

HEALTH, WELFARE AND STATE INSTITUTIONS

Minutes of Meeting - February 25, 1975

The eighth meeting of the Health, Welfare and State Institutions Committee was held on February 25, 1975 at 4:00 p.m., Room 323.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lee Walker
Senator Neal
Senator Gojack
Senator Schofield
Senator Young

See Exhibit A for others present.

A.B. 83 - Allows state health authority to issue conditional operating permit to food establishments prior to inspection.

James A. Edmundson, State Division of Health, spoke in favor of the bill. Mr. Edmundson stated that many times a food establishment will change hands out in the rural areas, and if they already know what the situation is there, they can give the new owner a provisional permit until they are able to go out and inspect the establishment. As the law stands now, the new owner would have to close down until the inspectors are able to get there.

Mr. S. Mastroianni, State Division of Health, also spoke in favor of the bill and stated that they do have inspectors stationed throughout the state so the longest period of time an establishment would be operating under a permit would not exceed three weeks to a month. This would not handicap a man who wanted to open his establishment immediately.

Senator Young moved "Do Pass"; seconded by Senator Neal; Senator Walker voted "No"; motion carried.

S.B. 138 - Increases fees and amends disciplinary powers of board of hearing aid specialists.

Mr. Bill Morris, Chairman of the State Board of Hearing Aid Specialists, stated that the Board feels that this amendment would assist the Board in discharging its functions in a more expeditious manner. This was recommended by the Attorney General's Office and the Nevada Audit Legislative Counsel.

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Mr. Bill Isaeff, Deputy Attorney General, stated that the 1973 Session of the Legislature established the Board of Hearing Aid Spacialists. During the past two years, one or two matters have come up that indicate that an amendment is necessary. One problem has been an unauthorized practitioner in rural county. As a result of this incident, they found that they have no specific injunctive authority. Section 1 would remedy this situation if it were amended as follows: Line 4 shall read "...person representing himself as or engaging in the practice of a hearing aid specialist...." (new language indicated by underscore). This new language should also be included in line 7 following "...misrepresenting himself as or engaging in the practice of a hearing aid specialist...".

Mr. Isaeff further commented that page 2, line 5 should be amended to read "... and secretary and shall be paid from the funds of the Board". Lines 10-16 shows an increase in fees because of the inflationary process that has taken place. Line 12 should include the wording "..not more than \$100". Senator Young questioned line 24, page 2 which indicates that the holder of a license may be disciplined by suspending judgment. Mr. Isaeff concurred with Senator Young's remark, and stated what they need is (b) through (f), lines 25-30. Senator Young felt that a limit should be placed on the amount of time a licensee would be placed on probation (line 25, page 2). Mr. Morris felt that the wording "not to exceed 6 months" should be included on line 25.

Senator Young moved "Do Pass as Amended"; seconded by Senator Neal; unanimously carried.

S.B. 25 - Allows veterans with certain background in medical corps to qualify for practical nurses examination and license.

Dr. Charles Donnelly, Community College, stated that it is their policy to provide credit for students wherever possible and to enable them to take courses and get credit for it so that they don't have to take the course at the College. They do have a policy whereby a veteran could take courses at the College and challenge them and receive credit for them so that they would not have to take that particular course. In the case of their Practical Nurses Program, a student would probably still have to go through the program. He could challenge part of a course but would still have to go through the rest of the course work.

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Senator Gojack asked if there is a limitation on the number of courses that can be challenged; Dr. Donnelly replied that it is limited to 15 hours in the Practical Nurses Program. However, in July they hope to change that so that a student can obtain more than 15 hours. Dr. Donnelly doubts that in a one year program, if they could give more than 22 hours credit. Dr. Donnelly further stated that they would want to work with the Nurses Association and get their approval.

Senator Gojack asked how the challenge system works; Dr. Donnelly replied that if a student graduated from a two year program in an Associate Degree Nursing Program, there are eligible to take the State Nursing examination and become registered nurses.

Dean Vera Brand, Orvis School of Nursing, stated that she does support her colleagues in the Nevada Nurses Association, Nevada State Medical Association, Nevada LPN's Association and the State Board of Nursing in opposing S.B. 25. Dean Brand feels there are avenues for the medical corpsman to challenge the LPN, and these avenue are explained in a document prepared by Marcia Starrett, Western Nevada Community College (see page 3 of Exhibit B for document). Dr. Donnelly referred to the Proposed Transfer of Credit Policy (also contained in Exhibit B), and explained that this is a Community College Division policy -- the University does not have an LPN program.

