This meeting was held by webinar. NCQAC members participated by webinar according to Governor Jay Inslee’s COVID 19 Operational and Workplace Guidance in Response to Novel Coronavirus. Staff were available in Town Center 2 Room 145.

**Commission Members:**
- Tracy Rude, LPN, Chair
- Mary Baroni, PhD, RN, Vice-Chair
- Lois Hoell, MS, MBA, RN, Secretary/Treasurer
- Adam Canary, LPN
- Jeannie Eylar, MSN, RN
- Ella B. Guilford, MSN, M.Ed., BSN, RN
- Edie Higby, Public Member (Excused)
- Dawn Morrell, RN
- Helen Myrick, Public Member
- Sharon Ness, RN
- Donna L. Poole MSN, ARNP, PMHCNS-BC
- Tiffany Randich, RN, LPN (Excused)
- Laurie Soine PhD, ARNP
- Yvonne Strader, RN
- Cass Tang, Public Member

**Assistant Attorney General:**
- Gail S. Yu, Assistant Attorney General

**Staff:**
- Paula R. Meyer, MSN, RN, FRE, Executive Director
- Kathy Anderson, Director, Finance
- Chris Archuleta, Director, Operations
- Gerianne Babbo, Ed.D, MN, RN, Director, Education
- Shad Bell, Assistant Director, Operations
- Amber Bielaski, MPH, Assistant Director, Licensing
- Debbie Carlson, MSN, RN, CPM, Director, Practice
- Teresa Corrado, LPN, CPM, Assistant Director, Discipline – Case Management
- John Furman, PhD, MSN, CIC, COHN-S, Assistant Director, Discipline – Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS)
- Mary Sue Gorski, PhD, RN, Director, Advanced Practice, Research and Policy
- Karl Hoehn, JD, FRE, Assistant Director, Discipline – Legal
- Grant Hulteen, Assistant Director, Discipline – Investigations
- Alana Llacuna, Administrative Assistant
- Kathy Moisio, PhD, RN, Director, Nursing Assistant Programs
- Brandon Williams, Performance and Policy Analyst
- Catherine Woodard, Director, Discipline
I. 8:30 AM Opening – Tracy Rude, Chair – DISCUSSION/ACTION

II. Call to Order
   A. Introductions
   B. Order of the Agenda

III. Chair Report – Tracy Rude – DISCUSSION/ACTION

   A. Request to work with Washington Medical Commission: Disruptive physicians and cases that appear to be system errors
   Ms. Meyer and Ms. Rude met with Washington Medical Commission (WMC) Executive Director, Melanie De Leon and Chair, Dr. Alden Roberts on January 27, 2020. WMC requested the NCQAC’s assistance in working with them on solutions regarding disruptive physicians and cases that appear to be system errors. Ms. Tang proposed idea to have Communications Task Force to take on action items. Ms. Strader volunteered to work on communication around issue. Instead of NCQAC members reporting to Communications group, Ms. Meyer suggested they work and coordinate with the Communications task force. Ms. Rude asked for two members to work with each issue group. Dr. Baroni and Ms. Eylar volunteered to work on cases that appear to be system errors. Ms. Ness and Ms. Strader volunteered to work on the topic disruptive physicians.

   B. NCQAC Annual Evaluation
   The NCQAC conducts an annual evaluation to determine effectiveness of the NCQAC, sub-committees and panels. The evaluation is open at 5:00pm today until March 27 midnight. Ms. Rude requested two NCQAC members to work with Jennifer Anderson to report evaluation for the May business meeting. Ms. Myrick and Ms. Tang volunteered to work on evaluation. Dr. Baroni suggested communication to reach out to pro-tem members for participation in survey encouraging their input for support.

IV. Executive Director Report – Paula Meyer – DISCUSSION/ACTION

   A. COVID 19 update
   Ms. Meyer updated information on COVID-19 in reference to the Governor’s proclamation. A revision on proclamation for DOH operation guidance is currently being developed. The NCQAC received guidance from the attorney general’s office on open public meetings act. Ms. Meyer reported meeting cancellations, unit responses, and revisions:
   - National Organization for Alternative Programs Conference (NOAP) – Cancelled
   - ARNP Regional Conference – Cancelled
• ARNP Roundtable Conference – Cancelled
• All In-State travel for presentations and meetings – Cancelled
• Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS) – No more than ten people per support group
• Investigations conducted by email/phone/postage service
• NCQAC meetings held via webinar or by phone
• Hearings are continued. Summary suspensions will be worked on with the Attorney General’s office to conduct hearings through webinar.
• Licensing – Ms. Meyer sent a message to all King county acute facilities to send their list of applicants waiting on their licenses that needs expediting. List does not include Pierce and Snohomish County. Licensing staff processed 400 applications.
• RCW 70.15 Emergency Care Workers prompted by urgent call from Life Care Center in Kirkland needing three nurses coming from Colorado for 3-11 shifts. The NCQAC worked with emergency staff and HSQA to put out notice for nurses from out of state who are wanting to volunteer can register through the DOH emergency preparedness website.
• Three Pearson/VUE test centers in Seattle advised to have no more than ten people at a time. Requested Pearson/VUE to have no cancellations for registrations to prevent re-registrations.

