

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Request for Testimony

Issues and Background

The State Board of Nursing (Board) is revising its regulations pertaining to nursing education programs. The Board would like to consolidate and streamline existing regulations for registered nurse education programs in 49 Pa. Code §§ 21.31—21.126 and for licensed practical nurse education programs in 49 Pa. Code §§ 21.161—21.234. A recent publication of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), *Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality* (available online at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10681.html>), makes several recommendations for reform in nursing education. As a result of the IOM's findings and as part of the Board's general revisions to the nursing education program regulations, the Board is examining the issues of whether more clinical hours lead to better outcomes and competencies and whether existing qualifications for nursing education program faculty should be broadened. To assist the Board in examining the requirements of its registered nurse education program regulations, the input of individuals and organizations would be appreciated.

Invitation

Because the Board believes that individuals and organizations may have an interest in this issue and because the Board values any suggestions, the Board is inviting individuals and organizations to share relevant information. A half-day public hearing has been scheduled for October 24, 2003, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Auditorium—2nd Floor, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA. Individuals and organizations interested in providing oral or written input to the Board should contact Ann Steffanic, (717) 783-7143, st-nurse@state.pa.us. Testimony will be limited to 10 minutes per person. For nursing education programs planning to offer testimony, the Board requests that they include information on current education practices, clinical hours, student:faculty ratios and suggestions for any other regulatory changes.

JANET H. SHIELDS, MSN, CRNP, CS,
Chairperson

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