

**Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council  
Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, October 14, 2020  
10:00 a.m.**

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted virtually. There was not a physical location for this meeting.**

**Members Attending**

Angel Angco-Barrera, MBA, BSN, RN  
Jennifer DM Cook, PhD, MBA, RN  
Diana Dolan, PhD, CNML, RN  
April Ernst, MSN, RN, CNE  
Rachel Hammon, BSN, RN  
Cheryl L. Johnson, RN, MSN, CDP, CADDCT  
Karen Kendrick  
Fu-An Lin, PhD  
Lula Pelayo, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Linda Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, FAANP, FAAN  
Susan Ruppert, PhD, APRN, FNP-C, ANP-BC, FNAP, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN  
Lisa Taylor, PhD, RN, CNS, FNP  
Courtney P. Sherman, DNP, MHA, APRN, WHNP-BC, CPH  
Lisa Taylor, PhD, RN, CNS, FNP  
Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Remy Tolentino, MSN, RN, NEA-BC  
Linda H. Yoder, PhD, MBA, RN, AOCN, FAAN  
Cindy Zolnieriek, PhD, RN  
Sally Harper Williams

**Members Absent**

Pamela Burns, LVN  
Cora Rabe, DNP, CRNA  
Sheila Fata, MBA, RN, NEA-BC

**Staff Present**

Cate Campbell, MPH  
Kayla Davis  
Tim Hawkins  
Pamela Lauer, MPH  
Maria Perez

TCNWS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes October 14, 2020

<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>Courtney Sherman called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., and welcomed the committee members, staff, and guests present, who introduced themselves. Dr. Sherman announced that the meeting would be recorded as required by the Administrative Procedures Act and the Open Meetings Act, and that members should state their name for the record when making motions.</p>
<p><b>2. Establish Quorum and Approval of Excused Absences</b></p>	<p>With 18 out of 21 members present, a quorum was established.</p> <p>Pamela Burns, Sheila Fata and Cora Rabe requested excused absences.</p> <p>Motion to approve excused absences made by Susan Ruppert and seconded by Karen Kendrick. The motion carried.</p>
<p><b>3. Review of October 14, 2020 Agenda</b></p>	<p>The agenda was not reordered.</p>
<p><b>4A. Approval of Minutes from the July 15, 2020 Meeting</b></p>	<p>Revisions for the 07/15/2020 TCNWSAC meeting minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remy Tolentino – Provided a revision to Section 4C, first bullet point, change Relevant to Relevance</li> <li>• Fu-An Lin provided a revision to section 4D, third bullet, related to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) update – add “supported by Emergency and Trauma Care grant program.”</li> </ul> <p>Motion to approve minutes with revisions made by Jennifer Cook and seconded by Remy Tolentino. The motion carried. Diana Dolan abstains from the motion since she wasn’t a member at the time.</p>
<p><b>4B. Update from the TCNWS</b></p>	<p>Pam Lauer provided an update on behalf of the TCNWS related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upcoming projects – Pam indicated that staff are preparing for data collection on multiple projects in the spring including the nurse staffing studies, an APRN survey, workplace violence surveys, and a school health nurse study.</li> <li>• Dashboards – Staff have been working on updating the RN education dashboard, a new LVN education dashboard, and preparing data to develop a graduate education dashboard.</li> <li>• Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) – NEPIS data is currently under collection. Staff will be working on validating, analyzing, and developing the reports. Reports will be ready for review and publication at the February meeting.</li> </ul>

<b>4C. Organizational Updates</b>	<p>Fu-An Lin gave an update on behalf of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) which included information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Total of 11 programs have been approved for BSN degrees in junior colleges, 2 new ones Galveston College and San Antonio College.</li><li>• Proposal for Trinity Valley Community College in pipeline, currently pending staff review.</li><li>• Nursing Innovation Grant Program continuing until August 2023.</li></ul> <p>Cindy Zolnierek gave an update on behalf of the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) which included information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General recommendations for nursing shortage reduction program and focused on prioritizing education that prepares nursing faculty.</li><li>• Looking into providing compensation for nurses that contract COVID.</li><li>• Continued focus on workplace violence initiatives.</li><li>• Making sure standards are held in community colleges for BSN degree graduates.</li><li>• Legislative session at the end of the month.</li></ul> <p>Katherine Thomas gave an update on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) which included information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on COVID response, increases in remote work for staff. NCLEX exam is back to normal. Experimental items back on exam.</li><li>• Next biennium's budget is focused on the BON's relocation to the George H.W Bush building.</li><li>• Requesting 5% reduction back as the BON is responsible for essential functions.</li><li>• Nurse licensure compact up to 34 states.</li><li>• Next board meeting October 22.</li></ul> <p>Karen Kendrick gave an update on behalf of the Texas Hospital Association (THA) which included information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working to support THA members in response to COVID pandemic.</li><li>• Supporting hospitals with identifying staffing options, as there has been an increase in demand due to COVID.</li><li>• Primary issues hospitals are having are communication issues, have been helping hospitals improve communication.</li><li>• Collecting stories from healthcare heroes and publishing through different mediums like LinkedIn and Facebook.</li></ul>
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<p><b>4D. Discussion on Nurse Projections</b></p>	<p>The committee had a discussion on the potential policy implications of the projected 20,000 FTE surplus of Nurse Practitioners. Committee members commented:</p> <p>Surprising projections for Primary Care NP could be due to the increased complexity of patients. Based on the projections many graduates are out of work. In contrast rural areas in need of physicians, it is difficult to find clinicals in rural areas as well. Many policies are affecting NP's in Woman's health. The Mental and Psychiatric health has a faculty shortage, no noticeable increase in this area is also noted.</p> <p>Graduate students are working more with PA's than NP's. Baylor Scott and White has noticed increase in FNP's and have limited their scholarships. There is also a noticeable fluctuation on students that planned on being a nurse practitioner.</p> <p>Questions presented include - Does COVID affect the data now? Taking telehealth and telemedicine services into account, how do projections look like?</p>
<p><b>5. Public Comment</b></p>	<p>Elizabeth Har was present and commented on her interest in the meeting discussion.</p>
<p><b>6. Adjourn</b></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.</p>