

**South Carolina Board of Nursing
January 2005 Insert into the SC Nurse Newsletter**

BOARD MISSION

The mission of the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina is the protection of public health, safety, and welfare by assuring safe and competent practice of nursing.

This mission is accomplished by assuring safe initial practice as well as continuing competency in the practice of nursing and by promoting nursing excellence in the areas of education and practice. The Board licenses qualified individuals as licensed practical nurses, registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses. Complaints against nurses are investigated and disciplinary action taken when necessary. Schools of nursing are surveyed and approved to ensure quality education for future nurses.

2005 BOARD OF NURSING OFFICERS

At their November 18, 2004 meeting, pursuant to Section 40-33-10(G), the Board of Nursing elected Sylvia A. Whiting, RN, PhD, CS as Chair; Suzanne Kanipe White, RN, MN, FAAN, FCCM, CNAA as Vice Chair and Brenda Yates Martin, RNC, MN, CNAA as Secretary for 2005. Dr. Whiting represents Congressional District One, Ms. White represents Congressional District Four and Ms. Martin represents Congressional District Five.

CONTINUED COMPETENCY

On May 11, 2004, Governor Mark Sanford, signed a new practice act into law. A copy of the new Act is available on the Board's Web site: www.llr.sc.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/. Section 40-33-40 of the Nurse Practice Act explains the requirements for continued competency. Continuing education is just one of the options for documented evidence for renewal. There are four options for documented evidence for renewal during the licensure period: (a) completion of 30 contact hours from a Board recognized continuing education provider; (b) maintenance of certification or re-certification by a Board recognized national certifying body; (c) completion of Board recognized academic program of study in nursing or a related field; or (d) verification of competency and the number of hours practiced, as evidenced by employer certification on a Board approved form. Option (d) still allows nurses to renew their licenses based on practice hours. Nurses need to be sure that their employer can, by their policies, complete and sign the form required by the Board to document practice hours. Documentation of continued competency should not be submitted with the renewal application; however, if audited, a nurse must be able provide the requested documentation within five business days. Failure to provide satisfactory documented evidence of compliance within the prescribed time will result in the immediate temporary suspension or cancellation of the license pending compliance with all requirements for licensure and until order of the Board.

APRN LICENSES

The new Nurse Practice Act authorizes the Board of Nursing to issue Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) licenses. New license pocket cards will be sent out in January 2005. This takes the place of licenses and recognition previously issued. The official title of this license is APRN. Due to computer constraints, we were only able to put APN on the wall certificate.

Prescriptive authority numbers will be the letter representing the APRN specialty plus the license number. For example, a midwife would use M22; family nurse practitioner would use F333; acute care nurse practitioner AC1234; etc. APRNs should not use APN and the license number as their prescriptive authority number. The DHEC Bureau of Drug Control has been notified of the new license numbers for those APRNs with prescriptive authority. APRNs with prescriptive authority should make arrangements for new prescription pads to be printed with the new license number. With revisions in the Nurse Practice Act, all APRNs with prescriptive authority how wish to prescribe controlled substances, will have to have a DHEC and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Controlled Substances Registration. To obtain the DHEC application, you can e-mail Teresa Young (803-896-0634) at youngts@dhec.sc.gov, or Diana Granger at granged@dhec.sc.gov.

Requirements for licensure as an APRN can be found in Section 40-33-34 of the Nurse Practice Act, which can be found on our website (www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/). If you have questions, please contact Maggie Johnson at 803-896-4522.

PRACTITIONER REMEDIATION AND ENHANCEMENT PARTNERSHIP

At its September 2004 meeting, the South Carolina Board of Nursing voted to expand the Practitioner Remediation and Enhancement Partnership (PREP) program and offer it to all facilities in our state. This safety initiative, a project of the national organization Citizens Advocacy Center, was formulated shortly after the Institute of Medicine's study on safety. The Institute of Medicine's study has prompted much interest in healthcare and safety. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) has written patient care standards, which parallel the mission of the PREP program in many ways. The South Carolina Board of Nursing was one of only seven boards of nursing to initially participate in the program. Originally, PREP was offered as only a pilot study in our state.

