that this requirement stay in regulation. NAC 632.260 (1)(b) Qualifications for certificate of recognition: requires evidence of continuous practice three of the five years immediately preceding the date of the application for certification. The continuous practice must include 400 hours of practice per year. (The Board accepts a notarized copy of active APN status in another state as evidence of continuous practice.)—The committee suggested that this requirement be changed to redefine “continuous practice” and require that this practice be within the last five years to align this requirement with the practice requirement for renewal of an RN license. The committee recommended this regulation change be presented to the Board for approval in concept and wording. NAC 632.291 (2) Requirements for renewal: requires proof of a minimum of 800 hours of practice in area of specialty. (This would be at the time of renewal, however, it does not indicate when the 800 hours has to be completed.) NAC 632.293 does address a period of inactivity indicating that at least 800 hours of practice in the two previous years must be completed to renew without close supervision by a physician.—Again, the committee suggested that this requirement be changed to redefine “practice” and require that this practice be within the last five years to align this requirement with the practice requirement for renewal of an RN license. The committee recommended this regulation change be presented to the Board for approval in concept and wording.

4. APN instructor hours: meeting the hourly requirements for renewal of APN certification. R. Buck also submitted this discussion item. The basis for the discussion was a call from an APN instructor requesting that the Board address instructional hours counting toward meeting the 800-hour requirement for renewal of an APN certificate. The instructor indicated that APN certification is a requirement for employment as an instructor and that full-time employment as an instructor makes it difficult to work 800 hours in another APN setting. She stated, “If the instruction hours don't count, it may force full-time instructors out of a faculty position after two years.” In keeping with the previously mentioned philosophy, the committee suggested that the 800-hour limit might be revised, but most importantly, they suggested that when redefining “practice,” it include a reference to the inclusion of faculty hours in an education program designed to prepare an advanced practitioner of nursing. The committee recommended this regulation change be presented to the Board for approval in concept and wording.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.