



**Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC)
Discipline Subcommittee Agenda
November 25, 2014 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Town Center 2, Room 112
111 Israel Rd SE
Tumwater, WA 98501**

Committee Members: Gene Pingle, BSN-BC, CEN, RN, Chair
Margaret Kelly, LPN
Cass Tang, PMP, Public Member
Lois Hoell, MS, MBA, RN
Tracy Rude, LPN

Staff: Mary Dale, Discipline Manager
Catherine Woodard, Chief Investigator
Margaret Holm, Nurse Consultant (excused)
Karl Hoehn, Staff Attorney

I. 3:30 pm Opening — Gene Pingle, Chair

- Call to order
- Roll call
- The order of the agenda was changed

II. September Minutes – Gene

DECISION: Consensus was to add the September 2014 minutes to the January NCQAC agenda for approval.

III. Investigator Report – Catherine

Catherine discussed the investigation unit statistics, including trends. She advised that two new investigators were hired, which will impact statistics for a time.

DECISION: The subcommittee requested a short narrative be added to explain unusual circumstances.

IV. Case Disposition Panel (CDP) – Mary

Mary discussed some of the issues staff have been working to resolve. A meeting may need to be set for 5 p.m. for those RCMs who cannot make a daytime meeting.

DECISION: The CDP call will be scheduled until at least four o'clock. Staff will ask RCMs if they are available to start early, should there be a lapse on the agenda.

V. Closure Letters – Gene

At the November NCQAC meeting, the subcommittee was asked to review the closure letters for communication and personal issues. The concern is that some nurses think “below threshold” means they didn’t do anything wrong; and complainants think their concern is not important to the commission.

DECISION: Members will send their suggestions on language to Gene. This will be on the agenda for the January subcommittee meeting.

VI. Performance Measures – Tracy

Tracy discussed the performance measures for FY2015, quarter one. The commission is at or above the target on all measures. It is likely some measures may dip due the transition of the legal staff to the commission. Mary will clarify with Paula who will present the measures to the commission.

VII. Nurse Consultant Report – Margaret Holm

Margaret was not able to attend, but her written report was sent to the subcommittee.

VIII. Work Plan – Gene

The work plan was reviewed and changes made.

Additional items:

Early Remediation Program – Gene

The rule does not limit ARNPs from this program. The definition of “Action Plan” (WAC 246-840-582) says follow up monitoring of practice may be required. To be consistent, WAC 246-840-583 (2)(c) should be deleted. HSQA is proposing legislation that may affect our rule.

DECISION: Wait to start the rule making process until there is a decision on the HSQA legislation. Any changes could be made at the same time.

News Coverage – Lois/Margaret

The recent news articles regarding a Medical Commission case was brought to the attention of the subcommittee. Catherine explained how the nursing investigators determine who should be interviewed in a case. She is comfortable that our process is appropriate. This is a reminder that staff should always be mindful in the process.

December Subcommittee Meeting – Gene

DECISION: The December 23rd meeting is cancelled. The next meeting is set for January 27, 2015.

IX. Closing 4:50 pm