

**SBAR (Situation/Background/Assessment/Recommendations) for NCQAC & DOH
long term care workgroup
January 30, 2018**

Situation:

Through a budget proviso passed by the state legislature in ESSB 6032 (2018), the Nursing Commission convened a workgroup to assess the need for nurses, including nursing assistants, in long-term care settings, and to make recommendations regarding worker recruitment, training, and retention challenges for long-term care providers in the sectors of skill nursing facilities, assisted-living facilities, and adult family homes.

Background:

RCW 18.79.202

(a) Maintain information on the current and projected supply and demand of nurses through the collection and analysis of data regarding the nursing workforce, including but not limited to education level, race and ethnicity, employment settings, nursing positions, reasons for leaving the nursing profession, and those leaving Washington state to practice elsewhere. This data collection and analysis must complement other state activities to produce data on the nursing workforce and the central nursing resource center shall work collaboratively with other entities in the data collection to ensure coordination and avoid duplication of efforts;

(b) Monitor and validate trends in the applicant pool for programs in nursing. The central nursing resource center must work with nursing leaders to identify approaches to address issues arising related to the trends identified, and collect information on other states' approaches to addressing these issues;

(c) Facilitate partnerships between the nursing community and other health care providers, licensing authority, business and industry, consumers, legislators, and educators to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity within the profession, and enhance nursing career mobility and nursing leadership development;

(d) Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing education and articulation among programs to increase access to nursing education and enhance career mobility, especially for populations that are underrepresented in the nursing profession;

(e) Provide consultation, technical assistance, data, and information related to Washington state and national nursing resources;

(f) Promote strategies to enhance patient safety and quality patient care including encouraging a safe and healthy workplace environment for nurses; and

(g) Educate the public including students in K-12 about opportunities and careers in nursing.

WCN has produced the following that was relevant to the long term care workgroup:

- Published snapshots of LPN and RNs in 2018
- Methods to obtain demand data on LPN, RN, and ARNPs
- Is engaged in academic progression efforts for LPNs
- Published public education on the role of the LPN

Assessment:

- While WCN was apprised of the long- term care workforce by Paula Meyer, there was no WCN representative invited to the workgroup.
- The WCN could have provided shortage information through the Sentinel Network as well as available national data (already cited in the report).
- The report describes outreach to tribal representatives and not other underrepresented groups.
- Proviso directed the workgroup to determine the current and projected worker vacancy rates in long-term care. The WCN provided information on demand surveys available for utilization with a knowledgeable researcher. The NCQAC did not pursue this.
- The NCQAC asked the WCN whether we could take on this work. Our response was that enable us to do so, there would be a contractual agreement with the DOH. NCQAC did not pursue this.
- The WCN provided NCQAC information on LPNs through available snapshots.
- The report did not address the need for RNs in long term care.

Recommendation

- Assess the next steps associated with report findings
- Educate the NCQAC on available data sources.
- Explore role of WCN board members engaged in long term care workgroup or the long term care sector in general.
- Raise the above issues with the Nursing Commission members and staff.

Questions

- Should WCN provide a response to these findings to highlight the above identified gaps?
- What is the role of WCN in the LPN workforce?