

Official Publication of the

# Nevada State Board of **NURSING**



Welcoming New President, Richelle O'Driscoll

# Nevada Nursing News

# WORDS

## From The Executive Director

Cathy Dinauer,  
MSN, RN, FRE



I hope this time of year finds you happy and well. I know for myself, I am not looking forward to another snowy winter in the Sierras.

The Nevada State Board of Nursing (NSBN) has been very busy post Legislative session. Previously, I mentioned some highlights from the session that impact nursing in Nevada. There is another bill I did not mention that should be mentioned now. SB 439 was enacted this session that is related to communicable diseases requiring certain healthcare professionals to receive continuing education related to HIV. The language states that:

*For each person licensed pursuant to this chapter who provides or supervises the provision of emergency medical services in a hospital or primary care, at least 2 hours of training in the stigma, discrimination and unrecognized bias toward persons who have acquired or are at a high risk of acquiring human immunodeficiency virus to be completed within 2 years after beginning to provide or supervise the provision of such services or care.*

The NSBN does not currently ask where nurses work, so we will leave it up to each of you to determine if you are mandated to take this training based on your location and type of work. If you are audited, you will need to show proof of completion of the course. We are in the process of approving courses that would meet this requirement. This regulation goes into effect January 1, 2024.

The NSBN did not author this bill, but we are charged with its enforcement. Should you have questions, please reach out to us via our website at: <https://nevadanursingboard.org>.

# MESSAGE

## From the President

Richelle O'Driscoll, MA,  
Consumer Member



I am honored and privileged to be elected as President for this upcoming year by my fellow board members. I am currently serving my second four-year term as the consumer member of the board, appointed by former Governor Sandoval and former Governor Sisolak. I represent the public and will be the first consumer board member in Nevada to serve and lead the Board, although many other states have consumer members serve as presidents.

I'm sure many of you wonder why a consumer serves on the board. A consumer member is a representative of the public in general who does not hold any license or certification issued by the board and meets qualifications as stated by the statute. Consumer members represent the perspectives of the general public and can, in some cases, patients, families and students. Both professional and consumer members have equal voting rights on board issues, and both can hold offices on the board. Consumer members are often included on professional boards to balance the tendency to identify with their colleagues or commonly referred to "as protecting their own".

Although I don't have the technical or professional knowledge and training that my nursing colleagues have, I do bring a unique background of regulatory and professional experience that contributes to the mission of the protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare through effective regulation. I retired in 2016 with Emeritus Faculty designation as Director of Public Affairs for the Division of Health Sciences and UNR School of Medicine. During my over 28 years at the university, I held several administrative positions for both academic and non-credit programs. Prior to working at the university, I served as the Education Director for the Nevada Division of Real Estate, providing me with key knowledge and insight regarding licensing, disciplinary and regulatory processes and oversight and enforcement of pre-licensing and continuing education requirements.

My goal this year, as President, is to ensure that we have effective and efficient board meetings and encourage decision making that is timely, fair and objective. Every case is unique, with different sets of circumstances. Patient safety is the forefront of everything we do. The Board protects those who access care and ensures that a nurse is educated, practices within their respective scope, and demonstrates a goal of positive patient outcomes.

We have an amazing Board of Nursing, under the leadership of Executive Director Cathy Dinauer, and a highly competent staff with some of the best processes and operations in the country. They are responsive to your questions and are here to serve you.

Finally, I want to thank you for the important and wonderful care that you each provide to the citizens of Nevada.

Respectfully,

Richelle W. O'Driscoll, BA, MA  
President, Nevada State Board of Nursing

# Meet the...

## VICE PRESIDENT

It has been an honor to serve on the Nevada State Board of Nursing since November 2020. Now in my role as Vice President, I will continue to abide by the Board's mission as well as protect the public from unsafe practice by nurses. I believe my 30 years of practicing nursing serves not only the Board but also the citizens of Nevada well.

I graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in 1992. I then obtained a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from UNLV in 1999 and became a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) in 2000. Moreover, I earned my terminal degree completing a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (Ph.D.) in 2017 from the University of Arizona.

My 30-year nursing journey varies from taking care of patients on a med-surg unit in a local hospital, to taking care of patients in the home setting focusing on public health, to currently seeing patients in an outpatient setting providing primary care as a FNP once a week. Additionally, I am an Associate Professor in Residence at UNLV School of Nursing where I am the FNP Program Director as well as teach in the FNP program. I am also committed to give back to the community by serving on several professional organizations including but not limited to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, Western Regional Advanced Practice Nurses Network, and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Safety is a basic foundational human need and always receives priority in patient care. The concept of patient safety is central to everything we do as nurses in all health care settings. Furthermore, the ability to recognize and respond to unsafe practice is fundamental to nursing and embedded in not only professional but also regulatory standards. To that end, I am extremely excited to continue to serve on the Nevada State Board of Nursing as the mission holds dear to my heart.

-Cheryl Maes, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC



## SECRETARY

Serving is what I do. I am proud to announce myself as the newly elected secretary of the Nevada State Board of Nursing. I have been involved with the board since 2011 first serving on the CNA advisory committee, then serving on the education advisory committee, before being appointed to the board of nursing in 2019.

Professionally, I am in lecturer of nursing. I identify as a pediatric nurse and I have worked in all levels of pediatric care. I have worked in pediatric critical care, pediatric medical surgical, and pediatric long-term care. Before becoming a pediatric nurse I worked in adult burn care and in a rehabilitation facility.

Personally, I am a medically complex foster parent with 6 adopted children and two foster babies, all of whom I love more than anything in the world.

