



Nevada State Board of Nursing
Report to
Joint Interim Standing Committee on Commerce and Labor
February 1, 2022

Dear Chairperson Jauregui and members of the Committee:

My name is Cathy Dinauer and I am the executive director of the Nevada State Board of Nursing (NSBN). Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today and to provide you with an overview of the Nevada State Board of Nursing.

The NSBN was established in 1923 by the state legislature under NRS 632 to regulate the practice of nursing. The NSBN is a title 54 board made up of seven members appointed by the Governor. The seven-member board consists of 4 registered nurses, 1 licensed practical nurse, 1 certified nursing assistant and 1 consumer member. The board appoints a Nevada licensed registered nurse to serve as the Executive Director.

The NSBN is funded through licensure fees and receives no general funding. The NSBN has six primary functions: Administrative, Education, Licensure and Certification, Discipline and Compliance.

The mission of the NSBN is to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare through effective regulation of nursing. This includes helping prospective nurses with the prompt review of their applications and issuance of licenses to qualified applicants.

The NSBN currently licenses and certifies 70,461 nurses and nursing assistants. This includes: Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Certified Nurse Specialists, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.

In addition, the NSBN has six Advisory Committees that advise the Board on a variety of subjects.

Services provided:

1. Licensure: The NSBN licenses and certifies 70,461 nurses in the State of Nevada. Our time to issue a temporary license for an endorsement applicant is about 4-6 days
2. Nurses can come to either our Las Vegas or Reno office to get fingerprints done
3. Our application process is an on-line process
4. Our licensure fees have not increased in 20 years
5. NSBN staff provide over 50 presentations around the state yearly on a variety of topics such as regulation, substance use disorder and licensing requirements
6. NSBN participates in occupational licensing forums to address barriers to practice and provides mechanisms to streamline barriers.
7. Provide on-going information through our website for patients, nurses and other members of the healthcare community
8. NSBN participates on a national level with other boards of nursing so that best practices can be relayed to the healthcare community
9. NSBN participates and collaborates with other occupational licensing boards
10. NSBN has 6 advisory committees that evaluate current trends in nursing to develop evidence-based practice decisions

Best Practices

The NSBN uses best practices in establishing regulatory requirements to ensure protection of the public. Best practices are determined by scientific literature, national nursing organizations and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)

Recent Legislation

In the 2021 legislative session, the NSBN was active in passing AB 91 which mandates that an APRN be a permanent member of the Board of Nursing. While the NCSBN has been fortunate to have an APRN as a member of the board, this has not been a requirement.

In addition, the NSBN unsuccessfully attempted to get the Nurse Licensure Compact introduced and passed last session.

Currently in Progress: Working with DPBH to make regulatory change to allow CNAs and Apprentice Nurses to perform Point-of-Care testing (glucometer finger sticks). This will help nurses at the bedside streamline their work.

In 2023 the NSBN will again attempt to get the Nurse Licensure Compact passed.

COVID-19

The NSBN has been very involved in streamlining and eliminating barriers to practice as a result of the pandemic.

1. Temporary licenses/certificates issued in 4-6 days
2. Limited staff in office but continue to provide finger print processing
3. Work with nursing programs to increase use of simulation as a result of clinical limitations of facilities. This allows nursing programs to continue running full nursing student cohorts
4. Allowing CNAs to perform finger sticks. This is not normally part of the CNA scope; allowing them to perform this task streamlines and aides the RN/LPN at the bedside
5. Working with DPBH administration and Nevada healthcare facilities to encourage the use of student nurses thru the NSBN Apprentice Program. This allows a student to be hired by a facility while in nursing school; they are then permitted to perform many more tasks than a CNA. This would increase the workforce pipeline
6. Posting messages to nurses with a master's degree to consider teaching in nursing programs (there is a shortage of faculty)
7. Message to all RNs/LPNs to volunteer for Battle-Born Nevada
8. Over 5,500 waivers have been received (RN, LPN, CNA, APRNs)

9. Working with the Nevada Hospital Association, DHHS and others to support increasing the nursing workforce