The PREP program promotes safe nursing by providing opportunities for early detection of deficits in skills and knowledge before safe nursing care is compromised. It allows nurses with knowledge and skill shortfalls to receive the needed education and training to gain the knowledge and skills required to perform their duties in a safe and effective manner. PREP is congruent with the Board's mission to protect the public.

Perhaps you may know of a nurse who would have benefited from this type of remediation but who was instead disciplined by the Board or was terminated by their employer and then moved to another facility. This type of movement between healthcare facilities does not promote safety and only removes the problem behavior from one healthcare facility to another. PREP is a volunteer program for the participating facility as well as the nurse. It allows the nurse to obtain the needed skills, knowledge and other education activities while remaining in the nursing workforce. Early intervention is the goal of the program but there are exclusions for PREP participation such as cases involving: 1) suspected drug diversion, fraud, patient abuse, patient neglect or patient abandonment, financial exploitation of patients, sexual misconduct and other professional boundary violations will not be eligible for participation; 2) licensees with current pending criminal charges will not be eligible for participation; 3) causal connection to serious harm or death will not be eligible for participation; 4) previous history of disciplinary action by any board of nursing will be evaluated on an individual basis to determine eligibility; or 5) employment issues rather than questions of nursing skills or boundaries will not be eligible for participation. This voluntary alternative to the traditional disciplinary action will serve to enhance healthcare quality by improving information sharing and other forms of cooperation

between healthcare providers and regulators. For more information about this free, voluntary program, please visit our website or contact Board Administrator Martha Bursinger at 803-896-4550. We will be pleased to meet with healthcare facilities of any size and any type to discuss participation in this cooperative program and promote safe healthcare in our state.

REPORTING

Do you know of a nurse who is incapacitated or who is guilty of misconduct while practicing nursing? The Nurse Practice Act requires employers and supervisors of nurses to report the misconduct or the incapacities to the Board of Nursing. The Board will work along side of the employer through the investigative process.

Section 40-33-111(A) of the Nurse Practice Act states: *“An employer, including an agency, or supervisor of nurses, shall report any instances of the misconduct or the incapacities described in Section 40-33-110 to the State Board of Nursing not more than fifteen business days, excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, from the discovery of the misconduct or incapacity. A nurse supervisor who fails to timely report the misconduct or incapacity may be subject to disciplinary action and civil sanctions as provided for in Section 40-33-120. An employer who is not licensed by the board and who fails to timely report the misconduct or incapacity shall pay a civil penalty of one thousand dollars per violation upon notice of the board.”*

The mission of the Board of Nursing is to protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare by assuring safe and competent practice of nursing. This is also the goal of nurses and employers in our state. We must work together to ensure that all patients receive quality care. Information on how to file a complaint, the complaint process as well as a copy of the Nurse Practice Act can be found on the Board’s website: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Section 40-33-38 (C) of the Nurse Practice Act requires that all licensees notify the Board *in writing* within 15 days of an address change. So that you do not miss important information such as your renewal, please be sure to notify the Board whenever you change address. You may use the form included at the top of your license mailer or submit a letter including your name (as shown on your license), license number, former address and new address as well as your new telephone number. You may also change your address on-line utilizing the address change form found on our website: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/.