Marcia Starrett commented that she would like to see no one writing examination that might fail; if someone has not had enough knowledge offered to them, she would like to see an alternative offered to that person. There is a certain amount of basic knowledge that needs to be identified and offered to them so that they can build on that.

Ray Cardeans, Nevada National Guard, stated that he would not object to a written examination. The entire criteria for determining competency is by a written examination.

Sharon Greene, Nevada Hospital Association, referred to an amendment they have submitted (see Exhibit B of meeting number 6, dated February 18, 1975), stating that they have requested that only those top three specialists be offered an abbreviated course as established by the Community College to provide them with what they may be lacking. The challenge presently available for the other 58-59 specialists would be fine, but these three top individuals should be allowed to take an abbreviated course. The challenge is available but they can only challenge up to 15 credits; therefore, they would be going through 6 months of training that they have already had.

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Virginia Edwards, Nevada League for Nursing, read correspondence from Lydia Piscevich who is President of the Nevada League for Nursing (see Exhibit C for copy of letter).

Mr. Ray Cardeans feels that most of the people in the service have had much more practical experience than the LPN's have had in their 48 weeks of schooling. Mr. Cardeans would like it demonstrated to him how they can claim that the criteria for being a qualified nurse cannot be the same for a medical corpsman.

Mr. Jack Saltz, St. Mary's Hospital, stated that the issue is not whether they approve of the schooling, but they want to have credit for what they do now.

Sharon Greene feels that if they can come to an agreement with with the State Board of Nursing, there is no need for this bill.

Senator Walker advised that if this matter cannot be resolved within two weeks, the bill should be brought back to the committee for action.

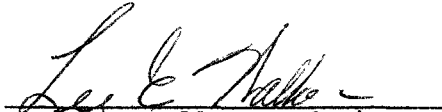
Senator Walker presented the members with bills from the State Association of Chiropractors; the committee members unanimously agreed upon committee introduction.

Being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon W. Maher, Secretary

APPROVED:


Lee E. Walker, Chairman

ROOM # 323

DAY 2-25-15 DATE

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Jean E. Perry	Nevada Board of Reg.	Reno
Ethel S. Shelen	Nevada Nurses Assoc.	Reno
Margaret Cleveland	Nev. Dept of Educ	Carson City
Hilda Varney	L.P.N. + member Nevada Board of Reg.	Las Vegas
Orna Mae Royce	L.P.N.	Reno
Virginia Edwards	L.P.N. (public Res.) Nev. League for Nursing	Reno
Dr. Vera R. Brand	Oregon School of Nursing	UNR
Ellen Pope	L.P.N. N.L.P.N. association - Legislative Comm.	Fallon
Arlene Avery	N.L.P.N. Assn - Legislative Committee	Carson City
Charlotte Kuenen	N.L.P.N. Assn Pres Div #8 - Leg. Committee	Carson City
Josephine Wemple	Pres. N.L.P.N. Assn N.L.P.N.	Fallon, Nev.
Doris Baughman	Las Vegas Review-Journal	
J. Antrocanni	State Div. of Health	Carson City
James A. Edmundson	State Div. of Health	Carson City
Bill Moran	State Board of Nursing and Health	Reno
Bill Isaacs	ATTORNEY GEN.	C.C.
Keith J. Herriman	Nev. State Hearing Aid Dealers Assn.	Reno
John Crossley	Audit Division	CC
Shay Porter	intern	C.C.
Brian Milich	Consumer Affairs Div.	C.C.
Jim McEay	aging services	CC
CHARLES DONNELLY	COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIV	RENO
Maria R. Starneth	Western Nevada Community College	Reno
Baron Greene	Nev. Hosp. Assn.	Reno
Deane Trumy	Nev. Hosp Assn	Reno
Jack T. Salt	St. Marys Hosp.	Reno
Ray Cardeans	Nev. National Guard	"EXHIBIT A"



Nevada Nurses' Association

1450 East 2nd Street Reno, Nevada 89502 (702) 329-5551

February 18, 1975

TESTIMONY AGAINST SENATE BILL 25

The legislative committee of the Nevada Nurses Association has endeavored to provide factual information to the senate committee as requested at the hearing on February 4, 1975. During the past two weeks our lobbyist has delivered to your offices excerpts from the Manpower study for Nevada health care occupations and materials from the Western Nevada Community College which document the availability of challenge procedures.