Dr. Babbo updated the impacts on nursing programs and students in King County:
Some clinical sites are closed and Long Term Care (LTC) facilities were impacted the most; Children’s Hospital and several acute care facilities in Seattle are closed to students. It was requested programs create adaptation plans to meet needs. NPAP approved virtual simulation use by nursing programs. NPAP currently working with nursing programs to address clinical and simulation barriers.

Dr. Babbo asked the NCQAC for support if programs needed to go over 50% simulation per course; authorize curriculum changes without paperwork as needed to provide clinical experience for students; consider 1 hour of simulation= 2 hours of clinical and potentially altering clinical hour requirement. Ms. Meyer suggested the NCQAC delegate NPAP to take actions rather than having the full NCQAC make these decisions.

ACTION: Dr. Baroni moved with a second from Ms. Myrick to delegate responsibility to NPAP panel for nursing education decisions and provide a summary of changes in next meeting for the duration of declared emergency. Motion carried.

Dr. Moisio updated on nursing assistant programs:
Nursing assistants do not have same allowance in WAC for simulation of clinical experiences as nursing education; there is a dire need for Nursing Assistants for long term care and in-home care.

Dr. Moisio presented recommendations from the Nursing Assistant Program Approval Panel (NAPAP) for consideration:
• Clarification for Long Term Care facilities that nursing assistant students in clinical rotation are considered essential personnel
• Waiver by NCQAC on some requirements of nursing assistant training in declared emergency
• Pursue request of waiver of fees or special funding to remove cost barriers for nursing assistants
• Ask instructors to apply to provide live online training of the classroom/theory portion of the class so that students who choose to do so can apply to work as nursing assistants registered with on the job training under the supervision of a licensed nurse
• Removal of HB 1551 HIV/AIDS requirement to take effect immediately

**ACTION:** Ms. Myrick moved to approve with a second by Dr. Baroni accept recommendations of NAPAP as presented by Kathy in duration of Declaration of emergency. Motion amended to include delegation to NAPAP for decisions related to nursing assistants. Motion carried.

**Mr. Talkington updated on issues to removing barriers for reactivation of licenses for nurses with expired or inactive licenses:**
The Governor anticipated a healthcare provider workforce shortage because of increasing numbers of sick patients and providers who are quarantined. The scope of the need for additional nurses during the declared emergency and beyond is under evaluation. The number of available nurses can be increased by the reactivation of expired and inactive licensees. Mr. Talkington informed on the numbers for nurses expired/inactive less than three years and more than three years to introduce whether the requirement of a refresher course should be maintained or removed for certain licensees.

Mr. Talkington recommended:
• Waive late renewal fees, reissuance fees, and other financial penalties for reactivation of expired/inactive licenses;
• Waive continuing competency requirements for nurses with expired/inactive licenses;
• Maintain self-reporting and disclosure requirements for expired/inactive licensees seeking to reactivate;
• Maintain requirement of refresher course for nurses with expired/inactive license more than three years and not in active practice in other US jurisdiction.

Ms. Meyer suggested delegation to executive officers for decision.

**ACTION:** Ms. Poole moved to approve with the second from Ms. Guilford delegating to executive committee to address fees, continuing competencies and refresher course during period of declaration of emergency. Motion carried.

**B. Rules Update – Brandon Williams**
1. Rescheduling hearing for ARNP rules hearing

Mr. Williams reported updates on rules. ARNP practice hearing scheduled
for next NCQAC meeting in May. ARNP opioid prescribing rules and Temporary Practice Permits currently still being worked on through workshops.

2. Nurse Technician rules and need to open additional sections

Opened WAC 246-840-850 and WAC 246-840-905 Nurse Technician rules to allow Licensed Practical Nurse students for the opportunity to apply for Nurse Tech licenses. Bill 5236 Encouraging Apprenticeships, did not pass during this legislative session.

**ACTION:** Dr. Baroni moved to approve with a second from Ms. Ness to open WAC 246-840-850 and WAC 246-840-905 to clarify existing language for nurse technicians. Motion carried.

