



September 2018

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## Welcome New Board Members Hovis and Potts

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing proudly welcomes two new Board members, Lindsay Potts, LPN, and Shelly Hovis, MS, RN. Both Potts and Hovis were recently appointed by Governor Fallin to five-year terms.

Lindsay Potts graduated from Caddo Kiowa Technology Center, Fort Cobb, and has been licensed in Oklahoma as an LPN since 2005. Potts currently serves as Instructional Assistant in the Practical Nursing/Health Careers education program, and as the short-term phlebotomy instructor for the technology center.

Shelly Hovis graduated in 1989 from Oklahoma Baptist University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing; and, in 1995, obtained her Masters of Science degree in Health Administration from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Hovis has worked in various areas of nursing ranging from pediatrics to adults, with a primary focus on geriatrics. She has worked in a variety of health care settings including hospitals, home health, long-term care and mental health facilities in a several roles ranging from staff RN to Director of Nursing. Hovis has served eight years in her current role of Director of Practical Nursing at Kiamichi Technology Center, Idabel, where she was first employed as an instructor in 2003.

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## Nickel Appointed to NCSBN Committee

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) announced the appointment of Oklahoma Board of Nursing President, Carmen Nickel, as a member of the NCLEX® Item Review Subcommittee. The NCLEX® Item Review Subcommittee is charged with assisting the NCLEX® Examination Committee with item review for the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Examinations. She will serve a two-year term.

Nickel was appointed for a five-year term to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing by Governor Mary Fallin in 2015. Carmen began serving as President of the Board of Nursing in March of 2018. Carmen currently serves on several Board committees, including the Budget Committee, Legislative Review Committee, Education Informal Disposition Panel, and the Nursing Education and Nursing Practice Advisory Committee (Chair-elect). The Board of Nursing is proud of Carmen's well-deserved appointment to the NCSBN NCLEX® Item Review Subcommittee!

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## Seeking Peer Assistance Committee Members

The purpose of the Peer Assistance Program is to provide a structured, voluntary program to rehabilitate nurses whose competency may be compromised because of the abuse of drugs or alcohol, so that such nurses can be treated and can return to or continue the practice of nursing in a manner which will benefit the public [59 O.S.567.17(A)]. One of the most important components of the Peer Assistance Program is the

Peer Assistance Committee (“Committee”). The Program relies on volunteer Committee members to operate. The Committee members are appointed by the Board of Nursing to three (3) year terms and donate approximately seven (7) days per year to the Program to fulfill their duties. These duties include determining whether to accept applicants into the Program, establishing the terms of the participant contract, monitoring the participant’s progress in maintaining sobriety and compliance with the contract, and determining when the participant has met the criteria for successful completion or when the participant should be terminated from the Program for noncompliance or failure to progress.

If you have expertise in substance use disorders and would like to be considered for appointment to the Committee please contact:

Jenny Barnhouse DNP, RN, CNE  
Peer Assistance Program Coordinator  
2901 N. Classen Blvd., Suite 101  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
(405) 525-2277

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## New Laws Regarding Opioid and Benzodiazepine Prescriptions

Effective November 1, 2018, the Oklahoma Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substance Act will have new law that imposes prescription requirements for Opioids and Benzodiazepines [63 O.S. § 2-3091]. “A practitioner shall not issue an initial prescription for an opioid drug which is a prescription drug in a quantity exceeding a **seven-day** supply for treatment of acute pain for an adult patient, or a **seven-day** supply for treatment of acute pain for a patient under the age of eighteen (18) years old. Any prescription for acute pain pursuant to this subsection shall be for the lowest effective dose of immediate-release opioid drug” [63 O.S. § 2-3091(A)].

Currently, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) with prescriptive authority who prescribe Schedule III-V drugs must comply with the State and Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) requirements prior to prescribing controlled substances. The Oklahoma Board of Nursing Rules state “No more than a **30-day** supply for Schedule III-V drugs shall be prescribed by the APRN with prescriptive authority” [OAC 485: 10-16-5(c)]. The new state law is more restrictive for Opioids and Benzodiazepines, and APRNs must be in compliance with the more restrictive law.