Today we would like to provide you with a letter from Marcia Starrett, Director for Nursing at the Western Nevada Community College which outlines their practical nursing curriculum and the policy on transfer credits. We also have a letter from Dr. Stephan, President of the Nevada State Medical Association which states that they have officially gone on record as opposing Senate Bill 25.

We would like to reaffirm our position which is that the agency best qualified to evaluate proficiency is the educational institution. As you will observe in the testimony provided here the opportunity for challenge is available to all qualified people.

We strongly urge a no pass on Senate Bill 25 and would be glad to answer any questions.

Karen Winkler / ES
Karen Winkler, Legislative Committee

Ethelda S. Thelen
Ethelda S. Thelen, Executive Director
Nevada Nurses' Association

ET/bd

Exhibit B

NEVADA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

WILLIAM K. STEPHAN, M.D., President
JOHN W. CALLISTER, M.D., President-Elect
JOHN L. HOLMES, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer
THOMAS K. HOOD, M.D., Immediate Past President
G. NORMAN CHRISTENSEN, M.D., AMA Delegate
RICHARD C. INSKIP, M.D., AMA Alternate Delegate

RICHARD G. PUGH, Executive Director
3660 Baker Lane
Reno, Nevada 89502 • (702) 825-6788

DOUGLAS HACKETT, Associate Director
810 East Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89105 • (702) 735-5141

February 12, 1975

TO: ETHELDA THELAN, R.N.
Exec. Director, Nevada Nurses' Assoc.

FROM: WILLIAM K. STEPHAN, M.D. *W.K.S.*

SUBJ: S.B. 25

The Nevada State Medical Association has officially gone on record as opposing S.B. 25, a bill which would allow medical corpsmen to take equivalency tests for Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Certification. The reasons for our opposition to this legislation are as follows:

1. The licensed practical nurse, through classroom training and practical experience, has amassed knowledge and competency which cannot be measured by an equivalency test.
2. The Board of Nursing Examiners has been established to evaluate the qualifications required for an LPN certificate. Part of the criteria for that certificate is on-the-job training which is performed over a long period of time. It would be all but impossible to measure this training by an equivalency test.
3. Determination of qualification by equivalency tests alone would fail to measure those subjective qualities so essential to the nursing profession, such as attitude, alertness, empathy and dedication.
4. Standardization of training of medical corpsmen is impossible, as each branch of the service differs as does the individual experience of each corpsman.
5. The Nevada State Medical Association opposes the entire concept of equivalency tests, as testing represents only one part of the training process, not only in the field of nursing but in other professions as well.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you in your continued efforts to promote and maintain the high standards of the nursing profession.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF CREDIT POLICY

Recommend transfer credit be awarded from the following sources:

1. transfer from other regionally accredited colleges and universities
2. by examination
3. for non-traditional education

The maximum number of credits to be accepted by any combination of these sources is 45. Any student must have completed a minimum of 15 credits at the Community College Division before graduation.

I. Transfer credit from other regionally accredited colleges and universities

The Community College will grant credit for any course in which a grade of "D" or better was earned at any of the institutions listed in A, B, or C categories in the annual report of The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. An "F" grade will not transfer. A maximum of 45 credits will be accepted from other colleges. Transfer credit will not be included in the student's cumulative grade point average.

II. Credit by Examination

A. CBAPE and CLEP

1. Maximum number of credits that may be earned by examination to apply toward a degree may not exceed one-half of the minimum number of credits required for that degree.
2. Credit may be granted for the satisfactory completion of the College Board Advanced Placement Examination (DBAPE) with scores of 3, 4, or 5.
3. Credit may be granted for the satisfactory completion of the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) general or subject examinations for standard scores of 500 or above.
 - a. A maximum of six (6) semester credits may be granted for each of the five general examinations.
 - b. A maximum of three (3) semester credits may be granted for each subject examination.
4. Credit granted on the basis of national standardized examinations is the equivalent of a "P" (Pass) grade for graduation purposes.
5. Credit earned by examination may not apply toward satisfying the minimum on-campus resident credit requirement of the institution from which graduation is sought.

B. Challenge Examinations

90

An enrolled student at the Community Colleges may petition for a challenge examination in certain specific courses at the college.

III. Credit for non-traditional education

Community College Division will accept a maximum of 45 semester credits from non-traditional sources to include:

- A. military training
- B. correspondence courses
- C. extension courses
- D. USAFI
- E. post-secondary proprietary institutions to include business colleges
- F. certificate training
- G. previous work experience
- H. other recognized sources

The above sources must meet the minimum standards for accreditation by nationally recognized agencies and/or be eligible for participation in Federal student financial aid programs. Students may be required to take challenge examinations for verification of credit. Each College will name an Education Committee to review the petition for credit.

NOT TO BE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT, REQUEST TESTIMONY BE READ IN FULL.

To: Senate Legislative Committee hearing on bill introduced by Mr. William Raggio relative to medical corpsmen taking the licensed practical nursing examination.

From: Marcia R. Starrett, Director For Nursing, Western Nevada Community College.

Prior to the hearing scheduled for February 14th, I have been in contact with both representatives from the Nevada Hospital Association, and the legislative committee of the Nevada Nurses Association. The following statements reflect my thinking on allowing medical corpsmen, medical specialists, etc., to write the licensed practical nursing examination.

1. In reading through the proposed bill, I would think that under the statement, "and other.*" does allow the State Board of Nursing to require verification of training and education which a medical corpsman has had during the years of his service.

It is my understanding that the State Board of Nursing does approve several schools of practical nursing which are under the auspices of the military services.

2. The State Board of Nursing periodically reviews the practical nursing curriculum offered by Western Nevada Community College to approve that the students are meeting the requirements and thus are eligible to write the state licensing examination.

At the completion of each program, and prior to the writing of the examination, transcripts of the curriculum taken by each student are sent to the State Board of Nursing.

3. Please note the attached curriculum and guideline of hours utilized in the practical nursing curriculum at Western Nevada Community College. (attachment #1)

I would surmise that if the military services programs would submit curriculum for their programs and if this curriculum compared favorably with the programs offered by the educational programs in Nevada for practical nursing; and if transcripts could be requested by the corpsmen, etc., that the State Board of Nursing could also approve these people to write the licensing examination.

* other preliminary qualification requirements as the board may prescribe."

4. Having read several transcripts of corpsmen, and medical specialists, etc., I have noted that most of those transcripts reflect that the corpsman has had no theory or clinical practice in maternal child care, (obstetrics and pediatrics), psychiatric nursing, nutrition or growth and development. The licensing examination tests these areas because the licensed practical nurse is required to have this knowledge in order to perform adequately and safely.

I would suspect that the corpsmen who lacked these areas of knowledge could not hope to pass the licensing examination.

5. In the bill to allow medical corpsmen, etc., to write the state licensing examination, one of the qualifications listed is two years of high school or its equivalent.

At the present time, all educational programs for practical nursing require a high school diploma or its equivalent. (G.E.D.)

Summarization and Possible Alternatives -

1. If a curriculum has been approved and meets the State Board requirements, and verification is available to the State Board that a person has completed the curriculum, then he should be eligible to write the licensing examination for practical nursing, whether in the military or civilian setting.

I would expect that all curriculum approved by the State Board would meet standard minimum criteria.

2. Those corpsmen who could not hope to pass the areas tested by the examination because those areas were not offered to them in their curriculum, might **choose** the following alternatives to receive the needed instruction and practice:
- A. Apply to a practical nursing program at one of the community colleges in the State.
 - B. Through the MEDICH screening officer at the Nevada Hospital Association, work with community college programs on setting up a system of challenges and/or curriculum which builds upon what the corpsman has already learned and offers him the areas of **content** and practice he needs to fulfill requirements of an approved program.

-3-

- C. Through the MEDICH screening officer, work with the office of admissions and nursing instruction in the community colleges to set up a mechanism to allow the corpsmen to take advantage of the policy on transfer and evaluation of credit from non-traditional education. (Please see attachment #2)
- D. Those corpsmen who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent, could take the G.E.D. program at any of the community colleges in the state.

91 C 2 91 C 4 Army 94

131 Fundamentals of Nursing 3 credits

Open to accepted P.N. and R.N. students only. An introductory course designed to provide a foundation for future courses in nursing, and to develop scientific understanding and basic skills necessary to meet the physical, psychological, and cultural needs of patients of all ages. To gain basic knowledge about protective and harmful microorganisms. To become familiar with the structure and function of health agencies. Communication skills, interpersonal relationships, historical background, legal responsibilities, and professional ethics will also be introduced. (Qualified students may receive credit by examination.) (4 hours per week class - total 60 hours.)

10 wks
20 hrs
30 hrs

131L Lab Experience Coordinated with Class Content 4 credits

(12 hours per week - 180 hours total.)

