



ASBN

Update

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Volume 9 Number 5

**Health Information
Technology: From
Theory to Practice**

**NCLEX®: Measuring
Competence of the
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Publication of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing

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The mission of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing is to protect the public and act as their advocate by effectively regulating the practice of nursing.

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President's Message

Did you know that the Arkansas state government has over 100 Boards and Commissions? They range from the Towing and Recovery Board to the one that you're probably most familiar with—the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN). Act 2252 of 2005 requires that all state boards and commissions justify their existence every two years. While some boards and commissions may be a little anxious about this, we are not. Of course there are things that we could improve on, and we're working hard to make necessary changes, but for years prior to the passage of Act 2252, we've been working as though it was already in place.



The act requires a very extensive review of each board's activities, but when I took a cursory look at some of the accomplishments of the board over the last few years, and our plans for the next few years, I felt pretty comfortable that we were meeting our obligation of protecting the public. In this month's *Update* I'd like to share with you some highlights of the 2005 legislative session.

Nurses had a very good year in the legislature. The Board didn't propose a lot of legislation this session. We supported those bills that were in keeping with our public protection mission and opposed those which were not.

One change that we requested was to delete the requirement in the *Nurse Practice Act* that we issue a paper renewal application and license. In this day of scanners and color printers, it's pretty easy to produce a counterfeit license. While the nurse imposter is usually caught and prosecuted quickly, the best protection would be one that prevented the imposter from gaining employment in the first place. A system is already in place that allows employers to check the validity of a license, either on the Internet or by calling a toll-free phone number. Unfortunately many don't verify the license, and we don't have the authority to require this. If we don't issue paper licenses, however, employers will have no choice except to use one of the verification systems.

Act 1440 exempts consumer directed care from the requirements that individuals be licensed as a nurse to provide certain health maintenance activities in the home. Through the help of some of our legislators, this

bill was amended to allow the ASBN to determine which activities may not be exempted, and to define the minimum qualifications for designated care aides.

A bill which would allow "medical assistants" to perform "simple procedures" in a physician's office was withdrawn after the Board expressed strong opposition.

HCR 1006 was passed which allows the ASBN to extend leniency in fees and a grace period for continuing education requirements to nurses who are activated members of the National Guard or Reserves.

Act 1423, which established the qualifications and oversight requirements for medication assistive persons (MAPs), was passed after it was amended to allow the ASBN to regulate the MAP. (See Presidents Message, *Update* Vol. 9 #3.)

Act 1468 expanded the Graduate Nursing Education Student Loan and Scholarship program to advanced practice nurse and administrative nurse graduate programs, and increased the funds available.

Those nurses who confuse us with professional associations whose responsibility is advocating for nurses may well be disappointed with some of these acts. But as I've pointed out in my articles in the past, our mission is to protect the *public* and to act as their advocate by effectively regulating the practice of nursing in Arkansas. Certainly, whenever the two don't conflict, we strongly advocate for the profession of nursing, but our first priority is to the public.

I'd like to close with a short civics lesson. The Board is not able to independently sponsor any legislation. We must have legislators who are willing to sponsor any bill that we would like passed. When we oppose a bill, we must have legislators who don't mind "going against the flow" to help defeat it. We enjoy tremendous support from our legislators (two of whom are nurses), and I hope that those of you who contacted your legislators asking for their support during the legislative session will not forget to thank them for their help.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan West'.

Dan West, RN



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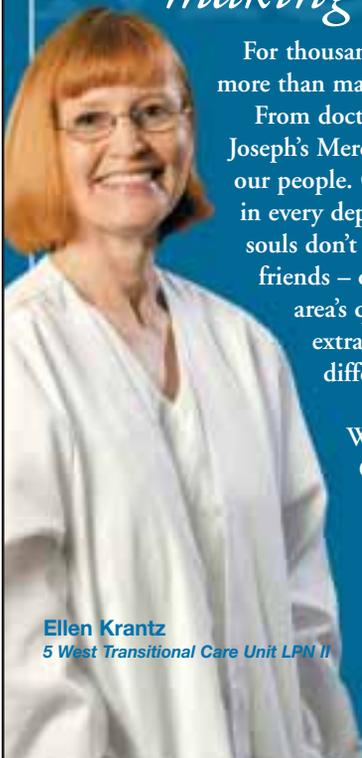
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Executive Director's Message

A representative from the Florida legislature called me today inquiring about the Interstate Compact for Nurse Licensure. During the hurricane season in Florida they often need relief efforts by nurses in other states to come in and help them. The Florida legislature has,

therefore, decided to look into joining the interstate compact for nurse licensure to help during their natural disasters. The Interstate Compact for Nurse Licensure was first passed by the legislature in Arkansas in 1999. It was implemented in July of 2000. Twenty states have now passed the necessary legislation, eighteen of which have implemented the compact. They are: Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee,

Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. New Jersey and South Carolina have passed the legislation but have yet to implement the compact.

An interstate compact is simply a legislated contract between the states for mutual recognition of the nursing licenses of its residents. The premises of the compact are that nurses obtain their license in the state in which they reside. As long as the nurse maintains the residence in that compact state, the nurse may work in any of the other compact states. If a nurse chooses to move their permanent residence to another state, they must obtain a nursing license in the new home state in order to practice in that state. The nurse may work on the previous compact state license for 30 days while awaiting the issuance of a license in the new state of residence.

It's a simple concept actually. If you think about how your driver's license works, the process is quite similar.

You obtain a driver's license in the state in which you live and then you can drive in any state. If you receive a traffic citation in any state, you are responsible for taking care of that in the state in which the citation was issued.

A few organizations were concerned about the change in the licensure model. Some worried that the nurse might be called to answer for practice violations in multiple states. We have not experienced that concern. As it turns out, most violations are investigated in the state in which the violation occurred and then the licensing state can take any needed action. This has actually lessened the number of boards to which the nurse must respond. Prior to the implementation of the compact, each state in which a nurse was licensed would, most likely, take action on a nurse's license when one state would take action. In Arkansas, we have had the authority for many years to take action on a license based on the licensure action taken in another state – and we did so frequently. The number of those cases coming before the board has decreased significantly since implementation of the interstate compact for nurse licensure. That's because, in accordance with the provisions of the compact, once the board of nursing in the state of the nurse's residence suspends or places that license on probation, the nurse may not work in any other state without permission. The process has worked well for the past five years. If you have questions about the interstate compact, contact the board of nursing anytime.



Faith A. Fields

Faith A. Fields, MSN, RN

The Governor will be seeking two LPNs and one associate degree RN for appointment to the Board of Nursing. If interested please contact Faith Fields or call the Governor's office at 501-682-2345.

WIN DINNER FOR TWO!!