V. **Sub-committee Report – DISCUSSION/ACTION**

A. **Advanced Practice – Laurie Soine, Chair**

1. Meeting with Congressional members and staff on Medicaid requirement for physician signature for home health and medical equipment

Dr. Soine summarized successful fact-finding and strategy meetings held with federal delegations on February 11. Overall, work is ongoing and is in process of setting up a delegation call with Medicare through Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to revisit requirement.

2. Motion: Creation of an Advisory Opinion to clarify the word “confirm” in WAC 246-840-4980. “The ARNP shall confirm or provide a current prescription for naloxone when 50 MED or when prescribed to a high-risk patient.”

It was identified WAC 246-840-4980 brought unintended consequences in Washington State. The Sub-committee asked to define the word “confirm” in WAC to advise patient that a prescription is waiting for them.

**ACTION:** Dr. Soine moved with a second from the sub-committee to adopt and to create an advisory opinion to clarify the word "confirm" in WAC 246-840-4980 that ARNPs shall confirm or provide a current prescription for naloxone with 50 MED or when prescribed to a high-risk patient. Motion Carried.

B. **Consistent Standards of Practice – Tiffany Randich, Chair**

Draft Supervised Injection Services Advisory Opinion deferred to May business meeting.

C. **Discipline – Adam Canary, Chair**

1. A34 Early Remediation Procedure
ACTION: Mr. Canary moved with a second from discipline sub-committee to approve revisions that better define who is eligible for the ER program based on types of practice deficiencies, updating language, and providing clarity to the structure of the program. Motion carried.

2. W34 Substance Use Evaluation and Treatment Services Procedure

ACTION: Mr. Canary moved with the second from the discipline sub-committee to approve revisions that change Chemical Dependency Professional (CDP) to Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP) according to current credentialing changes. Motion carried.

3. W40 Medication Use Procedure

ACTION: Mr. Canary moved with the second from the discipline sub-committee to approve requiring a prescriber report a WHPS-enrolled nurse’s long-term medication to the program at least every 90 days. Motion carried.

D. Licensing – Jeannie Eylar, Chair

1. Review Continuing Competency proposal

Ms. Eylar gave the report today and reviewed the continuing competency revised model.

ACTION: Ms. Eylar moved to approve with the second from the licensing sub-committee the NCQAC accept the continuing competency model components and move forward with the development of draft rule language for the CR 102. Motion carried.

2. Review proposed changes to nurse licensing application questions

Ms. Eylar informed the NCQAC that current personal data questions on licensing application do not ask applicant if they are currently under investigation by another board of nursing or criminal investigation. Without an additional question, the NCQAC may issue credentials without knowledge of pending actions by another state board of nursing. This proposal will allow NCQAC to review disclosures of allegations prior to licensure in Washington State.

ACTION: Ms. Eylar moved with a second from the licensing sub-committee to approve the proposed changes to the nurse licensing application personal data questions. Motion carried.

VI. Nominations Committee – Ella Guilford, Chair, DISCUSSION/ACTION
A. Slate of Candidates – DRAFT

The Nominations Committee presented the draft Slate of Candidates for approval. Ms. Guilford reviewed selected candidates for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of Treasurer and requested statements from each candidate.

ACTION: Ms. Guilford moved with a second from Ms. Tang to approve the draft Slate of Candidates, making it the final Slate of Candidates for the Election of Officers at the May 2020 meeting. Motion Carried.

B. Candidates’ presentations

Ms. Eylar and Ms. Strader presented their statements for the Chair position. Ms. Ness and Dr. Baroni provided statements for the Vice Chair position. Ms. Tang withdrew from the nominations and Ms. Randich was not present for candidate statement. Mr. Canary provided statement for the Secretary/Treasurer position.

C. NCQAC and NCSBN Award Nominations

Applications and forms for award nominations deadline announced for March 21, 2020.

VII. Open Microphone

Open microphone is for public presentation of issues to the NCQAC. Questions from the public received via webinar comments section:

1. Would it be possible to do the RN refresher via simulation for expediency (will forward to NPAP)

2. I am a RN PhD student at WSU. I want to commend all of you for your swift and highly effective work especially on the COVID-19 matter. I am wondering if there is a way I can volunteer help to the commission regarding the COVID-19 matter. NCQAC will contact person.

VIII. Meeting Evaluation

The NCQAC members agreed that webinar was successful and webinar managed by staff and Ms. Rude were excellent. Several members commended DOH and the governor’s office to step up to make sure the public is protected. It was noted to follow up members that could not participate from remoting in and suggested rotation on managing meeting through webinar in case of potential future absences.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM