



Transition from Military Medic to Nursing

Debra Scott, NSBN Executive Director was asked by Governor Sandoval to serve on the National Governor's Association's (NGA) Core State Team to address options for veterans' licensing and certification in Nevada. She attended the Veterans' Licensing and Certification Demonstration Policy Academy Meeting in Washington, DC, in November, 2013, where the six states (Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada, Virginia, and Wisconsin) who received grants from the NGA to explore how to help veterans make the transition from military to civilian licensure/certification. The three occupations that Nevada is exploring are Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), and Law Enforcement. Specific to healthcare, Ms. Scott has been tasked with assessing how military medics may find a path to licensure as LPNs in Nevada.

An important resource that allowed the NSBN to complete a gap analysis of its own nursing education requirements in comparison to military medical training in healthcare roles was the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) report, NCSBN Analysis: A Comparison of Selected Military Health Care Occupations Curricula with a Standard Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Curriculum (2013). In preparing this report, the NCSBN conducted an in depth analysis of the healthcare specialist (medic), corpsman and airman curricula and compared it to the standard civilian curriculum for LPN/LVNs. The NCSBN is dedicated to assisting Boards of Nursing in licensing decisions that will allow veterans to enter nursing competently and safely. (NCSBN 2013)

Another resource was the White House report titled The Fast Track to Civilian Employment: Streamlining

Credentialing and Licensing for Service Members, Veterans, and Their Spouses, which encourages states to support legislation to ease the way for licensure/credentialing for this population.

Ms. Scott reviewed all the materials and determined this initiative may be beneficial for Nevada and could be supported by the NSBN under current regulation so that no legislative action would be required. At the biannual meeting of the Deans and Directors of Nevada schools of nursing, Board staff invited Margi J. Schultz, PhD, RN, CNE, PLNC, Director, GateWay Community College Nursing to speak about a program that is just beginning at her nursing program in Arizona. The Bridge Program is a 12 credit program which gives college credit in the practical nurse program to veterans who have been trained as military medics.

One of Nevada's nursing program directors, Deborah Ain, Interim Director of Nursing at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), decided that this was a program that would fit with current CSN nursing programs since they already have an LPN program and an LPN to RN program providing an important career ladder. Ms. Ain and Barbara Kraus, the LPN Program Director, have begun developing the curriculum and have progressed to getting administrative and faculty approval to develop a transition program for veteran medics here in Nevada. Warren Pawlick, CSN nursing faculty, has agreed to take the lead on developing this program.

The nursing community is very proud of these actions and is welcoming the opportunity to infuse military experience and work values into the Nevada nursing community.