

# Board of Nursing

## Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing is responsible for the protection of the public's health, welfare and safety through the regulation and enforcement of nursing, nursing education, nursing practice and disciplinary standards.

The board of nursing's primary responsibilities are to implement a fair, cost-effective and efficient system of regulation and enforcement that will meet the market demand for safe, competent and ethical practitioners of nursing that includes advanced practice nurses, registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants.

## Results of outcomes

The board regulates the practice and education of the largest numbers and variety of health care practitioners in the state.

In Wyoming, since June 31, 2001, the board licensed and regulated the practice of:

- 236 advanced practitioners of nursing,
- 4,795 registered professional nurses,
- 969 licensed practical nurses, and
- 3,790 certified nursing assistants.

The board licensed by endorsement:

- 53 advanced practice nurses,
- 357 registered professional nurses,
- six licensed practical nurses, and
- 112 certified nursing assistants.

The board re-licensed:

- 73 registered professional nurses,
- 21 licensed practical nurses, and
- 115 certified nursing assistants.

The board also reactivated the licenses of 27 registered professional nurses and nine licensed practical nurses, and verified the licenses to other states of 369 registered professional nurses, 47 licensed practical nurses and 87 certified nursing assistants.

The board also issued temporary permits to:

- 151 registered professional nurses,
- 31 licensed practical nurses,
- 125 graduate registered professional nurses (GN's),
- 70 graduate practical nurses (GPN's), and
- 884 nursing assistants (NA's).

The board examined:

- 51 candidates for:
- registered nurse licensure (81.6 percent pass rate)

## General information

Cheryl L. Koski, executive director

## Agency Contact

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## Year established

1909

## Statutory references

W. S. 33-21-119 through 33-21-156

## Number of authorized personnel

Six full-time

## Organization structure

Governor, Administration and Information, Board of Nursing, executive director, assistant executive director and Wyoming Board of Nursing staff

## Clients served

Public, registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice nurses (APNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs), nurse aide training programs, nursing education programs and health care facilities

## Budget Information

General funds	\$0
Federal funds	0
Agency funds	502,039
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$502,039</b>

## Agency to which board reports to

Department of Administration and Information

## Number of members

Seven

## Meeting frequency

At least once every six months; generally four to six times a year

- national pass rate: 84.19 percent),
- 71 candidates for practical nurse licensure (97.1 percent pass rate, national pass rate 85.83 percent), and
- 1,049 candidates for nursing assistant certification (78.45 percent pass rate).

The overall performance of Wyoming candidates on the national licensing examination exceeded the national mean performance of all candidates in the United States for practical nursing and was slightly less than the national mean performance for registered professional nurses.

The board renewed the licenses of 2,874 registered professional nurses, 593 licensed practical nurses and 2,137 certified nursing assistants. The renewal date for all licensure/certification was changed because of board rules and regulations to Dec. 31 of even numbered years from birth months. This has impacted the numbers of renewals this past year.

### ***Education and training***

The board enforced the education and training standards for 13 nursing education programs across the state, which includes seven associate's degree nursing programs, five practical nursing programs and one baccalaureate degree-nursing program.

The board conducted one site visit to an associate's degree nursing program with a practical nursing spin-off option and a site visit to the baccalaureate degree registered nursing program. Both programs were granted full approval. One other associate's degree nursing program with practical nursing spin-off option was placed on "conditional approval" following a complaint investigation.

The board monitored the education and training standards for 103 nurse aide/home health-training programs. This includes 38 NATCEP programs in long-term care, eight in high schools, five in community colleges (plus five in outreach programs of the colleges), three in state facilities and one free standing program. There are 48 home health/public health agencies with home health aide training programs. Eight NATCEP programs are currently on conditions by the office of health quality and are unable to offer their NATCEP program; however, three of these programs have a waiver to allow the program to be taught within their facility. The board visited and approved and reapproved 19 nurse aide training programs; one new program was approved.

The board responded to approximately 250 practice questions by telephone, email, fax or letter.

The board issued 17 practice opinions.

### ***Processed and conducted***

The board processed and conducted investigations on 54 complaints and 34 applications for licensure/certification against registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants/nurse aides for violation of the Wyoming Nurse Practice Act and/or the Board

Administrative Rules and Regulations. The board dismissed 17 disciplinary cases, issued 39 advisory letters, placed conditions on eight licenses, accepted the voluntary surrender of 11 licenses, issued seven letters of reprimand, tagged and filed 12 cases, approved the licensure/certification of seven applicants, and denied six applications for licensure/certification. The board conducted four administrative contested case hearings.

### ***The board's agent***

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing continues to contract with the Wyoming Professional Assistance Program (WPAP) to allow WPAP to serve as the board's agent for the purpose of monitoring all impaired nurses in the state who enter the program either voluntarily or through "Order of the Board." Currently, there are 12 board-ordered nurses in the program.

The Wyoming Nurse Practice Act, 33-21-120, was revised July 1, 2001, to give the advanced practitioners of nursing increased prescriptive authority. The board released for public comment amended revisions to Chapters II, IV and VI of the board's Administrative Rules and Regulations on July 5, 2000 to Aug. 20, 2000, and Jan. 5, 2001 to Feb. 19, 2001. Final changes to the board's Administrative Rules and Regulations were approved April 17, 2001.

The board has worked diligently to assist individuals and groups addressing the nursing shortage both nationally and in Wyoming. The board has provided both support in addressing the problem and statistical information to the following groups: Wyoming Health Resources Network, Wyoming Commission for Nursing and Nursing Education, Nurse Educators of Wyoming, Joint Interim Committee of the Labor, Health and Social Services Committee, Tiger Team Committee, University of Wyoming, Department of Health, National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the University of Washington Long-term Care Workforce Project.

### ***Strategic plan changes***

The board will continue to promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Wyoming through the regulation and enforcement of standards of nursing, nursing education and nursing practice in the state.

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing plans to continue to work with the state and nationally to address effective solutions to the nursing shortage.