Find the "Thinkaboutitnursing" logo in this issue of the *Update*. Cut it out and mail it to: Thinkaboutitnursing, P.O. Box 17427, Little Rock, AR 72222

Entries received by September 30th will go into the drawing to win dinner for two courtesy of Publishing Concepts, Inc. Good luck and good hunting!



LOOKS LIKE THIS!

Recent ACTs of Interest

Trying to keep up with issues related to nursing seems to be a full time endeavor. I like to keep a number of websites bookmarked for periodic review.

While checking these sites I found the following items that might be of interest to some of you.

Effective January 1, 2006 all initial Clinical Nurse Specialist applicants seeking ANCC certification must be able to show a minimum of 500 hours of faculty supervised clinical practicum in their specialty to be eligible to take the examination.

Any applicant unable to provide this documentation will not be able to sit for the exam. ANCC has provided

Form E-2 to be used for this documentation. For more information visit www.nursecredentialing.org/certification/announce.html

On May 26, 2005 the Medicaid Advanced Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants Access Act of 2005 (HR

2716) was introduced into congress. This bill would require Medicaid to reimburse services provided by all APRNs under a fee-for-service coverage. In addition Medicaid managed care panels would be required to include APRNs. For more information go to www.capitolupdate.org/Newsletter/index.asp?nlid=162&nlaid=597

Two Acts, 490 & 491, that may be of interest to APNs can be viewed at www.arkleg.state.ar.us. Act 490 is entitled Patient Protection Act of 2005 and contains language regarding the "any willing provider." Act 491 mandates legislation to enforce the first Act.

The Board has identified a task force to promulgate Rules for the recently passed legislative Act 1423. Updates will be provided as this project gets underway. This Act can also be viewed via the above link.

All ACTs referenced above are from the 2005 legislative session.

Alisa R. Caple
Special Projects Manager



The ARNA APN Council State Convention is to be held October 28 & 29, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Select in Little Rock. Applications for CEUs have been made. Brochures to be mailed. Please contact Darlene Byrd for more information 501-605-8110 or dbyrd@futura.net

Letter to the Editor

Over concern regarding the nursing shortage I would like to challenge every licensed nurse to help.

Arkansas has over 46,000 licensed nurses. If each nurse would add a contribution to the nursing scholarship fund when renewing his or her license every two years we could maintain the scholarship fund.

It is a shame that the Arkansas State Board of Nursing had to temporarily suspend scholarships due to a lack of funds! Come on nurses--let's help ourselves!

JoAnne Bissell, RN

You may contribute to the Nursing Scholarship Fund by sending a check or money order to our address, made payable to the ASBN Scholarship Fund.

Third Annual



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Board Business



BOARD MEETING DATES

September 14 Disciplinary	October 12 Board Retreat	November 9 Disciplinary
September 15 Business	October 13 Disciplinary	November 10 Business

The public is invited to attend ASBN Meetings. Groups of more than five should contact Carmen Sebastino at 501.686.2730

Board HIGHLIGHTS

At the June 2005 Board meeting the Board took the following actions:

Voted to accept the teach out plan for HAR-BER School of Nursing for implementation.

Board members discussed an issue regarding CRNA students requirement for supervision while in school. It was determined that direct supervision requires a qualified instructor to be working in the same setting as the CRNA student and readily available to

provide assistance and intervention.

Approved scheduling hearings on Tuesday afternoons as needed, provided a commitment of a quorum is obtained from board members and as the budget allows.

Approved revisions in the stand motion forms to allow the choice of an addictive behavior evaluation by a psychiatrist or psychologist and to allow staff to use discretion in requiring an evaluation or choosing to require a psychiatrist or psychologist for

negotiating consent agreements.

Approved the discretionary use of the null pros procedure to dismiss certain charges.

Approved staff mailing all case exhibits to the Board members prior to the hearing.

Approved the practice of accepting a guilty plea and proceeding to deliberations.

Voted to rework the committee memberships, times, places, and dates as needed to more effectively accomplish the work of the Board.

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LOST OR STOLEN LICENSE

A listing of all lost or stolen licenses can be found at www.arsbn.org. All reissued licenses will have duplicate stamped on them. Employers are urged to inspect the original license from a job applicant and verify the nurse's identity with a photo ID.

Correctional Medical Services offers a wonderful opportunity for advancement for dedicated nurses

Dona Gordon, an LPN from Texas, had just moved to Arkansas. Dona had several years of experience as an LPN and had been working in a nursing home for some time in Texas. When Dona first saw the newspaper ad for LPN openings with Correctional Medical Services, she was immediately intrigued.

Her first thoughts were that the ad seemed to offer a job that might be interesting and give an exciting change, along with great pay and benefits. But, the word “correctional” made her a little nervous. She wasn’t sure working in a correctional setting was the change she was looking for and “the fear of the unknown” in correctional nursing was a concern.

But still, burnt out from the nursing home environment, she felt she really needed a change and there was something about the ad that “peaked” her interest. Dona said she put the newspaper clipping in her purse, telling herself that she would at least call and ask about the opening.

“At first when I saw the ad, I was scared at the thought of being there (in the correctional setting), thinking it may be dangerous,” said Dona. “While I didn’t call right away, I kept thinking about the ad and the thought of a new challenge and a more exciting job kept running through my mind. I carried the ad around for two weeks before I finally got the nerve to call.”

“There are postings all the time for new positions here in Arkansas and all over the country with the company. I know that I could relocate if I wanted or be a part of different management teams.

The possibilities are really unlimited.”

Dottie Yarbrough, Health Services Administrator at the Cummins Correctional facility at the time, answered Dona’s initial call. “Ms. Yarbrough gave me a lot of information about the position, CMS, and the correctional environment. The conversation helped ease some of my concerns about security,” said Dona. “She explained to me that security staff are always with you, so I started thinking that I might actually be safer in this type of controlled setting than out on the street (such as in emergency rooms).”

After visiting the site and talking with Ms. Yarbrough, Dona decided to set up an interview, visit the site and she accepted the position. 4 years



later I have never looked back,” said Dona. She joined the facility as an LPN in 2001.

Correctional Medical Services offers a wonderful opportunity for advancement for dedicated nurses. One of the many benefits of working for CMS is that they have a tuition reimbursement program. This enabled Dona to return to school to further her nursing career and obtain her RN license. The facility also worked with Dona’s schedule so she could attend classes. After obtaining her RN license, Dona was promoted to Assistant Director of Nursing and now supervises a staff of 26.

“The longer I was there, the more confidence I built up. I kept moving up from one position to another with the support of my supervisors, so I’ve found the company offers lots of advancement opportunities and assistance for those that are interested.”

While Dona is just one of many success stories, Dottie Yarbrough, is another such case. Dottie started with CMS in 1998. Possessing a BSN, she started as a Health Services Administrator at one of the smaller facilities. After working at that site for approximately 3 years, she accepted an Administrator position in a larger facility with more responsibility. In 2003 Dottie’s hard work and dedication paid off when she was promoted to Regional Manager, supervising twelve of the twenty-four correctional facilities in Arkansas.

Regina Maxwell, who is also an RN, is another success story. In 1998, Regina was hired as Director of Nursing at one of the larger facilities. It did not take long for her to be promoted to Assistant Regional Director of Nursing for the state, then to Health Services Administrator, then Regional Utilization Coordinator, and now she supervises twelve sites in Arkansas, as a Regional Manager.

These are just a few CMS success stories. CMS strives to support and promote quality employees. Dona also knows that with CMS she has the freedom to explore career opportunities in over 400 contracted facilities nationwide.

“There are postings all the time for new positions here in Arkansas and all over the country with the company. I know that I could relocate if I wanted or be a part of different management teams. The possibilities are really unlimited.”

Dona says that not only her titles and responsibilities have grown in her tenure with CMS, but also her nursing skills.

“Being a correctional nurse is really challenging. You do gain great experience and knowledge from working here. CMS offers us education, a support line, legal advice and all kinds of assistance. I’ve learned a lot already and I’m learning new things everyday.”

It seems that if Dona’s time with CMS has taught her anything, it’s that she’s in the right place.

“I love my job. I feel like I will keep doing it for a long time. It just kind of gets in your blood and I just can’t imagine doing anything different. Right now, this is where I need to be.”

For more information on career opportunities nationwide with CMS, visit www.cmsstl.com.



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(Fiscal Year – July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005)

RN BACCALAUREATE DEGREE			LPN		
	NUMBER TAKING	PERCENT PASSING		NUMBER TAKING	PERCENT PASSING
Arkansas State University	59	84.8	Arkansas Northeastern College – Burdette <i>(Formerly Cotton Boll Technical Institute)</i>	33	84.9
Arkansas Tech University	45	73.3	Arkansas State University - Mt. Home	10	100
Harding University	38	94.7	Arkansas State University – Newport	24	100
Henderson State University	24	100	Arkansas State University – Searcy <i>(Formerly Foothills Technical Institute)</i>	22	100
University of AR at Fayetteville	43	90.7	Arkansas State University Technical Center	43	95.4
University of AR for Medical Sciences	107	92.5	Arkansas Valley Technical Institute	41	87.8
University of AR at Monticello	27	59.3	Baptist School of Practical Nursing	109	96.3
University of AR at Pine Bluff	5	20.0	Black River Technical College	44	84.1
University of Central AR	55	92.7	Cossatot Technical College	12	100
ARKANSAS TOTAL - BSN	403	86.6	Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute	15	93.3
NATIONAL TOTAL - BSN	33,299	85.8	National Park Community College <i>(Formerly Quapaw Technical Institute)</i>	25	92.0
ASSOCIATE DEGREE			North Arkansas College	25	100
Arkansas Northeastern College – Blytheville <i>(formerly Mississippi County Community College)</i>	30	83.3	Northwest Technical Institute	36	94.4
Arkansas State University	71	84.5	Ouachita Technical College	25	88.0
East AR Community College	17	82.4	Ozarka Technical College	38	89.5
National Park Community College <i>(formerly Garland County Community College)</i>	74	96.0	Phillips County Community College/ University of AR - DeWitt	11	90.9
North Arkansas College	49	95.9	Pulaski Technical College	25	92.0
NorthWest AR Community College	30	90.0	Rich Mountain Community College	29	93.1
Phillips Community College/U. of AR	11	81.8	Southern AR University Technical - Camden	25	92.0
SEARK College	23	56.5	SouthArk Community College	40	75.0
Southern Arkansas University	51	88.2	Southeast AR College	55	90.9
University of AR Community College, Batesville	27	96.3	St. Vincent Health System	21	85.7
University of AR at Ft. Smith	58	84.5	University of AR Community College - Batesville	36	100
University of AR at Little Rock	80	96.3	University of AR Community College - Hope	28	85.7
University of AR at Monticello	17	82.4	University of AR Community College - Morrilton	43	93.0
ARKANSAS TOTAL - ADN	538	88.7	University of AR at Ft. Smith	28	82.1
NATIONAL TOTAL - ADN	57,286	86.2	University of AR – Monticello College of Technology – Crossett <i>(Formerly Forest Echoes Technical Institute)</i>	14	92.9
			University of AR – Monticello College of Technology - McGehee <i>(Formerly Great Rivers Technical Institute)</i>	14	92.9
DIPLOMA			LPN EQUIVALENCY		
Baptist School of Nursing - Little Rock	187	86.1	Arkansas Special <i>(Partial Completed RN)</i>	50	100
Jefferson School of Nursing - Pine Bluff	27	74.1	Arkansas Special <i>(RN Test Failures)</i>	14	92.9
HAR-BER School of Nursing - Springdale	20	95.0			
ARKANSAS TOTAL - DIPLOMA	234	85.5	ARKANSAS TOTAL - PN	936	91.9
NATIONAL TOTAL - DIPLOMA	3,394	89.1	NATIONAL TOTAL - PN	51,394	90.0
ARKANSAS TOTAL - ALL PROGRAMS	1,175	87.3			
NATIONAL TOTAL - ALL PROGRAMS	94,058	86.1			

SOURCE: NCSBN Educational Program Summary of first-time candidates regardless of where they took the examination. Passing percentages reported reflect all campuses of a college combined.

Five-year pass rates for each program can be found at www.arsbn.org



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FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I have attended several workshops. Which ones can I use when I renew my license in December 2005?

A. Your contact hours must be less than 2 years old (i.e. dated after December 2003), practice focused (related to your job if you work as a nurse) and accredited by an ASBN approved Approval Body. You can find a list of approved approval bodies on the ASBN webpage www.arsbn.org Activities that cannot be used for continuing education are orientation, inservices, refresher courses, and workshops designed for the lay public.

—Submitted by Sue Tedford

Q. How long is my prescriptive authority valid?

A. You are not required to renew prescriptive authority in Arkansas. The authority to prescribe is valid as long as the individual maintains her/his advanced practice license and collaborative practice agreement.

—Submitted by Faith Fields

Q. Where can I find information about financial aid for people going into the nursing field?

A. The financial aid office at your school is a great place to start. Another avenue would be to contact the Arkansas Student Loan Authority at 1-800-443-6030. Or if you have access to the internet, look on the Arkansas Scholarship Connection's website at www.scholarships-ar-us.org.

—Submitted by Darla Erickson

ASBN Workshops for 2005

Nursing 2005: What Every Nurse Should Know

The 2005 workshops will be presented around the state by the staff of the State Board of Nursing. The workshop is designed for all nurses and nursing students. It will cover topics such as the impaired nurse, legislation, leadership, unprofessional conduct, and NCLEX. Each workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will award 6.3 contact hours. The cost is \$45.00. The registration form and additional information is available on the ASBN webpage www.arsbn.org. We look forward to seeing you at one of these workshops.