The new law does not apply to a prescription for a patient who is currently in active treatment for cancer, receiving hospice care from a licensed hospice or palliative care, or is a resident of a long term care facility, or to any medications that are being prescribed for use in the treatment of substance abuse or opioid dependence [63 O.S. § 2-3091(G)].

APRNs can review all of the requirements for prescribing Opioids and Benzodiazepines at <http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=482877>

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## Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact

The enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) was implemented on January 19, 2018. The Oklahoma Board of Nursing, having made the eNLC multistate applications available online since January 5, 2018, has received through July 31, 2018, 2,519 multistate licensure for existing active Oklahoma licensee applications, 291 multistate licensure by endorsement applications and 1,002 multistate licensure by examination applications. Completed multistate licensee applications for existing active Oklahoma licensees have an average processing time of 1.5 days. For Oklahoma licensees with questions regarding multistate licensure, Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact Frequently Asked Questions for Oklahoma Nursing Licensees can be accessed on the agency website at <http://nursing.ok.gov/eNLCFAQsOKlicensee.pdf>. Current eNLC information can be accessed on the Board of Nursing website at <http://nursing.ok.gov/enlc.html>.

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## Key Information Related to Compact Licensure

If you currently hold a single state nursing license in Oklahoma, and a multistate license in another enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) party state, you cannot renew your Oklahoma single state nursing license.

In accordance with the eNLC law and rules, individuals who hold a multistate nursing license in an eNLC party state cannot hold a single state nursing license in another compact party state.

If you hold a current multistate nursing license in Oklahoma, you may renew your multistate nursing license online.

If you hold a current multistate RN license in another eNLC party state, and you wish to renew your Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensure and/or your prescriptive authority (RX) recognition in Oklahoma, please contact Darcy Hammond at [Darcy.Hammond@nursing.ok.gov](mailto:Darcy.Hammond@nursing.ok.gov). Darcy will provide to you, via email, a hard-copy APRN/RX renewal form for completion and submission.

If you are in need of verifying licensure for an APRN who holds a current multistate RN license in another eNLC party state, **and** holds APRN licensure and/or RX recognition in Oklahoma, please contact Darcy Hammond at [Darcy.Hammond@nursing.ok.gov](mailto:Darcy.Hammond@nursing.ok.gov).

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## Online Applications

All nursing licensure applications and applications for Advanced Unlicensed Assistants have been available online since 2009. Since this time, the Board has seen a marked improvement in processing times of applications and improved stakeholder satisfaction. The transition to online applications supports the “Go Green” direction of state government, contributes to efficiencies within the Board of Nursing, and promotes lower application processing times.

For those applicants who do not have personal access to a computer through home, work, school or a nearby library, computers are available for public use in the Board office. If an applicant cannot access an online application by any of these means, a paper copy may be requested by the individual applicant by submitting a written request for such to the Board office. A self-addressed, postage-paid (approximately \$1.06) 8 ½” x 11” envelope must accompany the written request for a paper copy of the application.

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## No More Traditional Nurse Licensure Cards

Effective December 1, 2017, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing no longer prints traditional license cards. A process is in place in which the licensee may access the Board of Nursing website, click on License Verification, and after submitting name and licensure level, a “view” box appears next to the licensee’s name. After clicking on the “view” box, and entering an individual personal identification number, the licensee may print a paper license card to include the licensee’s name, level of licensure, license number and links to both the Board of Nursing verification site and Nursys national license database, where the current status of the license can be verified.

