

Texas Nurses Association

Nursewatch

October 2018

NLAC Update: New TNSA Representative

Please welcome Texas Nursing Student Association's new representative to NLAC Britney Cummings!

Hello! My name is Britney Cummings, and I am the 2018-2019 Vice-President of the Texas Nursing Student Association (TNSA). In June, I was appointed to be TNSA's 2018-2019 Membership and Governmental Affairs Chair. I am very excited to be able to participate with the Texas Nurses Association's Governmental Affairs Committee this year.

After I finished my Associate of Arts in Behavioral Science from San Jacinto Community College in 2012, I began working as a mental health technician at a Houston inpatient psychiatric hospital. There, I fell in love with psychiatric nursing and decided to pursue it after finishing my Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science and Psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 2015. This past May, I finished my Associate Degree in Nursing from the College of the Mainland and transitioned to psychiatric registered nurse with the same company.

I am now working on transitioning to get my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Texas at Arlington. Within a few months, I plan on applying to the University of Texas Health Science Center to begin their Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program in the Fall of 2019. I am

passionate about nursing, but especially when it comes to the subject of mental health. As a leader of TNSA and a representative for them on the TNA Governmental Affairs Committee, I look forward to assisting TNA with educating fellow nurses on candidate positions and advocating for legislation that has a positive impact on the profession of nursing.



Payment for the 2019-2020 NLAC Membership term is due **Jan. 1, 2019**. Invoices will be emailed to NLAC Representative Designees in November 2018.



NLAC
Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition

Election and Political Updates

Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States

In other words, it's time to get in the game! **Make your voice heard!**

Early voting is Oct. 22 to Nov. 2, and the election takes place on Nov. 6.

In addition to membership in NLAC, how does your professional organization encourage political and legislative advocacy to its members?

NURSE ADVOCACY

TNA's summer 2018 issue of Texas Nursing magazine focused on advocacy, from local efforts to global influence. In addition to highlighting the importance of nurses as advocates for the profession, the issue explored a variety of ways that nurses can empower their peers and improve their profession and community.



TNA is also launching the [Nurses in Office](#) initiative, which encourages nurses to run for local and state government, and offers resources to assist those efforts. Click the link to check out our Nurse Campaign Support Center.



In addition to working with NLAC throughout the legislative session, TNA's Government Affairs Committee will also host its signature nurse lobby event, Nurse Day at the Capitol, on February 18 and 19, 2019. Every legislative session since March 1999, nurses and nursing students from around Texas are invited and encouraged to come to the Capitol, learn about the pressing health care issues being examined by the legislature and educate state representatives on legislation directly affecting the profession and the industry.

Does your association or organization have any 2019 lobby or advocacy events in the works? Send the details to cwhite@texasnurses.org for inclusion in future issues of Nursewatch.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

TNA is committed to empowering Texas nurses to advance the profession through education and legislative advocacy. To stay well-informed of our legislative efforts and receive action alerts on legislation that affects nursing, **text TNA to 50457.**

▶ Bookmark texastribune.org to get the latest political news!



Want more? Join TNA for more updates and access to member-only benefits like *Texas Nursing*, educational materials and advocacy toolkits.

Upcoming Events



NLAC Fall Meeting

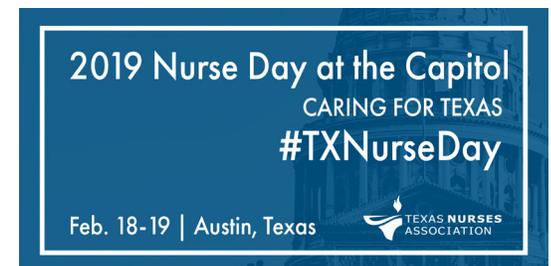
Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Austin, TX

NLAC will convene to create the Nursing Legislative Agenda for the 86th Texas Legislature

Nov. 10, NLAC will convene to create the Nursing Legislative Agenda for the 86th Texas Legislature. Meeting invites have been sent, so please RSVP and send your organization's legislative agenda to [Cathy White](#) by Oct. 19 for inclusion in the meeting materials.