S.C. BOARD OF NURSING BOARD MEMBERS

Sylvia A. Whiting, RN, PhD, CS, Congressional District 1 – *Chair*

Suzanne Kanipe White, RN, MN, FAAN, FCCM, CNAA, Congressional District 4 - *Vice-Chair*

Brenda Yates Martin, RNC, MN, CNAA, Congressional District 5 - *Secretary*

Carrie Houser James, RN, MSN, Congressional District 6

Mattie Smalls Jenkins, LPN, Region I, Congressional District 1

Rose Kearney-Nunnery, RN, PhD, Congressional District 2

C. Lynn Lewis, RN, EdD, MHS, Congressional District 3

Debra J. Newton, LPN, Region II, Congressional District 4

James P. Rogers, Esquire, Public Member

Vacant – Second Public Member [*See Section 40-33-10(A)*]

S.C. BOARD OF NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Main Telephone Line (803) 896-4550
Fax Line (803) 896-4525

LPN / RN / APRN Licensure

Telephone 803-896-4550
Email Nursehelp@llr.sc.gov
David Christian, III, Program Coordinator
Edwina Garrett, Examinations
Pamela Holmes, Data Coordinator
Theresa Richardson, Reinstatements/Changes
Brandi Risher, Endorsements
Kathryn Spires, Verifications/Changes

Advanced Practice / Nursing Practice

Maggie Johnson, Program Nurse Consultant johnsonm@llr.sc.gov (803) 986-4522
Advanced Practice Licensure (803) 896-4524

Education/Refresher Courses

Nancy Murphy, Nurse Consultant murphyn@llr.sc.gov (803) 896-4529
Judy Moore, Admin. Specialist moorej@llr.sc.gov (803) 896-4743

Compliance/Disciplinary

Telephone 803-896-4470

Administration

Pam Dunkin, Office Manager dunkinp@llr.sc.gov (803) 896-6949
Dottie Buchanan, Admin. Asst. dbuchana@llr.sc.gov (803) 896-4533
Martha Bursinger, Administrator bursingerm@llr.sc.gov (803) 896-4550

VISIT US ON OUR WEB SITE: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/

The Board of Nursing Web site contains the New Nurse Practice Act, Regulations, Advisory Opinions, Licensee Lookup, Disciplinary Actions, and other information.

OFFICE LOCATION/HOURS OF OPERATION

The Board of Nursing is located at Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Suite 202, Columbia, SC 29210. Directions to our office can be found on our Web site. Our mailing address is P O Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211-2367. Normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday, except for holidays designated by the State.

DESIGNATED STATE HOLIDAYS FOR 2005

Jan 3, 2005 New Year's Day (observed)
Jan 17, 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 21, 2005 President's Day
May 10, 1005 Confederate Memorial Day

May 30, 2005	National Memorial Day
July 4, 2005	Independence Day
Sep 5, 2005	Labor Day
Nov 11, 2005	Veteran's Day
Nov 24-25, 2005	Thanksgiving
Dec 26-27, 2005	Christmas

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2005

Jan 27-28, 2005	Board Meeting
Jan 21, 2005	Advanced Practice Committee
Feb 15, 2005	Advisory Committee on Nursing
Feb 17, 2005	Nursing Practice and Standards Committee
Mar 17-18, 2005	Board Meeting
Mar 18, 2005	Advanced Practice Committee
Apr 19, 2005	Advisory Committee on Nursing
Apr 21, 2005	Nursing Practice and Standards Committee
May 20, 2005	Advanced Practice Committee
May 26-27, 2005	Board Meeting
Jun 16, 2005	Nursing Practice and Standards Committee
Jun 21, 2005	Advisory Committee on Nursing
Jul 15, 2005	Advanced Practice Committee
Jul 28-29, 2005	Board Meeting
Aug 18, 2005	Nursing Practice and Standards Committee
Aug 30, 2005	Advisory Committee on Nursing
Sep 16, 2005	Advanced Practice Committee
Sept 29-30, 2005	Board Meeting
Oct 18, 2005	Advisory Committee on Nursing
Oct 20, 2005	Nursing Practice and Standards Committee
Nov 17-18, 2005	Board Meeting
Nov 18, 2005	Advanced Practice Committee
Dec 8, 2005	Nursing Practice and Standards Committee
Dec 13, 2005	Advisory Committee on Nursing