

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Advisory Committee on RN Nursing Education (ACORN)

Minutes of Meeting Held August 15, 2008
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
1200 East Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78752
Board Room

Members Present

Peggy Aalund
Patricia Allen
Joyce Batcheller*
Eileen Deges Curl
Regina Jones Johnson
Josefina Lujan (By telephone)
Beth Mancini*
Ana Mejia-Dietche
Edward Russell
Debora Simmons
Mary Beth Thomas*
LeAnn Wagner

Members Absent

Barbara Cordell

Coordinating Board Staff Present

Chris Fowler
Elizabeth Mayer*

Guests Present

Brenda Cleary
Carole Kenner*
Ruth Eckstein
Lu Pelayo
Clair Jordan*
Cindy Potter
Eileen Klein
Pat Francis
Suzanne Pickens
Heidi Taylor (By Telephone)
Sally Durand (By telephone)
*Present for portions of the agenda

I. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members	Ms. LeAnn Wagner, chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 9:35 and took attendance by roll call. Absent at the time of the roll call: Ms. Batcheller; and Drs. Cordell, Mancini, and Thomas
II. Consideration of Minutes from the Meeting of May 12, 2008	Dr. Curl moved that the minutes be approved as amended and presented at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Allen. Motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.
III. Review and Possible Consideration of the Consultant's Draft Report on a Nursing Curriculum Framework	<p>Ms. Wagner provided background to a draft outline (Committee materials) and the second draft of the report on a nursing curriculum framework (Committee materials). The second draft was prepared by the THECB's consultant, Dr. Cleary. Ms. Wagner explained that the first draft of the report that was prepared by Dr. Cleary was reviewed by a small subset of Committee members. In a meeting prior to this meeting, that small group met and proposed a new outline for the report, representing changes in both content and organizational structure. The outline was forwarded to Dr. Cleary, and Dr. Cleary said she incorporated many of those changes into the second draft. The second draft was distributed to all of the Committee members prior to the August 15 meeting.</p> <p>ACORN members took 15 minutes to read (in silence) both the outline prepared by the subset of Committee members and the second draft submitted by Dr. Cleary.</p> <p>Joyce Batcheller joined the meeting at 9:55; Mary Beth Thomas, at 10:00.</p> <p>At 10:10, Ms. Wagner opened the meeting to discussions about the outline and second draft. She first reminded members that the report's audience is the state legislature and that this initial report is intended to address the first phase – the curriculum framework -- of a four phase project. She said that these key points were important in considering the content of the second draft.</p> <p>At 10:10, Ms. Wagner opened the meeting to discussion of the outline. She asked the committee to first consider the outline and asked the subgroup members (Mary Beth Thomas, Pat Allen, Regina Johnson as well as Aileen Kishi, Robbin Wilson, Chris Fowler and Donna Carlin) to elaborate on their recommended changes to content and structure. Dr. Allen and Dr. Johnson explained that the chief concern of the review group was that the report needed more data related to Texas and a better organizational structure.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the current outline. Dr. Lujan thought the outline and report should emphasize outcomes in implementing a proposed curriculum framework. Dr. Cleary commented that the two most mature new curriculum models in Oregon and Massachusetts, did</p>

not have much outcome data. Dr. Russell suggested that the report have targeted data or expected outcomes. Ms. Batcheller was interested in developing curricular strategies that lead to positive outcomes for graduation rates and transition to practice and retention in practice. Dr. Thomas commented that an important issue is having appropriate admission criteria. Ms. Wagner said that these were important issues but probably beyond the scope of this report. Ms. Mejia-Dietche commented that it would be important to have a strong executive summary.

Dr. Curl reinforced the need for Texas data in the report. Dr. Simmons suggested that the report include recommendations from the IOM report on nursing in the workforce. Dr. Cleary commented that she didn't think that the report was relevant to curriculum issues. Dr. Simmons responded that there still needed to be a focus on patient safety and the work environment. Several other committee members reinforced the need for patient safety information. Dr. Cleary thought that more detail would be included in the second phase of the report which is the actual curriculum design.

Dr. Thomas asked about the application of QSEN in the framework. Dr. Cleary commented that much of QSEN is part of the IOM competencies and the adoption of IOM competencies would be a primary recommendation in the report. Dr. Batcheller and Dr. Curl also asked about how the curriculum framework could incorporate ideas about specializations in nursing. Dr. Allen suggested specialization could be addressed in a residency requirement.

Dr. Curl asked that the public health or community health role be emphasized in the curriculum framework. Dr. Cleary agreed that it would be important part of the curriculum model. Dr. Lujan pointed out that the public health role was included in the proposed outline.

Ms. Wagner redirected the group to the outline, and asked if the outline content was sufficient direction for Dr. Cleary. Dr. Curl asked for more information on public health; Ms. Mejia-Dietche asked for more information on the role of clinical simulation. Dr. Allen and Ms. Simmons asked to see more emphasis on the science of safety. Removing content on error rates was also discussed.

Ms. Wagner asked the committee members to review some of the possible recommendations in the outline. Several members asked whether release time for preceptors should be included as a recommendation. Others discussed the issue of expanding sections on the potential use of simulation and transition to practice, change in demographics, and growth in health care, specifically the number of acute care beds in Texas.