DATE	CITY	LOCATION
September 29	Magnolia	Southern AR University Grand Hall 100 East University St.
October 6	Jonesboro	St. Benard's Regional Medical Center Auditorium 505 East Washington St.
November 15	Fort Smith	Sparks Regional Medical Center Shuffield Education Center 1311 South I St.
December 7	Springdale	Jones Center Room 100 - Chapel 922 E. Emma Ave.

Collaborative Practice Agreement

If you are an advanced practice nurse applying for prescriptive authority, please visit our website, www.arsbn.org, for the latest collaborative practice agreement (CPA) draft. This draft addresses all the requirements of the CPA. This draft also provides room for the second collaborating physician. Naming a second physician protects your ability to prescribe in the absence of your primary physician. If you have any questions please call Bernice @ 501-686-2706 or email Bcolston@arsbn.org. The Board must have the original CPA on file before issuing a certificate of prescriptive authority.

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Board of Nursing Scholarship Fund
2nd Annual Golf Scramble
June 9, 2006
Eagle Hill Golf & Athletic Club
Pool party, barbeque, and band to follow!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

Sue Tedford was appointed to the National Council State Board of Nursing (NCSBN) Continued Competence Task Force. She will be one of nine individuals around the nation to study the issues of continued competence (cc) and make recommendations to the board of directors regarding the future of cc requirements.



Lepaine McHenry was appointed to the Practice Regulation & Education committee. She will be one of eight individuals around the nation to address all types of nursing practice issues. This is a very influential and powerful committee within the NCSBN.

Calvina Thomas continues to serve on the item review subcommittee, which reviews and approves the questions on the licensure examination.

Faith A. Fields, Executive Director, Arkansas Board of Nursing was elected Director at Large of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) at their annual meeting in Washington, D.C. As a member of the board of directors, she serves as the board's liaison to the Nursys Advisory Panel. Nursys is the NCSBN's national database for nursing. Ms. Fields is a member of the Arkansas Nurses Association and currently represents Arkansas as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Nurse Licensure Compact Administrator's Group.



Congratulations to Sue, Lepaine, Calvina, and Faith!! Having members on these national committees really keeps Arkansas on the cutting edge.

William "Fred" Knight has been awarded the NCSBN 2005 Exceptional Contribution Award! His efforts in developing the interstate compact for nurse licensure, his dedication and support to many member Boards, their legal counsels, his educational lectures on the compact and other regulatory issues, etc. demonstrate his commitment to Arkansas and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing! Congratulations, Fred, for this well deserved award!



Sue Morgan, LPN has been chosen to serve on the NCSBN LPN/VN Panel of Experts on Continued Competence based on her expertise in Public Health Nursing. The Arkansas State Board of Nursing wishes you luck!

PERSONNEL UPDATE:

Alisa R. Caple has accepted the position of Special Projects Manager. She will continue to be responsible for the licensing and endorsement of advanced practice nurses, as well as editing the content and publication of the ASBN bi-monthly magazine. Alisa holds a bachelors and masters degree from UAMS and has been with the Board since December of 2004. She has been a nurse since 1983 with the majority of experience in critical care. Her most recent experience has been as a Clinical Services Manager for UAMS. She has been married to Carl for almost eight years and resides in west Little Rock. Alisa has two sons and one full time stepdaughter. Her oldest son will be adding a daughter in December, making her a first time grandmother!



Lori Gephardt has accepted a new position as Administrative Assistant. She

will focus on the new legislative ACT 1423, as well as other duties. Lori has been with the Board since August of 2001. She has been married to David for over 25 years, is a native of Little Rock now residing in Benton, and is the mother of two children.



Ellen Harwell has been promoted to Accounting Assistant. She will handle ordering, stocking, payment to vendors, resources, and equipment. She joined the Board in September of 2004. Ellen has been married to Rick for over 25 years and currently lives in Bryant. She has four grown children.



Pamela Tyler has accepted the position of Receptionist/Cashier. She will begin this position on August 22, 2005. Pamela will handle all incoming calls to the Board, process the mail, and receipt monies for renewals and applications. For the past eight years, Pamela has been an Office Cashier at Brookshire Grocery Company in Pine Bluff.

Please assist us in welcoming these changes and new addition!!

CALLING ALL LICENSED NURSES!!

Do you or do you know of someone who has an unusual contribution to nursing? Maybe they were the first male in nursing, or part of the first CCU in AR, has an in-depth knowledge of the technological advances, the first APN, etc. Please send information to the editor as we would like to "SPOTLIGHT" these individuals.

Thanks in advance for your input.

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NCLEX®: Measuring Competence of the New Graduate

The goal of all nursing programs is to educate and graduate competent individuals. Students are periodically evaluated throughout the nursing program to ensure they are obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to provide safe nursing care. One of the most important mechanisms used to determine competence is the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX®), which is administered to all nursing graduates. The NCLEX® examination is designed to test the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the graduate. Passage of the exam

demonstrates that an individual is minimally competent to safely practice nursing.

One factor that the Board of Nursing looks at when evaluating a nursing program is the NCLEX® examination pass rate. Nursing education programs in Arkansas are required to maintain a minimum NCLEX® pass rate of 75% for first-time examination candidates. Failure to obtain this pass rate requires the nursing program to submit a plan of corrective action to the



Board. The third consecutive year that a program doesn't obtain a 75% pass-rate, the program will be placed on conditional approval.

NCLEX® examination pass-rates for the past five years can be found on the ASBN webpage.

There are many methods utilized to determine competence, however the NCLEX® examination is the national standard. Every nurse in the United States must pass the examination prior to the issuance of a license.

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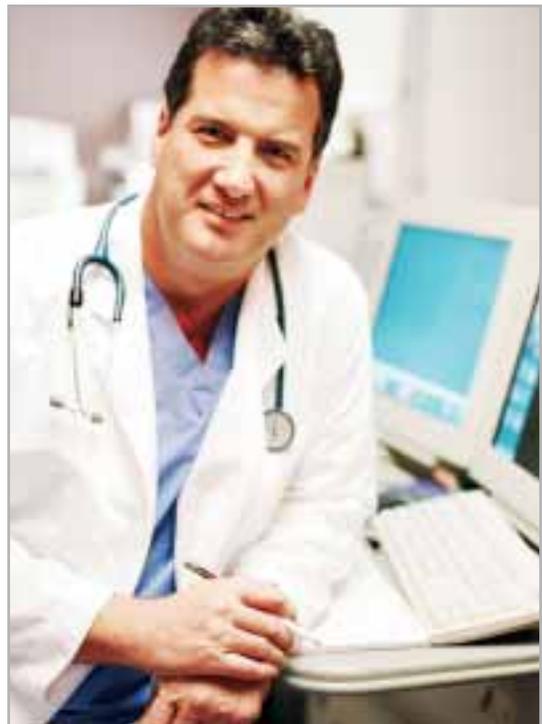
• **HARRISON**
September 22

• **LITTLE ROCK**
November 10

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This material was prepared by Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC) under contracts with the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Services. The Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act.



Licensing Information

The Arkansas Nurse Practice Act provides for the cyclical biennial renewal of licenses by birth year. The initial license may be valid for a longer or shorter period than two years. Three months is the minimum period of validity for an original license.

Subsequent renewals will be valid for two years. There is no provision in the law for prorating the fee. A renewal application is mailed to each licensee approximately six weeks before the expiration date of the license at their last known address. It is your responsibility to keep the Board informed of your current

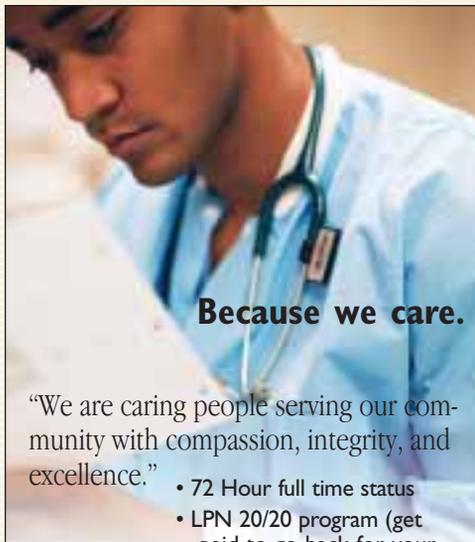
address. The post office will not forward renewal notices. Be sure to call the Board of Nursing (501-686-2707) if you do not receive your renewal notice 4-6 weeks before the expiration date.

If you are moving from Arkansas to another compact state, you need to inform the Board of Nursing in writing. You can work on your current Arkansas license for 30 calendar days after you begin employment in the new compact state or 30 calendar days after you establish that state as your primary state of residence. Your Arkansas license will be



made inactive 30 days after we have been notified that you have moved to another compact state and declared that state as your primary state of residence.

If you are moving from Arkansas to a non-compact state and want to place your Arkansas license on inactive status, you need to send us a letter with your name, license number, primary state of residence, new address, and phone number. Your license cannot be made inactive once it is past the expiration date. There is no fee to place a license on inactive status.



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Drug Abuse

I read a recent article in the *AR Democrat Gazette* summarizing an ongoing epidemic that we at the Board offices are experiencing. The article was printed on July 9, 2005 and titled "Rx drug abuse skyrockets, study finds."

From the investigatory standpoint we are often confronted with a number of excuses and attempts to explain the reason why an individual finds themselves under scrutiny:

"I had a headache so my mother-in-law gave me a pink tablet"

"One of my co-workers gave me a pill and stated it would assist me in my weight loss"

"I cannot afford to go to the doctor to

be treated for this knee pain"

"It was so easy just to order my Xanax and Vicodin over the Internet, not realizing it required a legitimate prescription from a prescribing practitioner"

"We frequently travel to Mexico to get our medications because we have no health insurance and cannot afford to go to the doctor"

"I thought the samples in my employers office stock were for whomever needed them"

Keep in mind if you are under investigation for a positive urine drug screen the ultimate proof that will be



required is a legitimate prescription in your name from a licensed prescribing practitioner.

If you read the article you may remember that it pertained mainly to teens. These are the leaders and caregivers of our future. It

also refers to "white, well-educated, married women with higher incomes." I would estimate that the majority of nurses fall under this category. I hope it opens your eyes, not only personally, but also as a parent, and those of your co-workers. This is a very real problem and possibly more common than you may realize.

Examinations

by Naomi Bryant, Examinations/Endorsement Coordinator

Procedure for Processing Examination Applications and Temporary Permits

Hopefully this article will better help candidates understand the examination application and temporary permit processing. All mail received at the Board is dated upon arrival.

Examination applications and fees are sent immediately to the accounting department to have the fees received. After this the application is routed to the examination department to process. Candidates that have met all the requirements and supplied the necessary information or documents will be issued a temporary permit.

The examination applications are



processed in the order in which they are received. The examination applications are carefully reviewed for any discrepancies or unanswered questions. If it is determined that any of this information is omitted, the candidate will be

contacted to resolve the problem or supply the required information.

Candidates are deemed eligible to test after the temporary permit has been issued. The Authorization to Test (ATT) will be mailed or emailed by Pearson VUE to the candidate within a few days.

Just to mention a few things that will delay the processing of the

application and temporary permit:

- Not registering with the NCLEX testing service
- Criminal background check is not back or cleared
- Application has unanswered questions
- Back of the photograph has not been signed
- A legal document for a name change request was not received
- Listing a post office box instead of a physical address

We encourage candidates to take a few minutes to thoroughly check their application before submitting it to the Board's office. The Board website, www.arsbn.org, has the instructions for completing the application, as well as other helpful information.



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Prices for this cruise and conference are based on double-occupancy (bring your friend, spouse or significant other please!) and start **as low as \$923 per person** (not including airfare). A \$200 non-refundable per-person deposit is required to secure your reservation, BUT please ask us about our **Cruise LayAway Plan**.



For more information about the cruise and the curriculum, please log on to our website at www.thinkaboutitnursing.com or call Laura Norris at **501.221.9986** or call Teresa Grace or Jayne White at Poe Travel toll-free at **800.727.1960**

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- ≈ **Day Three:** Cozumel, Mexico
- ≈ **Day Four:** George Town, Grand Cayman
- ≈ **Day Five:** Costa Maya, Mexico
- ≈ **Day Six:** At sea (conferences)
- ≈ **Day Seven:** At sea (conferences)
- ≈ **Day Eight:** New Orleans

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APNs with Prescriptive Authority

Have you filed your DEA number with the Board?

WHILE REVIEWING the ASBN database there are over five hundred (500) nurses with prescriptive authority and very few have filed a DEA number with the Board. Those APNs with prescriptive authority and who are prescribing controlled substances are required to have a current DEA



number on file with the Board. The ASBN Rules, Chapter Four, Section VIII D.3.b. states "The APN shall file his/her DEA registration number with the Board upon receipt."

If you have a DEA number and have not already submitted a copy for your file, please feel free to utilize one of the following means

of fulfilling this mandatory rule. You may email bcolston@arsbn.org; mail to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, 1123 S. University, Suite 800, Little Rock, AR 72204, Attention Advanced Practice; or you may fax a copy to (501) 686-2714. Please be sure to write your name and number on the facsimile even though it's on your DEA license. For those of you who have already complied, Thank You!

