

## MINUTES OF THE NURSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 15, 2008

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Nursing Advisory Committee met on Thursday, May 15, 2008, in Room 202 in the Classroom/Administration Building on the Worthington campus of Minnesota West. Members present: Dawn Allen, Toni Bandow, Ruth DeWeerd, Lila DeWitt, Lynne Dierks, Wendy Donkersloot, Cindy Frederickson, Donna Hage, Nancy Hofstee, Tami Huisman, Brenda Pomeranke, Diane Vangness, Ruth VanHeukelom, Karen Wiltrout, Mitz Diemer was the note taker.

Dawn Gordon, Director of Nursing, chaired the meeting.

### 1. Nursing Programs: 2007-2008 Year in Review

There was general discussion regarding the nursing programs for the 2007-2008 academic year. Generally, the students were complimentary with the progression of the programs, stating that the work is intensive.

### 2. Brief Program Overview – Curriculum and Structure of 10-month Nursing Programs

Dawn asked for input from members representing clinical sites on the course content of the programs. In long-term care setting, it is felt that a composition class may be more beneficial than the required speech class. The adult staff doesn't grasp written rules of writing in their use of punctuation and grammar. They seem more cognizant of looking up proper spelling than proper word use or writing rules.

The members supported the inclusion of Spanish for Nurses as a recommended course for all levels of health care. The IV skills course for LPNs or RNs also received high marks.

Other than previously noted, there were no recommended changes in the nursing curriculum.

#### **Practical Nursing**

Dawn distributed the PN curriculum as posted on the Minnesota website. She highlighted the addition of licensure as a practical nurse before progressing into the RN level. Licensure provides the student with an opportunity to work as an LPN while continuing with their RN coursework.

Other than previously noted, there were no recommended changes in the nursing curriculum

#### **Associate Degree Nursing**

The members reviewed the RN coursework posted on our website. Dawn explained the difference between progression in program and mobility from programs other than Minnesota West. Dawn reviewed the general education courses and explained the relationship between them and the nursing coursework. She asked the student members for input on the value of general education courses. Student consensus was that they were as valuable as the nursing courses, specifically in regards to continuing in a BSN program.

Ruth explained NURS 2100, Professional Nurse Transition. Ruth designed the course to transition students from PN to RN who have not been in an academic setting. She includes communication, math, computer skills, critical thinking, nursing process, culture, boundaries, and Nurse Practices Act. Two skills days are included. Students present commented

(specifically from students transferring from SE Tech) found it to be an invaluable course in making the transition from PN to RN.

An explanation of the 1-2 credit Preceptorship course was given by Dawn and Diane. The student works with a preceptor applying the nursing process in a work setting. The student is able to refine their nursing skills, apply the concepts of accountability and professionalism and increase their self-confidence as a nurse. The student is in a supervised lab/clinical setting 3-6 hours per week.

### **Additional Curriculum Course Comments**

- A. **Hesi:** A licensure exam test (HESI) is given to students (maximum of two testing opportunities) to enhance ability to be successful on the licensure examination in both the PN and ADN programs.
- B. **English:** Again, it was suggested that English Composition rather than, or in addition to, Speech be included in the curriculum. It is necessary to evaluate a student's writing skills when charting.
- C. **Medical Ethics:** Students liked the discussion in Medical Ethics feeling the discussion was more important than the book. Students commented on discussion including pros and cons of certain situations; how to respond in different scenarios; opinions and role-playing.
- D. **Math:** Students and employers emphasized the need math skills for med calculations. Minnesota West nursing programs will continue requiring math through the programs.
- E. **Clinical-based Program:** Dawn mentioned that the Minnesota West programs are more clinical based – unlike some metro area colleges where simulation is more common due to lack of clinical space. Good partnerships with area facilities in southwest Minnesota and southeast South Dakota have allowed Minnesota West success with the clinical-based programs.
- F. **Foreign Language:** It was recommended that Spanish for Nurses could be added as a required humanities course. Also, a cultures/diversity class geared more to behavior than language. Dawn will check with humanities requirement to see if it fits.

Clinical professionals emphasized the need for interpreters in all dialects. Students are encouraged to take courses of language.

Other than previously noted, there were no recommended changes in the nursing curriculum.

### **3. Simulation Lab Success**

Ruth explained how the simulation manikin, SIMMAN, is incorporated into the curriculum. SIMMAN is programmed to simulate a medical condition. The student gets a brief scenario and responds accordingly with intervention. Mistakes made can be detected immediately. The scenario may include the medical condition, discussion with a health care team, simultaneous management of family and patient, observation, charting, etc. The student sees a lot in a short period of time; works on clear, concise communication and is critiqued by role-playing students.

### **4. Update of NLNAC Self-Study**

As the result of student and employer feedback, Minnesota West is moving forward with the NLNAC accreditation for the ADN Program. The nursing staff is excited about writing the self-study and is inviting community partnership and volunteer participation as we work toward accreditation.

**5. Minnesota Board of Nursing NCLEX Results**

Press releases have highlighted the pass rates for our nursing students. The programs have done very well with Board success rates. For fifteen years the pass rate has been 100% in the Pipestone program, mid to upper 90% for the Worthington Practical for Nursing Program. AD Program was 82% this year.

**6. Community Partnerships**

Dawn expressed her appreciation and thanked everyone for their participation in making our nursing programs the successful programs they are.

**7. Student Updates**

The students reciprocated with their appreciation for the nursing programs. There has been an increased interest in our students pursuing their BSN.

Dawn surveyed the members for job opportunities at their facilities. There are currently openings for both PN's and RN's. Dawn emphasized that openings will be posted as they are received to the Minnesota West Career Center if facilities are interested.

**8. Facility Updates**

Dawn encouraged the faculty to submit their requests for equipment, supplies, etc. She doesn't anticipate any major purchases for the near future.

**9. Miscellaneous**

Carol Gerlach in Granite Falls is the contact person for customized training courses (i.e., refresher courses, IV courses, etc.).

Dawn queried the members as to their experience with employees who conscientiously object to required immunizations. The group commented on the potential danger of choosing not to immunize, including placing patients at risk for diseases in the medical work place. Dawn stated that nursing applicants who conscientiously object to required immunizations are made aware that they may not be able to participate in clinicals and therefore not graduate from the nursing programs.

A request was made that everyone considers becoming a volunteer for Minnesota Responds. This is a medical reserve for health care professionals Sign-up can be done through the Minnesota Department of Health website. This is a medical reserve for health care professionals wanting to help out in a time of need.

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mitz Diemer*

Administrative Assistant