PN 151 Obstetrics and Care of the Newborn 1 credit

To develop an understanding of pregnancy and childbirth as normal processes, serious abnormalities which require the immediate attention of the physician, and the nature of labor and delivery. To learn to meet the nursing needs of the mother both before and after delivery, and the requirements and care of the newborn.

class
10 hrs

PN 151L Lab Experience Coordinated with Class Content 2 credits

PN 152 Pharmacology 2 credits

To become familiar with the various types of drugs, their uses, and techniques of administration. To become familiar with the agencies of drug control and dispensing. To develop an understanding for some of the dangers inherent in drug administration. Instruction in dosage, administration, effects, and reactions of the most used drugs. Explore new developments in drugs. Review the Harrison Narcotics Act and pertinent drug administration laws.

2 hrs
wks

PN 152L Lab Experience Coordinated with Class Content 1 credit

PN 153 Medical Surgical Nursing I 2 credits

To gain knowledge and skills in the treatment of patients with specific problems, and to relate the knowledge to the nursing situation both as a relatively independent worker and as an assistant. To develop knowledge and skills in caring for the patient with skeletal system diseases and disorders, and in adapting or modifying nursing measures to meet his basic needs. To learn some of the problems of our aging population and to acquire skills in meeting the particular needs of the senior citizens.

3 wks
Prac
Appr

PN 153L Lab Experience Coordinated with Class Content 1 credit

PN 154 Medical Surgical Nursing II 1 credit

1000
Advanced. Also includes the role of the practical nurse in emergency situations. To gain knowledge of skills in treatment of patients in the hospital critical care units.
(Prerequisite: PN 153 and 153L)

PN 154L Lab Experience Coordinated with Class Content 1 credit

PN 155 Psychiatric Nursing 1 credit

Self Lead
To gain knowledge and understanding of emotional and mental illness, and the role of the practical nurse in helping care for the patient.

PN 155L Lab Experience Coordinated with Class Content 1 credit

PN 156 Pediatric Nursing 1 credit

*clin 2 wks
14*
To gain knowledge in the natural processes of growth and development which will help in the nursing care of the children.

PN 156L Lab Experience Coordinated with Class Content 1 credit

PN 160 Nursing Problems 1 credit

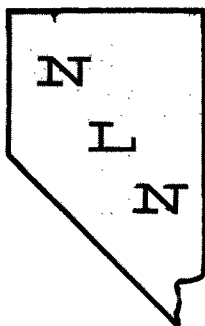
To gain knowledge in the principles of human relationships and resultant behavior appropriate to the occupation of the practical nurse.

10 wks

14 wks adv

7-10 wks clin

6-7 wks adv



Nevada League For Nursing

1480 LILLIAN WAY
 RENO, NEVADA 89502
 February 14, 1975

Senator Lee E. Walker
 Chairman, Health, Welfare and
 State Institution Committee
 Nevada Legislature
 Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Senator Walker:

I have been requested to testify regarding senate bill 25.

I do not believe every veteran who has served as a medical corpsman in any branch of the Armed Forces should be able to have a License as a Practical Nurse in the State of Nevada.

I believe LPN's should complete a prescribed course of study in an accredited school of practical nursing and such school should be accredited by the National League For Nursing.

Medical corpsmen, specialists, etc., do not have a complete course of study in maternal and child health, public health, (nursing), pediatrics, nutrition, geriatrics, etc. Medical service technicians, corpsmen, etc., could be classified as health aids, and health aids are not qualified to become nurses until they have had additional nursing education.

Veterans have veteran's educational benefits and can attend any school; and / or university to study any subject they wish to study. If veterans (medical corpsmen, etc.) want to become nurses, they should complete the prescribed course of study and learn to be an excellent nurse, not just a person who wants to help the ill. If the veteran is able and wants to challenge a course at the university, he has this privilege. He does not have to repeat a course, if he has knowledge of the subject matter.

I don't think this kind of a bill will ever improve the health of Nevada citizens or the nursing profession. It will lower the standards of health care; because in Nevada, LPN's have a 48 weeks course and some military courses are only 10-12 weeks.

Licensed practical nurses are some times left in situations where they have to make decisions requiring nursing knowledge and skills. This has been true in the rural areas of our State, and I'm sure will continue to be the situation in the future.

If veterans want to practice as LPN's then they should have the same credentials. This is not only fair, but it also provides a safe level of nursing practice.

I urge you not to pass this bill (SB-25) .

I hope you will only pass legislation that will improve the quality of health care to Nevada citizens.

Sincerely,



Lydia Piscevich, R.N. M.N.
President, Nevada League
For Nursing