HEALTH CARE AND POLICY

- TNA's CEO Dr. Cindy Zolnierek will discuss policy issues facing Texas Nurses and identify specific actions that can be taken to influence policy through individual and collective advocacy efforts for TNA's [Nurse Talks Empowerment Series](#), at 6 p.m. CST Oct. 10, 2018.
- You can still register for the [Healthier Texas Summit](#), Oct. 25-26, 2018 in Austin. The two-day event connects health innovators and champions to share best practices, discuss current trends and breakthroughs, and much more. Standard registration rates are available through Oct. 12th. Click the link for details and registration.
- **Virtual NLAC Workshop** – Getting Ready to Lobby for the Nursing Agenda is scheduled for January 2019. Stay tuned for details!
- **Nurse Day at the Capitol** will be Feb. 18-19, 2019 in Austin. [Register now](#) to represent your organization (two registrations per organization) and influence nursing policy at the Capitol. NLAC representatives get 25% off the nonmember price of \$100. The promo code will be provided once 2019-2020 NLAC membership is received.



Don't forget! The last day to register to vote in Texas is Tuesday, Oct. 9.
Make sure you are registered! Learn more at [Vote Texas](#).



If your organization or association is having an event open to the public, send the information to TNA Government Affairs Coordinator [Cathy White](#) for inclusion in upcoming issues of Nursewatch.

UPCOMING HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The committees will hear invited and public testimony. Information subject to change. Check the [Texas Legislature Online website](#) for updates.

Oct.3, 8:00 a.m. — Joint Interim on Controlled Substances

The Committee will meet to discuss and hear testimony on the monitoring and prescribing of controlled substances in this state. Public testimony is limited to 3 minutes. Those wishing to provide written testimony, should provide 15 copies with your name on each.

Oct. 9, 9:00 a.m. — House Appropriations

The Appropriations Committee will meet to consider the following interim charge: Examine the availability of federal funding and Governor's Criminal Justice grants that may directly or indirectly improve school safety. Evaluate the potential costs of proposals identified by the Governor and House Committees related to improving access to mental health services for children, improved school safety, and enhanced firearm safety.

Invited testimony only.

Dec. 10, 9:00 a.m. — Senate Business and Commerce

The Committee will receive an update from appropriate agencies, industry stakeholders and consumer groups related to market competition, consolidation practices and federal orders affecting the Texas health insurance marketplace. Additionally, the Texas Department of Insurance will provide an update on Hurricane Harvey related property and casualty insurance claims data analysis.

Invited testimony only.



Support our efforts at the Texas Capitol from the comfort of home. Join the growing list of nurses that are investing in their profession and their future by supporting Texas Nurse PAC with a contribution.

▶ Go to www.texasnurses.org and click on Texas Nurse PAC under the Advocacy tab to get started.

Texas Register: Rules and Regulations

SEPTEMBER 14 REGISTER

Proposed Rules | Board of Nursing



[Read Sept. 14 online.](#)

CHAPTER 217. LICENSURE, PEER ASSISTANCE AND PRACTICE

217.13. Peer Assistance Program - Proposed under the authority of the Occupations Code §301.151, proposed amendments to this rule are necessary for compliance with the requirements of House Bill (HB) 2950, effective September 1, 2017, which provides an opportunity for individuals to have their required participation in the Board's peer assistance program re-evaluated at the time of their initial licensure. Among other things, the bill requires the Board to develop a process to determine, at the time of initial licensure, whether an individual should be required to participate in the Board's peer assistance program.

217.24. Telemedicine Medical Service Prescriptions – Addresses prescriptions issued by licensed practitioners during the course of telemedicine medical services.

