

Board of Nursing

Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing is responsible for the protection of the public's health, welfare and safety through the regulation and enforcement of nursing, nursing education, nursing practice, and disciplinary standards.

The Board of Nursing's responsibility is to implement a cost-effective and efficient system of regulation and enforcement which will meet the consumer demand for safe, competent, ethical practitioners of nursing which includes advanced practice nurses, registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants.

Results of outcomes

The Board of Nursing regulates the practice and education of the largest numbers and variety of health care practitioners in the state. As of June 30, 2002, the board licensed and regulated the practice of 11,827 licensee/certificate holders which includes 267 advanced practitioners of nursing, 5,366 registered professional nurses, 1,133 licensed practical nurses, and 5,061 certified nursing assistants in Wyoming. The numbers of licensee/certificate holders have increased in all levels of nursing and are, in fact, the highest levels in the last five years.

The board licensed by endorsement 26 advanced practice nurses, 311 registered professional nurses, 82 licensed practical nurses, and 92 certified nursing assistants; re-licensed 37 registered professional nurses, 36 licensed practical nurses, and 56 certified nursing assistants; reactivated the licenses of 21 registered professional nurses, and four licensed practical nurses; verified the licenses to other states of 290 registered professional nurses, 43 licensed practical nurses, and 124 certified nursing assistants. The Board also issued temporary permits to 145 registered professional nurses, 27 licensed practical nurses, 118 graduate registered professional nurses (GN's), 47 graduate practical nurses (GPN's), and 1,047 nursing assistants (NA's).

The Board examined 156 candidates for registered nurse licensure (80.5 percent pass rate; national pass rate: 85.53 percent), 53 candidates for practical nurse licensure (89.4 percent pass rate; national pass rate 86.46 percent), and 1,210 candidates for nursing assistant certification (83.8 percent pass rate). The overall performance of Wyoming candidates on the national licensing examination exceeded the national mean performance of all candidates in the U.S. for practical nursing and was less than the national mean performance for registered professional nurses.

The board did not renew any licenses during this past year as the renewal date for renewal of all

General information

Cheryl L. Koski, executive director

Agency contact

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Other locations

None

Year established and reorganized

1909

Statutory references

W.S. 33-21-119 thru WS 33-21-156

Number of authorized personnel

Seven full-time

Organization structure

Governor, Administration and Information,
Board of Nursing executive director and assistant
executive director, Board of Nursing staff

Clients served

General Public; Registered Nurses (RNs);
Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs); Licensed
Practical Nurses (LPNs); Certified Nursing
Assistants (CNAs); Nurse Aide Training
Programs; Nursing Education Programs; Health
Care Facilities

Budget information

General Funds	0
Federal Funds	0
Agency Funds	\$559,226.07
Total Funds	\$559,226.07

Agency group reports to

Administration and Information

Number of members

Seven

Meeting frequency

At least once every six months; generally four to six times per year

licensure/certification was changed per board rules and regulations to December 31 of even-numbered years. Therefore, all licenses/certifications will be renewed December 31, 2002.

The board enforced the education and training standards for 13 nursing education programs across the state which includes seven associate degree nursing programs, five practical nursing programs and one baccalaureate degree nursing program. The board conducted two site visits to associate degree nursing programs with practical nursing spin-off options. Both programs were granted full approval. The board also approved two out-of-state nursing education programs to provide clinical nursing education training in Wyoming.

The board monitored the education and training standards for 120 nurse aide/ home health training programs. This includes 37 NATCEP programs in long term care, seven in high schools, 10 in community colleges (includes out reach sites), three in state facilities, and three free standing programs. There are 55 home health/public health agencies with home health aide training programs. There are seven NATCEP programs currently on conditions by the Office of Health Quality which disallows the facilities from offering their NATCEP program. The Board visited and approved/reapproved 20 nurse aide training programs.

The board processed and conducted investigations on 112 cases this past year against registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants/nurse aides for violation of the Wyoming Nurse Practice Act and/or the Board Administrative Rules and Regulations. These cases included 30 complaints, 80 applications for licensure/certification and two failure to disclose. The board dismissed four disciplinary cases, issued 36 advisory letters, placed conditions on seven licenses, accepted the voluntary surrender of 14 licenses, revoked four licenses/certifications, issued 13 letters of reprimand, tagged and filed one case, approved the licensure/certification of six applicants, and denied 16 applications for licensure/certification. The board conducted three administrative contested case hearings.

The Board of Nursing continues to contract with the Wyoming Professional Assistance Program to allow WPAP to serve as the board's agent for the purpose of monitoring all impaired nurses in the state who enter the program either voluntarily or through order of the board. Currently, there are nine board ordered nurses in the program (five RNs and four LPNs). Licensees are being monitored out of state – one RN in Texas and one LPN in Kentucky.

The board has worked diligently to assist individuals and groups addressing the nursing shortage both nationally and in Wyoming. The board entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Employment to provide statistical data/information for the purpose of studying the current workforce data for registered professional

nurses in Wyoming. The sharing of information resulted in a report prepared by the Department of Employment which provides valuable information regarding the current registered professional nurse trends including salary and workforce patterns for RNs licensed in Wyoming in 1999. In addition, the board continues to monitor national trends and issues in nursing and share information with other organizations concerned with nursing and nursing education.

Strategic plan changes

The board will continue to promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Wyoming through the regulation and enforcement of standards of nursing, nursing education, and nursing practice in the state. The Board of Nursing plans to continue to work with the state and national organizations to address effective solutions to the nursing shortage and continue to monitor the nursing workforce issues in the state.