Address Change

by **Darla Erickson**, *Director of Accounting*

Moving... Do we have your address?

Moving can be a stressful experience. There are the obvious difficulties to overcome, such as packing, aching backs, and looking through boxes to find your socks and toothbrush. When your address changes there are also many people you must notify (as well as some individuals you choose not to make aware of your new abode.) When considering whom you need to contact, do not forget to add the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to your "notify list." It is imperative that the Board has your current name and address.

We make it as easy as we possibly can for you to keep your address current. All we need is your information in writing. There are a variety of ways to submit this:

- **Changing your address online.**
- **Downloading an address change form from our website and mailing, faxing, or delivering the completed form to our office (this form is also available at the office of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing).**
- **Write a letter stating your name, new address, county, social security number, license number, and primary state of residence along with your signature to**

the Board. This information can be mailed, faxed, or delivered to our office.

- **Emailing your name, new address, county, social security number, license number, and primary state of residence to us from your personal email address.**
- **Crossing through your old address on your renewal form and writing in the correct address when you renew your license.**

Renewal forms are mailed as a courtesy. Though receiving your renewal form in the mail is a good reminder that it is time to renew your license, failure to receive your renewal form does not excuse the requirements for keeping an active license. The consequences for late renewal can be costly and may include both late fees and possible disciplinary action for practicing without a license. Having the incorrect address listed could also cause you to miss other important correspondence from the Board.

Changing your address at the post office does not fulfill your obligation to



the Board. We must have a written request to make the change. No additional documentation is required if you are just changing your address. However, if you are changing your name, a certified copy of your marriage license or court

action must be included to make the change. If you would like a new card with your new name, you should also enclose a \$25 fee for each license held. This fee is waived if you change your name when you are renewing your license.

Where to send your address/name change information:

By mail: Arkansas State Board of Nursing
1123 S. University, Suite 800
Little Rock, AR 72204

By fax: 501-686-2714

By email: nwalker@arsbn.org

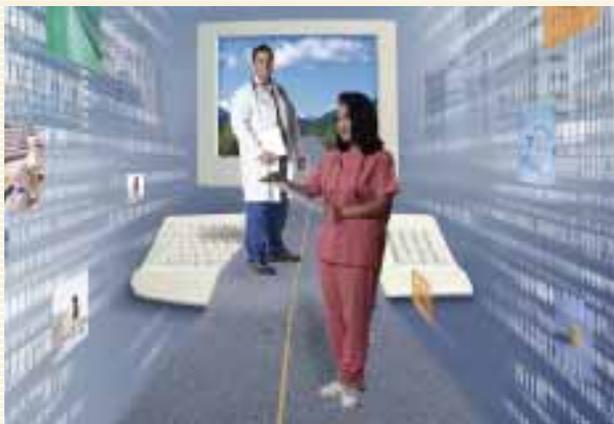
Online: www.arsbn.org

It is too easy to stay current and far too important to ignore. So when you write your aunt, and call the water department, be sure to remember the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

Health information technology: From theory

Arkansas primary care rises to the challenge

THE EFFECTIVE USE of health information technology may soon be a necessity for health care providers at all levels. President Bush has called for electronic health records (EHRs) for most Americans within a decade, and in July 2004, the Department of Health and Human Services released the first outline of a 10-year plan to build a national electronic health information infrastructure in the



United States. The plan lays out several possible goals and strategies, including regional grants or contracts, low-rate loans, Medicare reimbursement and Medicare "pay-for-performance" demonstration programs.

The Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC) is working to help Arkansas meet the challenge. As of July 5, 163 clinics and 473 primary care providers across the state were participating in



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by Nancy Archer, RN, CPHQ
and Janet Sorensen, BA

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DOQ-IT (Doctor's Office Quality – Information Technology), a national initiative that promotes the adoption of health information technology in small to medium-sized primary care offices. DOQ-IT participants will be first in line to benefit from the Medicare Care Management Performance Demonstration (MCMP), a pay-for-performance program to be piloted in Arkansas.

Though DOQ-IT is funded mainly by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Arkansas Division of Medical Services has expressed its support of the program, allowing AFMC to enroll pediatricians and others who might not have qualified under the federal guidelines.

How DOQ-IT helps

The DOQ-IT program is a federal pilot project that aims to increase access to patient information, decision support and reference data, and to improve patient-provider communication through health information technology. The program is open to primary care offices staffed by physicians or advanced practice nurses.

Quality improvement organizations (QIOs) such as the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care are the backbone of DOQ-IT, providing consultation, help evaluating needs and capabilities, guidance in selecting an electronic health record (EHR) system, and support in refining processes to improve efficiency and patient care. AFMC's staff has extensively researched EHR products, and some vendors are developing ways to offer discounts. DOQ-IT participants also have the opportunity to attend invitation-only

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EOE



vendor fairs, where they can use and compare a variety of EHR products.

Once a system is selected, AFMC helps make the transition to the degree of paperless system desired. Participants also learn ways to better manage certain aspects of care using EHR systems.

Most of the participants have been found to be ready or nearly ready to make the transition to electronic health records and are planning to do so

within two years. The most frequent problems revealed have been inability to stay on schedule, medication refills, patient waits, phone and fax processing, chart chasing and unavailable medical records — challenges that may be easier to address with an EHR system.

Medicare Care Management Performance Demo

Section 649 of the Medicare Modernization Act outlined plans for the

Medicare Care Management Performance Demonstration, a three-year pay-for-performance pilot program to promote the adoption and use of health information technology to improve the quality of patient care for chronically ill Medicare patients. Primary care providers who meet CMS standards in clinical delivery systems and patient outcomes will receive bonus payments. AFMC is in close communication with CMS regarding the details.

Initially, only participants in the DOQ-IT program will be eligible for the demonstration project. Interested primary care providers should enroll as soon as possible.

Strength in numbers

To successfully bring Arkansas' health care into the electronic information age, physicians and health care professionals across the state must share successes and lessons learned and join forces to gain support. For primary care providers and clinics, enrollment in the DOQ-IT program could be a critical first step. By making the most of such opportunities, Arkansas health care providers will be laying the groundwork for a safer, more effective health care system, and a more efficient and rewarding work environment.

