

Louisiana Center for Nursing

Proposal to
Louisiana State Board of Nursing
October 22, 2008

History

Senate Resolution 152 of the 2008 Regular Legislative Session, by Senator Gerald Long and coauthored by Senators Joe McPherson, Willie Mount and Michael Michot urged and requested the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) to establish a nursing workforce center in Louisiana. The charge to the Board was identified as:

1. Collect, analyze and report the registered nurse workforce data utilizing established nursing supply, demand, and predictor models to forecast registered nurse resource needs to the Louisiana Health Works Commission.
2. Evaluate registered nurse education capacity, and develop strategies for increasing educational access, retention and mobility, including opportunity for minority and underrepresented groups.
3. Establish a website for information concerning potential employment, and educational opportunities for becoming a registered nurse in Louisiana.

LSBN has been involved in collecting, compiling and reporting demographical and employment data regarding the registered nurse workforce since the 1970s. LSBN has participated in the activities of the Nursing Supply and Demand Commission (NSDC) since its inception in 1991, and subsequently the Health Works Commission established in 2002. LSBN actively facilitated the development of the Louisiana Articulation Model to enhance educational mobility in nursing. While LSBN has consistently collected, compiled and reported information regarding the nursing workforce, little is known about the projected need for registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses in Louisiana for the future.

The impetus for establishing a nursing center in Louisiana evolved from discussions between representatives of the Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education (LACANE), Dr. Norann Planchock, Chair; LSBN, Barbara Morvant, MN, RN, Executive Director; NSDC, Dr. Donnie Booth; and the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA), Dr. Joe Ann Clark. LACANE created a subcommittee to consider the establishment of a nursing center in Louisiana. The recommendation of the subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Melinda Oberlighter, was to establish a nursing center under the auspices of LSBN. Dr. Norann Planchock, Dean of Northwestern School of Nursing, and presiding Chair of LACANE, approached Senator Long regarding sponsoring legislation to establish such a center. The representatives of LACANE, LSBN, LSNA and

NSDC met with Senator McPherson who authored previous legislation to create NSDC (and the Health Works Commission) and he agreed to coauthor the resolution and was an advocate for the passage of the enabling resolution. Senator Mount, Chair of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee and Senator Michot signed on in support.

Operationalizing the Center for Nursing in Louisiana

Jurisdiction

SR 152 urges and requests LSBN to establish a center for nursing with specific charges as previously cited. LSBN has a legal mandate to protect the health and safety of Louisiana citizens. In establishing the law governing the practice of nursing in Louisiana the legislature found that the practice of nursing by qualified individuals is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this state. Further the legislature found regulation of nursing practice is in the public interest and established LSBN as the regulatory agency governing the practice of nursing by registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses.

While nursing workforce issues are not specifically mentioned in the nurse practice act, an adequate supply of registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses is inherent in protecting the public health, safety and welfare of Louisiana citizens. LSBN has a long history of reporting demographical data relative to the nursing workforce to the Governor, legislature, other state agencies and public stakeholders. SR 152 supports the charge to the Board to be involved not only with the credentialing of individuals to be licensed as registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurse but additionally with activities related to determining the need for nursing resources to meet the needs of Louisiana citizens.

Mission

To contribute to the health and welfare of Louisiana residents and visitors through activities that are directed to ensure that there is an adequate nursing workforce to meet the current and future healthcare needs of the citizens of the state of Louisiana.

Organizational Structure

The Center for Nursing is a component of LSBN's organizational structure. The Center will be established as a division within LSBN along with the other divisions of the agency. The Director of the Center would report organizationally to the Executive Director. Other positions will be established and approved through the normal budgetary processes of the LSBN. Initially, an Administrative Assistant position will be established to report directly to the Director of the

Center. Sufficient IT staff exists among the resources of the Board to address the needs of this division. Other resources will be sought through professional services contracts, i.e. grant writing, and statistician.

Advisory Committee

It is proposed that there be two separate advisory councils to LSBN, one relative to the work of the Nursing Center, Nursing Center Governance Committee and one relative to the overall mission of LSBN, including the activities of the Nursing Center, Stakeholders Advisory Council. The current Advisory Council of the Board will be modified to meet the need for greater nursing, community, and industry leader participation.

Financial Resources

LSBN has an approved budget established for FY 2008-2009 prior to the passage of SR 152. LSBN will be requested to adopt an amendment to the 2008-2009 budgets as a component of this proposal and to allocate resources to a nursing center division for the 2009-2010 budgets. It is anticipated that the center will seek and obtain external funding resources in the future; however, LSBN will need to maintain a percentage of its self-generated funds to maintain the nursing center into the future.