Cause for moving to a less-paper, verifiable system is multi-faceted. With increased reports of lost or stolen license cards, and cards never received in the mail, the new system reduces the risk of fraud and impersonation of Oklahoma-licensed nurses. Implementation of the new system enhances employer ability to verify current license status of licensed nurses employed and/or prospective employees, by going to a primary source to verify licensure. Employers may verify licensure through the Board of Nursing website at <https://apps.ok.gov/nursing/verify/index.php> or Nursys at <https://www.nursys.com/LQC/QCTerms.aspx>. In addition, the less-paper, verifiable system reduces cost to licensees for duplicating misplaced or lost license cards. Currently, fifty-three percent of all state boards of nursing use paperless initial license while sixty-seven percent of all states have paperless licensure renewal.

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## Nursys e-Notify Resources Notification

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing provides the Nursys e-Notify system resources to both licensed nurses and employers of licensed nurses. Nursys e-Notify is an innovative national nurse licensure notification system that provides subscribed employers of licensed nurses real-time notifications, alerting the subscribed party when changes such as license status, license expiration, pending license renewals and public disciplinary action are made to a nurse’s license record. Nursys e-Notify is a FREE, convenient way for nurses to receive license expiration reminders and status updates of their nursing license, and to track license verifications for endorsement. Licensed nurses and employers of licensed nurses may subscribe to the service FREE of charge at <https://www.nursys.com/EN/ENDefault.aspx>.

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## Recent Policy Revisions

The following policies have been reviewed/approved and are available for review by hyperlink provided.

### Approved Policies/Guidelines during the March 2018 Board Meeting:

NCLEX or AUA Certification Applicants With History of Arrest/Deferred Sentence/Conviction Policy, #E-20 available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/nclex9.pdf>

### Approved Policies/Guidelines during the May 2018 Board Meeting:

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Certification Examinations Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, #P-52A available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/prac-natlcert.pdf>

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Certification Examinations NO Longer Approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, #P-52B available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/prac-natlcert.pdf>

CRNA Inclusionary Formulary, #P-50A available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/prac-cnafrm.pdf>

### Approved Policies/Guidelines during the July 2018 Board Meeting:

Registered Nurse Monitoring **Obstetrical** Patients Receiving Analgesia/Anesthesia by Catheter Techniques (Epidural, PCEA, and Intrathecal Catheters) Guidelines, #P-04 available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/prac-epidurob.pdf>

Registered Nurse Administering, Managing and Monitoring **Non-Obstetrical** Patients Receiving Analgesia/Anesthesia by Catheter Techniques (Epidural, PCEA, and Intrathecal Catheters) Guidelines, #P-03 available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/epi1.pdf>

Rapid Sequence Intubation Guidelines – Medication Administration by Registered Nurses, #P-19 available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/rapseqint.pdf>

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## Routine Reminders and Links

### Reminder for Change of Name

Licensees must provide certified evidence (a copy of marriage license or court action) regarding any change of name within 30 days of the change. To change your name, you must complete the Name Change Request form. The form is available on the Board of Nursing website at: <http://nursing.ok.gov/namechange.pdf>

### Reminder for Change of Address

Have you had a change of address? If so, you **must** notify the Board office in writing within 30 days of the change. You may submit a signed and dated statement with your license number or Social Security number, your full name, and your new address. The change of address form can be accessed at <http://nursing.ok.gov/addresschgPSOR.pdf>

### Notice to Licensees Submitting Online Renewals

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing online renewal system provides a convenient way for you to submit your renewal. However, it is essential that you protect the security of your online information. **Your PIN number, which is required for the renewal, should not be shared with anyone, not even with your spouse or support staff at your place of employment.** Your responsibility to renew your license **cannot** be delegated to another person. **You are the only person who can complete and submit the online renewal application!**

To access the online renewal: <https://pay.apps.ok.gov/nursing/renewal/index.php>

In preparing to submit your online renewal application, please visit the following link specific to Continuing Qualifications for License Renewal Guidelines: <http://nursing.ok.gov/cqlicenserenewal.pdf>

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“This publication is issued by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing as authorized by the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act [59 O.S. § 567.1, et seq.] and is located at the following website: <http://nursing.ok.gov/pubs.html> This publication has been submitted in compliance with Section 3-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes.”

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