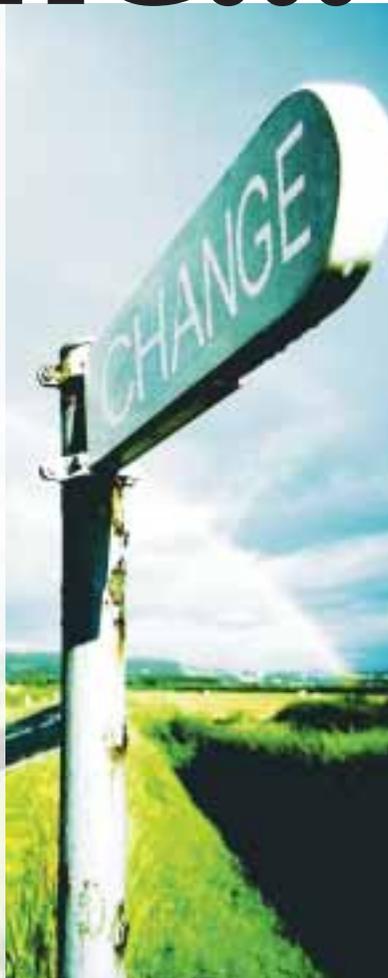
For more information about DOQ-IT, visit www.afmc.org/doqit or call 1-877-375-5700.

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St. Vincent & UALR Expand Partnership to Train More Nurses for Arkansas

OFFICIALS OF UALR and St. Vincent Health Systems announced July 11, 2005, an expansion of a year-old cooperative venture to help satisfy Arkansas' growing demand for nurses.

Stephen Mansfield, CEO and president of St. Vincent Health System, said the institution is increasing its financial commitment to fund Phase II of this partnership, which includes 20 additional St. Vincent-funded scholarships and money for operating expenses that will allow UALR to increase its nursing enrollment by 60 students a year.

"The St. Vincent leadership is committed to providing educational opportunities for those seeking a career in nursing. This is our way of addressing the nursing shortage that affects not only St. Vincent, but indeed the entire nation," Mansfield said. "We feel certain that our financial contribution and partnership with UALR will bring about excellent results."

Along with operating expenses, St. Vincent's support will allow UALR to hire additional faculty, and establish a lecture section and clinical lab on the St. Vincent campus, making the training more efficient and effective.

Last year, the partnership between St. Vincent Health System and UALR provided 20 full scholarships covering educational costs for completing an Associate of Science R.N. degree at UALR. In exchange, students receiving the scholarships agree to work for St. Vincent.

"The primary goal of the partnership is to increase the number of nursing students and nursing graduates for our state," said UALR Chancellor Joel E. Anderson. "The well-documented national shortage of nurses hits Arkansas hard and seriously impacts the state's delivery of health care. With the expansion of the partnership with St. Vincent, we will have doubled our initial enrollment."

Anderson said the "significant"

increase in nursing students for the fall would not have been possible without the St. Vincent partnership.

"This is an example of how a metropolitan university and its partnering institutions can target a community need and address it," Chancellor Anderson emphasized.

Like the country as a whole, Arkansas is facing a nursing shortage that is expected to

worsen as the population ages.

The latest report from the Arkansas Legislative Commission on Nursing says that Arkansas needs 1,925 new registered nurses each year to meet the nursing shortage. Arkansas typically graduates fewer than 793 new registered nurses each year.



Ann Schlumberger, chair of UALR's Department of Nursing, said there is no shortage of students interested in becoming a nurse. Her department keeps a waiting list of people seeking to enter the RN program.

"We have more than 50 nursing programs – LPN and RN -- in Arkansas alone," said Schlumberger said. "We don't need more nursing schools – we need to fund the ones we have. This innovative partnership is an outstanding example of how UALR and St. Vincent is tackling that." Schlumberger said.

Mansfield summed up the partnership this way: "It is a win-win for all concerned – the students, the nursing profession, patients, UALR, St. Vincent, and the state of Arkansas."

For more information contact
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June and July 2005

The full statutory citations for disciplinary actions can be found at www.arsbn.org under *Nurse Practice Act*, Sub Chapter 3, §17-87-309. Frequent violations are ACA §17-87-309 (a)(1) "Is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing or engaged in the practice of nursing without a valid license;" (a)(2) "Is guilty of a crime or gross immorality;" (a)(4) "Is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs;" (a)(6) "Is guilty of unprofessional conduct;" and (a)(9) "Has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this chapter." Other orders by the Board include civil penalties (CP), specific education courses (ED), and research papers (RP). Probation periods vary and may include an impaired-nurse contract with an employer and/or drug monitoring and treatment programs.

Each individual nurse is responsible for reporting any actual or suspected violations of the *Nurse Practice Act*. To submit a report or to receive additional information, contact the Nursing Practice Section at 501.686.2700 or Arkansas State Board of Nursing; 1123 South University, Suite 800; Little Rock, Arkansas 72204.

PROBATION

Abbott, Debbie Paulette Griblin
L25074, Norman
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$600

Benedict, Suezette Louiza
R55257, L33177, Rogers
(a)(2),(4)&(6), CP \$1,200

Etheredge, Gwendolyn Dee Levering
R44329, Cabot
(a)(4)&(6)

Greer, Linda Diane
L34377, Jacksonville
(a)(6), CP \$500

Jones, Misty Delynn
R69359, Jacksonville
(a)(2),(4)&(6), CP \$1,200

Long, Linda Jean Wharton
R29858, Mabelvale

Martin, Martha Francis Dover
R38098, L04840(exp), Paragould
(a)(6), CP \$600

McClain, Angela Carlene Burton
R38108, Rison
(a)(4),(6)&(9), CP \$1,200

McCormack, Ellen Kaye Holt
L42146, Mountain Home
(a)(6), CP \$500

Moore, Larry Ross
L31368, Story, CP - pay previous

Morphew, Roxane Kay Ellsworth
Smith
R63431, Hot Springs
(a)(6), CP \$300

Nantze, Debra Fay Phillips
R19638, P00911, Benton
(a)(2),(4)&(6), CP \$1,500

Rainey, Irene B. Hudson
L35077, Gould
(a)(6), CP \$500

Sheridan, Donna Lora Etta
Edmonson
L10089, Benton
(a)(6), CP \$750

Staggs, Howard Paul, Jr.
R55642, Amity
(a)(4),(6)&(9), CP \$1,000

SUSPENSION

Cypert, Sunny Eric
L36035, Searcy
(a)(6), CP \$3,000

Dooley, Kathy Irene Goins
L35106, Fort Smith
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$2,000

Dudley, Donna Lynne Vano
R22701, Little Rock
(a)(2),(4)&(6), CP \$1,600

Fisher, Beverly Dawn Flynn
L11373, Van Buren
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$2,000

Hardin, Patricia Kay Conley
L19782, Clarksville

Lane, Alisa Marie Mitchell Shinn
Trantham
R69260, L33393(exp), Monticello
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$2,000

Lewis, Mary Elizabeth Schwass
L26544, Hot Springs
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$2,000

Moore, Larry Ross
L31368, Story
CP \$500

Nolte, Julie Pierce Nelson
R66512, Keithville, LA
(a)(4),(6)&(7)

Patton, Milinda Kay Craig
R36253, Pocola, OK
CP \$2,000 + balance

Thorne, Pamela Elizabeth Hartman
L39734, Van Buren
(a)(6), CP \$2,000

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

Chamblee, Cecil Ann Clark Secrease
R42276, Jonesboro

Jackson, Jo Ann
R49793, Fort Smith

Kincannon, Gloria Surae Kincannon
Lindsey
L31747, Bonnerdale

McGill, Priscilla Lou McGill Godwin
Perry Milholland
L36566, McGhee

Oakes, Kenneth Hershel
R30526, West Fork

REINSTATEMENTS WITH PROBATION

Evans, Cathy Leigh Wellman Hale
R50607, Arkadelphia
CP - remaining balance

Powell, Deborah Leigh Fulgham
R44419, Little Rock
(a)(2),(4)&(6), CP \$500

Ross, Lee Ann Lester
R56092, Pine Bluff
CP -remaining balance

REVOCATION

Steele, Jan Eileen McDaniel
R24466, Fayetteville
(a)(2)&(6) and (f)(24)

PROBATIONARY STATUS REMOVED

Coleman, Carolyn Ann Coleman
Rossell
R55204, Jonesboro

Francis, Debra Lynn Thomas
Haynes
R42061, Arkadelphia

Pogue, Michelle Lynette
L42640, Little Rock

Siccardi, Donita Renee Strickland
R42310, Van Buren

Watts, Melinda Kay Watts Byrns
L25125, Conway

WAIVER DENIED

Steele, Jan Eileen McDaniel
R24466, Fayetteville
(a)(2)&(6) and (f)(24)

WAIVER GRANTED

Brown-Owens, Justine Kay
Endorsement Applicant, Lincoln
(a)(2),(4),(6)&(7)

ASBN HOT CHECK NOTICE

The following names appear on the ASBN records for checks returned to the ASBN due to insufficient funds. If practicing in Arkansas, they may be in violation of the Nurse Practice Act and could be subject to disciplinary action by the Board. Please contact Darla Erickson at 501.686.2705 if any are employed in your facility.

Bradley, Rosa Marie	L16658
Garay, Tracey	L37878
McKee-Murphy, Bobbie	L14764
Shaheed, Nathan	T01220
Sivils, June Elizabeth	L30290
Williams, Sally F.	L26287

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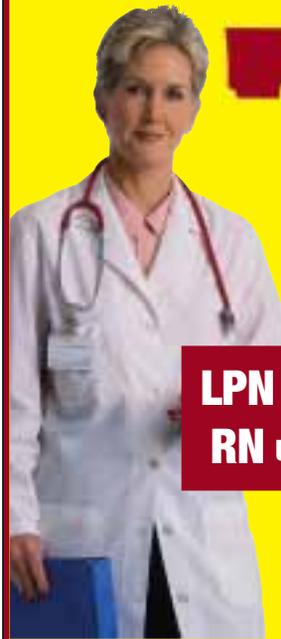
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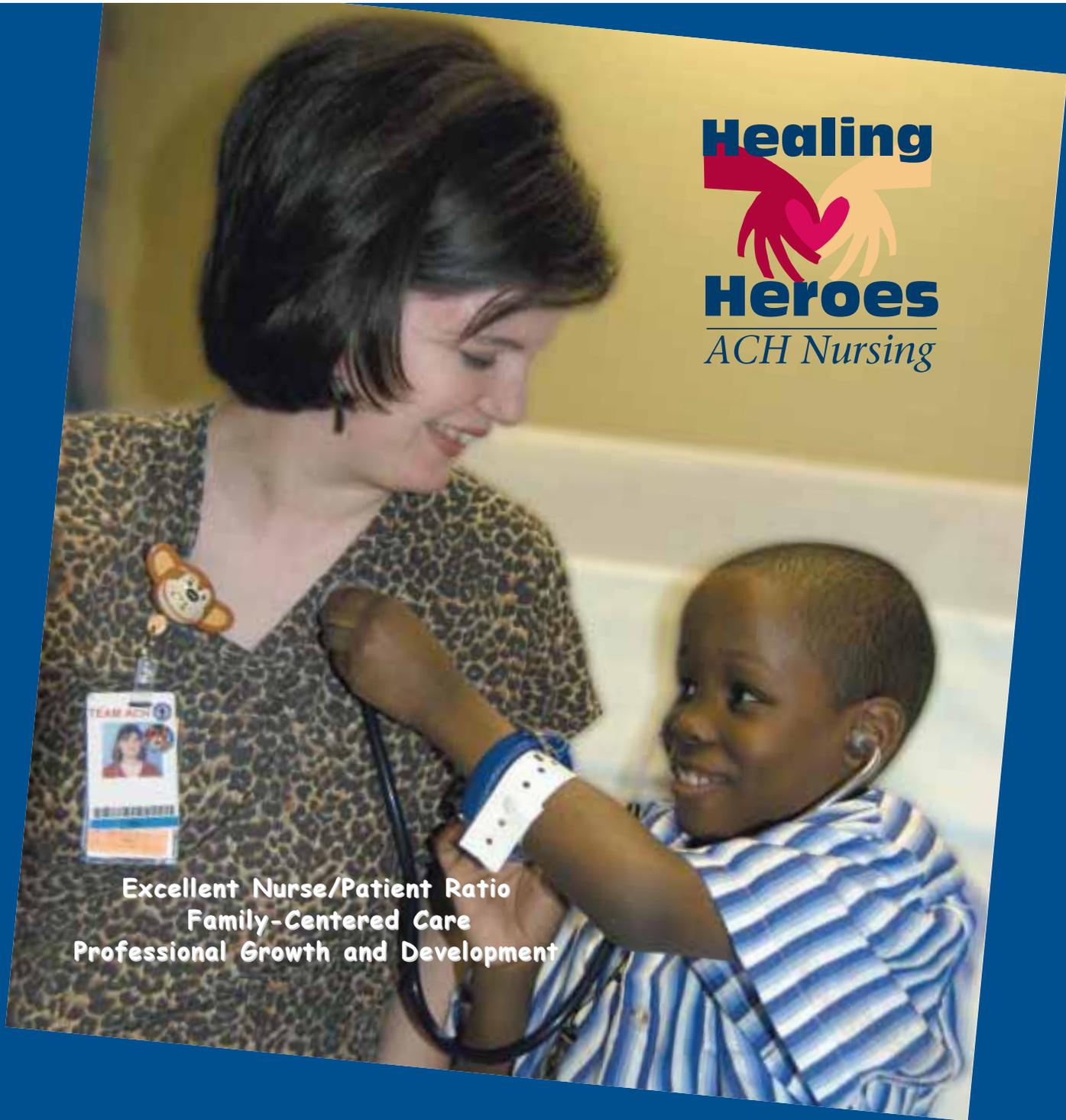
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