-Brandon Murphy, MSNed, CPN, CCRN



# Methods to Increase Critical Thinking Among Nursing Students

## By Dr. Lauren Jones & Dr. Jean Benzel-Lindley

### Introduction -

Critical thinking is an important skill that nursing students need to develop to provide safe, effective, and evidenced-based care to their patients. It is the ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information, and make decisions based on sound reasoning and evidence. Nursing students need to develop critical thinking skills to become competent and successful nurses. This second essay of our critical thinking series will discuss some methods to increase critical thinking skills among nursing students.

### The Importance of Critical Thinking in Nursing -

Nursing is a profession that requires sound clinical judgement and decision-making skills. Nurses need to be able to recognize changes in a patient's condition, identify potential problems and implement appropriate interventions. Critical thinking is an essential component of nursing practice, and it is essential for nurses to develop these skills during their education. According to Tanner et al (2006), critical thinking is an essential skill that nursing students need to develop to become competent and safe practitioners.

### Methods to Increase Critical Thinking Skills -

#### 1. Case Studies –

Case studies are a valuable tool for nursing students to develop critical thinking skills. They provide an opportunity for students to analyze patient scenarios, consider different perspectives, and develop clinical reasoning. Case studies can be used in classroom settings or in clinical practice. Instructors can present real or fictional patient cases, and students can work in groups or individually to analyze the cases and develop care plans. According to Seshan et al (2021), case studies are effective in promoting critical thinking among nursing students.

#### 2. Concept Mapping –

Concept mapping is a graphical tool that nursing students can use to organize and analyze information. It involves creating a visual representation of a concept or a patient scenario, and then identifying the relationships between different components. Concept mapping helps students to develop critical thinking skills by facilitating the process of analyzing and synthesizing information. It also promotes collaborative learning, as students can work in groups to create concept maps. According to Rutherford-Hemmings and Jennrich (2013), problem-based learning is an effective method for promoting critical thinking among nursing students,

#### 3. Problem-Based Learning –

Problem-based learning is an instructional method that involves presenting students with a complex problem or scenario, and then requiring them to work together to find a solution. This method is effective in promoting critical thinking because it requires students to analyze and evaluate information, and then use that information to make decisions. Problem-based learning also promotes collaborative learning, as students work together to solve the problem. According to Hamdan et al (2014), problem-based learning is an effective method for promoting critical thinking among nursing students.



#### 4. Simulation-Based Learning –

Simulation-based learning involves creating realistic patient scenarios in a simulated environment. Nursing students can practice their clinical skills and decision-making abilities in a safe and controlled setting. Simulation-based learning is effective in promoting critical thinking because it allows students to apply their knowledge and skills to real-life situations. According to Zitzelsberger, Coffey, Graham, Papaconstantinou, and Anyinam (2017), simulation-based learning is an effective tool for promoting critical thinking among nursing students.

#### 5. Reflection –

Reflection is a process in which students review their own learning experiences and identify areas for improvement. Reflective practice is an essential component of nursing education, as it allows students to identify their own strengths and weaknesses and develop strategies for improvement. Reflection promotes critical thinking by encouraging students to analyze and evaluate their own learning experiences. According to Miraglia and Asselin (2014), reflective practice is an essential tool for promoting critical thinking among nursing students.

#### Conclusion –

Critical thinking is an essential skill for nursing students to develop to become competent and safe practitioners. There are several methods that can be used to promote critical thinking among nursing students, including case studies, concept mapping, problem-based learning, simulation-based learning, and reflection. These methods promote collaborative learning, encourage the analysis and synthesis of information, and allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to real-life situations.

The third entry into this group of essays on critical thinking among nursing students will explore in greater depth how to employ specific patient case studies and scenarios for the named methods of instruction listed in this section.

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2023 Board Members



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Vice President



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Ovidia McGuinness, LPN



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**ADMINISTRATION**

5011 Meadowood Mall Way, Suite 300, Reno, NV  
89502, 888-590-6726

4220 S. Maryland Pkwy., Suite B-300  
Las Vegas, NV 89119, 888-590-6726

[nursingboard@nsbn.state.nv.us](mailto:nursingboard@nsbn.state.nv.us)

**Cathy Dinauer, MSN, RN, FRE**

*Executive Director*

Statewide Liaison and Spokesperson,  
Organizational and Public Management,  
Fiscal and Human Resource Management

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**Madison Webb**

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## Board Meeting Dates

\*Dates and locations are subject to change

November 15-17, 2023  
 Virtual and at the Aloft Reno-Tahoe  
 International Airport  
 2015 Terminal Way  
 Reno, NV 89502

May 15-17, 2024  
 Location TBD

July 16-19, 2024  
 Location TBD

January 17-19, 2024  
 Location TBD

September 18-20, 2024  
 Location TBD

March 20-22, 2024  
 Location TBD

November 13-15, 2024  
 Location TBD

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## Committee Meetings and Openings

### Advanced Practice Advisory Committee:

February 13, 2024  
 May 14, 2024  
 August 13, 2024  
 November 19, 2024

### CNA Advisory Committee:

January 4, 2024  
 April 4, 2024  
 August 1, 2024  
 October 3, 2024

### Disability Advisory Committee:

January 11, 2024  
 April 11, 2024  
 July 11, 2024  
 October 10, 2024

### Education Advisory Committee:

January 12, 2024  
 April 12, 2024  
 August 9, 2024  
 October 11, 2024

### LPN Advisory Committee:

February 15, 2024  
 May 9, 2024  
 August 15, 2024  
 November 21, 2024

### Nurse Practice Advisory Committee:

February 6, 2024  
 May 7, 2024  
 August 6, 2024  
 November 5, 2024

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CNA Advisory Committee: a representative from AARP or similar organization, and medication aides-certified

Disability Advisory Committee: 2 openings in November 2023