AUGUST 31 REGISTER

Proposed Rules | Board of Nursing

CHAPTER 228. PAIN MANAGEMENT



[Read Aug. 31 online.](#)

228.2. Prescription Monitoring Program - Requires health care practitioners, including advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), to access the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) prior to prescribing or dispensing opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, or carisoprodol; and further authorizes, but does not require, practitioners to access the PMP prior to prescribing or dispensing any controlled substance.

AUGUST 10 REGISTER:

Adopted Rules | Department of State Health Services

CHAPTER 13. HEALTH PLANNING AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

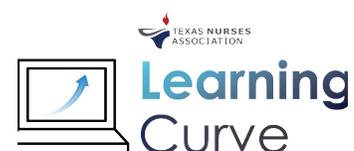


[Read Aug. 10 online.](#)

13.31-13.35. Practice-MUP Designations – Updates the rules to better conform to current statutory language of the Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 157, reduce unnecessary application requirements for practices seeking designation as practices serving medically underserved populations, and produce improved clarity and organization.

TNA Learning Curve

The Texas Nurses Association recently launched the TNA Learning Curve, an on-demand source for continuing nursing education activities. If your organization or association is interested in including your CNE activities on the TNA Learning Curve, please contact [Andrew Cates](#) for details.



AUGUST 3 REGISTER:

Adopted Rules | Board of Nursing

Chapter 215. PROFESSIONAL NURSING EDUCATION



[Read Aug 3 online.](#)

215.2. Definitions – Clarifying, non-substantive changes.

215.3. Program Development, Expansion, and Closure – If a program has other nursing programs in other jurisdictions, the proposal must include evidence of an 80% NCLEX pass rate and approval from the applicable state boards. Proposals must be ready for consideration within one year from submission of the initial proposal draft. Finally, out-of-state programs providing clinical education in Texas must have 80% pass rates.

215.4. Approval – Clarifying, non-substantive changes concerning withdrawal of approval status.

215.6. Administration and Organization – Director/coordinator of a program must hold a current license to practice nursing in Texas and must attend a workshop provided by the Board.

215.7. Faculty – Clarifying language regarding personnel policies. Policies must include resources for incident-based and safe harbor Nursing Peer Review.

215.8. Students – Changes to a program's Nursing Student Handbook, clarifying modifications to criminal history, fitness to practice, and good professional character rules.

215.9. Program of Study – Clarifying changes concerning standardized examinations and curriculum changes. Also adds that a curriculum must provide continuity and integration of learning. Learning experiences must provide development of values, knowledge, judgment, and skills. Learning opportunities in simulated or clinical settings must use contemporary technologies and assist student in developing communication and interpersonal skills.

215.10. Clinical Learning Experiences – When a simulation laboratory is used, the faculty must be trained, the program may only use up to 50% simulation activities in clinical courses, and they must be designed to meet clinical objectives.

215.11. Facilities, Resources, and Services – Simulations laboratories must be appropriately equipped, and scenarios must mimic real clinical situations.

215.13. Total Program Evaluation – Clarifying, non-substantive changes.

Chapter 217. LICENSURE, PEER ASSISTANCE AND PRACTICE

217.1. Definitions – Changes reference in definition of radiologic procedure to new Occupations Code section, pursuant to SB 202 (84th).

217.14. Registered Nurses Performing Radiologic Procedures – Reiterates that training programs for nurses performing radiologic procedures must prepare the nurse to provide safe care. Nurses who complete the training must maintain a record demonstrating completion, which must be available for submission to the Board upon audit. Nurses must notify the Board if there are any changes that would render the application incorrect.

217.23. Balance Billing – Applies balance billing laws to nurses under certain circumstances, pursuant to SB 507 (85th). Insured individuals can request mandatory mediation with a facility-based or emergency care provider if the bill exceeds \$500. All parties must participate in an informal settlement teleconference. If the matter is not resolved, mediation takes place. Mediation focuses on the reasonableness of the provider's charge and the insurer's coverage. If requested by an enrollee, a provider must provide an estimate of the insured's portion of costs. Providers may not seek collection after while a claim is pending resolution. There will be an administrative penalty for bad-faith participation in mediation.