Ms. Wagner summarized recommended changes to the outline: more content on the science of safety, patient safety, greater use of simulation, growth in Texas and changing demographics, increased number of acute care beds, community safety, consequences of not implementing recommendations, importance of hospital partnerships in developing residencies, practice specialties, and potential increases in faculty, including preceptors.

	<p>Based on the changes, Ms. Wagner called for a motion on the amended outline. Motion was moved by Dr. Russell and seconded by Dr. Batcheller. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.</p> <p>Ms. Wagner then asked Dr. Cleary to discuss the second draft of the report. Dr. Kenner, who was attending the LVN meeting in an adjacent room, also joined the group. Both provided rationale for some of the content and assumptions in the report. Committee members provided feedback on Dr. Cleary and Dr. Kenner's comments and questions.</p> <p>The Committee adjourned for lunch.</p> <p>Beth Mancini joined the meeting at 12:20.</p>
<p>IV. Joint Discussion with the Advisory Committee on LVN Nursing Education and Possible Consideration of Results from Joint Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Wagner reconvened the meeting at 12:30. Committee members were joined by members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on LVN education.</p> <p>During the working lunch, the two groups discussed efforts to develop a seamless pipeline for LVN to BSN instruction. Topics included admission criteria, standard pre-requisites, the DELCs, and identifying an elementary core of requirements. The discussion continued until 1:30.</p>
<p>V. Reports from Subcommittees and Possible Consideration of Subcommittee Members and Immediate and Long-term Objectives</p>	<p>Ms. Wagner reconvened the meeting at 1:45 and continued discussion of the consultant's second draft of the curriculum framework report.</p> <p>Dr. Mancini recommended three sources for the consultant's report: Health Professions 2010, a Robert Wood Johnson report; The IOM Agenda for Change; and Transforming the Work Environment for Nurses. She also thought the state's past use of the DELCs and articulation agreements should be explained as context for the report. The Committee also provided feedback on the survey instrument and results, and proposed recommendations. At the conclusions of the discussion, Ms. Wagner promised to provide Dr. Cleary the revised report outline based on the committee's recommendations.</p> <p>At 2:45, Ms. Wagner moved to agenda item V. Chairs provided an overview of their new subcommittees and distributed handouts that listed their subcommittee's objectives and roster of members.</p> <p>Dr. Cordell was not present to provide the Capacity Subcommittee report. However, Ms. Wagner had a list of the subcommittee members and read their names to the Committee.</p> <p>Dr. Allen, co-chair of the subcommittee with Dr. Thomas, gave the report for the Retention Subcommittee. She distributed a handout, listing the subcommittee members and several subcommittee advisors with expertise in financial aid, retention, and student services. She reported that the subcommittee met twice by phone conference. Short term objectives are to look at graduation rates and financial aid. Long term objectives are to (1) develop a methodology for collecting data on drop outs, (2) develop recommendations on student services and counseling services, and (3) develop best practices and minimum standards for retention efforts. Dr. Mancini moved that the proposed objectives and subcommittee membership be approved. Ms. Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote (Dr. Lujan was not available for the roll call).</p>

	<p>Dr. Mancini provided the report for the Research Subcommittee, or as it is more commonly known, the Research Collaborative of current NIGP grantees. The Subcommittee has three major goals. The first is to develop a mechanism for communicating among current NIGP grantees. The second is to effectively communicate research results to the state's nursing programs. The third goal is to identify common performance measures for the current NIGP grant projects. To accomplish the first goal, the Collaborative has established a website at Angelo State University. The Collaborative also conducted a survey of the evaluation plans for the 12 NIGP grants. The evaluation of those survey results were distributed as a handout. The subcommittee is now planning to meet to discuss research efforts and to finalize core performance measures (based on the results of that survey) that will be shared among all grantees. Dr. Thomas asked to be added to the list of Collaborative members.</p> <p>Dr. Curl gave her report on the Excellence Subcommittee. A handout was provided. The group met via email to identify goals and objectives. She reported that the group would work to define excellence in order to establish benchmarks of excellence. It would like to survey the state's nursing programs to collect data on characteristics of excellence identified by nurse educators. It would like to identify criteria and processes for being designated a 'center for excellence." Other objectives: identifying criteria for 'student friendly" clinical agency designation; developing a central clearinghouse to provide resources on best practices; identifying strategies to facilitate national accreditation of nursing programs; identifying strategies to increase the national ranking of nursing programs; and identifying strategies to increase research and development funds. All work would take the subcommittee through December 2009.</p> <p>Dr. Russell moved to accept the plans for the Research and Excellence Committees. Ms. Aalund seconded the motion. The reports were approved unanimously by roll call vote.</p>
V. Public Comment	Sally Durand said it was hard to follow the discussions without the documents but appreciated the work of the committee. There were no other comments.
Future Meeting Dates for ACORN	<p>The committee considered another meeting in the first week of October prior to the Deans and Directors meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Wagner asked whether members could meet at the THECB on October 25 to review the consultant's final report. Beth Mancini, Ana Mejia-Dietche, Debora Simmons, a representative from the Board of Nursing, and LeAnn Wagner said they were available on that day.</p>
Agenda Items for next meeting	Possible agenda items: more reports from subcommittees; an analysis of graduation rates; a review of the final draft of the report (depending upon the date of the committee meeting.)
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Wagner at 3:30 pm.