Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC)

Discipline Sub-committee Agenda Minutes
April 23, 2019 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

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Committee Members:
Adam Canary, LPN, Chair
Edie Higby, Public Member
Lois Hoell, MS, MBA, RN
Sharon Ness, RN
Tiffany Randich, LPN
Tracy Rude, LPN ad hoc
Dawn Morrell, RN, BSN, CCRN

Staff:
Catherine Woodard, Associate Director of Discipline
Karl Hoehn, Legal Manager
Grant Hulteen, Chief Investigator
John Furman, Director, WHPS
Helen Budde, Case Manager excused
Barb Elsner, HSC
Adena Nolet, Compliance Specialist

Public:
Megann Mitchell
Olga Kimbrel
I. 3:30 PM Opening – Adam
   • Call to order – Digital recording announcement  
     Meeting called to order 3:33 pm  
   • Roll call

II. March 27, 2019 Minutes – Adam
   o Approved.

III. Performance Measures – Catherine, Grant, and Karl, John
   o Lois asked for an explanation of the statistics related to performance measure 2.2, percent of cases completed within timelines/ target 77%.  
   o Grant explained that with the significant rise in caseloads, we can’t get to all the cases. We work in some newer cases and the higher priority cases at the same time as the older ones.
   o Lois is concerned about the older cases, such as the 2016 case reviewed in CDP earlier today. The nurses are hanging out there.
   o Sharon suggested that an RCM review cases early where there is not sufficient evidence of misconduct.
   o Lois asked about team-based expedited closures. Catherine explained that these did not generate the closures we anticipated and did not save time. This will be on the May subcommittee agenda to discuss further.
   o John explained three months of Recovery Trek reports to commission members. They are still working on the January/February numbers to ensure accuracy; the March numbers are most solid. The number of nurses in WHPS remains steady.
   o WHPS strives to get intakes completed within 45 days.
   o Regarding the column of 'Not Appropriate,' the most common reason is a psych disorder with no substance use disorder.
   o Regarding the WHPS outreach, this refers to the formal presentations.
   o John noted that they are seeing alcohol most often at intake and it is the relapse drug of choice.
   o During the review of the compliance report, John explained that if a nurse misses a check-in, they must test the next day, which is expensive for the nurse.

IV. Demographics of Nurses Under Investigation, Continued – Catherine, Adena
   o This information inadvertently left out of the packet: of the 2280 complaints authorized for investigation, 78.3% are female and 21.7% are male.
   o Lois and Tracy remember an NCSBN study that showed male nurses receive harsher violations than their female counterparts do.
   o Of the 2280 nurses under investigation who went to school in the United States, 54% attended school in WA and the remaining attended out-of-state.

V. Update on Decision Package – Catherine
   o We are optimistic that the governor will sign the budget that approves our decision package as submitted. This will mean five additional investigators and three additional staff in Legal to get through the backlog of cases and manage the sharp increase in complaints.
   o We’re also looking at adding more pro-tems to do discipline work.
   o We can recruit once the governor signs the budget, and the target date for hire is July 1.
We will add facility space to accommodate the additional people.

VI. Work Plan – Adam
Review status of items on the work plan
  - Tracy asked to talk about the KSTAR presentation we heard by webinar on April 22nd. Adam though it was super informative and asked to have the information added to the May packet. He thinks it’s beneficial and there are opportunities here. Tracy likes the six-hour jurisprudence module, the fact that nurses are tested on all the mains, and there are individual education plans. She appreciated Dr Benton (TX) for use of sanction levels below probation. Zero recidivism after 12 and 24 months compared with one recidivist after 12 months under traditional discipline. She noted that the Texas model has a whole unit devoted to management of this program. Catherine noted that Seattle U has expressed interest in this program.
  - Catherine asked if the commission still wanted to see quarterly reports since the current monthly reports have comparison data. Lois suggested we look at Chris and Amber’s charts twice yearly. Those will likely show noticeable trends if things change.
  - Karl updated us on his IRE project. His IRB was approved and he is prepping for the poster presentation at the NCSBN annual meeting in August. While the time he has to complete the project is much shorter than originally planned, we will have more data than we did before. Karl can present at the September commission meeting. Tiffany asked him to present to the subcommittee first, so perhaps we will have an in-person meeting of the subcommittee prior to September. Lois asked if the data includes WHPS. Karl said it includes formal actions and some of the nurses have been in WHPS.

VII. Meeting Evaluation – All
  - Great meeting (voiced by several). Appreciate Tracy’s comments on the IRE. Looking forward to more discussion.
  - Looking forward to Karl’s project presentation (voiced by several).
  - Appreciate the information in tonight’s meeting.
  - Like the flexibility to dig into things.
  - Good group to work with.
  - Informative.
  - Thanks for continued support.

VIII. Closing