

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (NYSED)
STATE BOARD FOR NURSING
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 20, 2021
10:30 AM

WebEx conference

Members present: Valerie Aarne, RN, Chair; Anne Coonrad, RN, Vice Chair; Edonn Ball, RN; Kenya Beard, RN; Ralph Derrico, RN; Samantha De La Santos, Public Member; Frances Iacobellis, RN; Sherley John, RN; Heidi Mix RN; David Hedman, RN; Jamesetta Newland, RN; Jennifer Pettis, RN

Members excused: Diane Ceravolo, RN; Maria Vezina, RN; Edmund Pajarillo, RN; Gwendolyn Lewis, RN;

Board Office Staff present: Suzanne Sullivan, RN, Executive Secretary; Ann Bentzen, RN, Associate in Nursing Education; Eileen Avery, RN, Assistant in Nursing Education; Keith Westerling, Administrative Assistant Trainee 1

Guest Observers: Jeanine Santelli, RN, ANA-NY Executive Director; Amy Kellogg, Harter, Secrest & Emery

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM.

News and Reports/Announcements:

Ms. Sullivan announced the new Nursing Board Chairperson Kenya Beard, RN. Anne Coonrad has agreed to remain as the Vice Chair until her term ends in 2022.

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the strategies for January board meeting including workforce shortages, and Regent's priorities for a review of clinical education and preparation of nursing students for entry level practice.

Ms. Sullivan will contact the Chair in regard to resumption of, and conducting committee meetings for the January meeting.

Staff will contact members as to how the meetings will occur as well as if they are any changes to Committee leadership.

Ms. Sullivan announced that Kathy Hochul was seated as the NYS Governor upon retirement of Governor Cuomo; and that Ms Mary Bassett will be appointed as the New York Health Commissioner effective December 1.

Emergency regulations written and in effect as of October 19, 2021 to allow nurses may continue to administer FDA approved vaccines and emergency use authorization vaccines pursuant to a non-patient specific order to ensure coverage of immunizing children once that approval comes into effect.

Governor Hochul passed a new law today which prohibits sharing written materials during a public meeting unless the information is shared with the public 24 hours prior to start of meeting.

Current executive orders in effect from statewide disaster emergency declared by Governor Hochul on Sept 27 issuing executive order #4 to alleviate workforce shortages. The orders are in effect until October 26 and will need to be renewed monthly.

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the current executive orders in place such as allowing nurses license out of state, Canada, or nurses licensed in other countries identified by the Department of Health to practice in NY;

allows new graduates to practice for up to 180 days; allow specimen collection and COVID immunization pursuant to a non-patient specific order, allows hospitals to use volunteers (services not defined); allows CRNAs to provide anesthesia services in hospitals without physician supervision; allows nurse practitioners to practice without a written practice agreement if safe to do so. Similar to orders issued during Governor Cuomo's administration. Many of the executive orders are being proposed as permanent law changes. The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYYS) would like out of state licensed nurses to practice in NYS to continue for a longer period of time which includes joining the Nurse compact law overseen by the National Council for State Board of Nursing (NCSBN).

Questions and answers followed regarding executive orders.

Discussion on LPN programs preparation goals, faculty supervision in hospitals and nursing homes, clinical education composure (populations (pediatric/care other than nursing home/Labor and delivery) and hours, measuring quality based on pass rates and completion rates and future discussions in January 2022 meeting for potential resolutions on new regulations to be brought to Regents for review.

Discussion on Nurse residency programs in general as to what currently exists in NY, variations among programs as to standards, goals of these programs, confusion of the current programs and identifying programs which have a good model, not recreating what is taught in a nursing program. Most residency programs are accredited by the American Nurses Credential Center (ANCC) and this area should be addressed when the board discusses RN education.

Discussion on workforce shortages which may have been affected by the pandemic; nurses leaving bedside practice; some becoming NPs; more leaving than entering nursing programs; have not made med-surg an attractive choice to new nurses causing many to leave after a couple of years of practice in that area; entities in NY trying to change laws to allow unlicensed persons to administer medications in nursing homes; having facility available during clinical rotations for nursing students to provide instruction and debriefing rather than relying on facility staff; where nurses/LPNs are currently working; monetary incentives offered by facilities for more money for agency/flex staff; lower moral.

Brief overview of vaccine mandates including science of efficacy; duty to patients, protecting other vulnerable coworkers; extent of problem in NYS; are many nurses leaving due to vaccine mandate.

HCF are requiring students to be vaccinated. NYSED is not requiring vaccine mandate for nursing programs, and they may offer alternative clinical experiences, but must teach to the curriculum and may not be used as an excuse for not doing clinical. Nursing program must decide how to handle these situations.

Approval of Prior Meetings Minutes

The Board didn't approve the minutes for 5/12/21

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01pm.