

MINUTES

ADVISORY PEER EDUCATION COMMITTEE NURSING MEETING

November 6, 2025

Heber M. Wells Bldg.

ANCHOR LOCATION: Room 404 – 8:30 a.m.

Salt Lake City, UT 84114

CONVENED: 8:30 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 10:06 A.M.

DOPL STAFF PRESENT:

Bureau Manager: Jeff Busjahn

Board Secretary: Kelli Arriola

CONDUCTING:

Brenda Luther, Ph.D. - Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda Luther, Ph.D.

Suzie Campbell, MSN, RN, CNE

David Haskell, DNP, RN

Susanne Jones, DNP, APRN

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Taun Carver, APRN

Joanie Krupa, DNP, RN

GUESTS:

Alexander Bybee, DOPL, ITAC

Shelmira Moret, DOPL, ITAC

Katherine Borden – Galen College of Nursing

Cherie Lowell – Western Governors University

Dr. Kacie Spencer – Chamberlain University

Dr. Barbara Halle – Chamberlain University

Eleni O'Connor – Chamberlain University

Erika Halaweh – Chamberlain University

Simenda Clark – Chamberlain University

Justine Hudgins – University of Pennsylvania

Julie Sochalski – University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Rachel Ardern – Grand Canyon University

Savannah Salvesen – Nightingale College

Dr. Ami Patel

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Dr. Luther called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 1, 2025, MINUTES:

Mr. Haskell motioned to approve the minutes.

Dr. Campbell seconded the motion.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

REQUIRED ANNUAL OPEN & PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT TRAINING:

Mr. Busjahn advised the board members they must complete this training each year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**Chamberlain University BSN Presentation:**

(Refer to audio for specifics. 04:32 – 42:02)

Dr. Spencer, the Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, presented the pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in nursing program proposal in the state of Utah. The proposal aims to address the high demand and projected low supply of nursing professionals by offering a rigorous, practice-focused BSN program. The program is a 122-credit hour program in Utah with the capacity for about 400 students and approximately 105 new students admitted each year. Students will earn their credits through a hybrid course delivery model, including in-person synchronous and asynchronous delivery for didactic courses. The program requires 672 total clinical hours and 64 total lab hours. The courses run on eight-week sessions that roll across the academic year. Clinical education is built into the curriculum and includes a variety of settings like acute care, long-term care facilities, ambulatory clinics, and community health environments. Simulation experiences are layered into the clinical courses.

Dr. Campbell asked about the clinical learning hours, how many are simulation and how many are direct patient care? Dr. Spencer advised out of the total 672 clinical hours the majority are direct patient care and 25% are simulation hours. Dr. Campbell is concerned how many students are being accepted into this program and overwhelming the facilities for clinical hours. Dr. Spencer advised they are actively pursuing agreements with Intermountain Healthcare and Common Spirit and use a non-traditional approach to clinicals, including evening, weekend, and overnight shifts. Dr. Campbell noted Chamberlains's national first time NCLEX pass rate is 79%, which is below the Utah level and what is planned to improve that number? Dr. Clark, Executive Dean of Pre-licensure Programs, advised that percentage is the aggregate number which is being addressed with a holistic support model that includes comprehensive review modules, UWorld knowledge checks, and an individualized NCLEX mentoring program.

Dr. Campbell motioned to approve Chamberlain University's BSN program for qualifying graduates for licensure.

Mr. Haskell seconded the motion.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

University of Pennsylvania MPN presentation:

(Refer to audio for specifics. 42:05 – 01:04:44)

Dr. Solowski presented the University of Pennsylvania Master of Professional Nursing program proposal in the state of Utah. The MPN is a second-degree program for students who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in another field. It is a full-time, fully in-person program lasting four consecutive semesters, starting and completing in the fall of the following year. It is a 21-course unit program (about four credits per course unit) that prepares students at the BSN level but includes advanced disciplinary knowledge and advanced clinical experiences. The curriculum includes 735 clinical hours, with 605 direct patient-facing hours and 130 hours in the simulation lab. The program uses the Epic health record as part of the simulation lab. Clinical sites include the University of Pennsylvania Health System hospitals such as the flagship hospital, Presbyterian Medical Center, and Pennsylvania Hospital, as well as others. The anticipated annual enrollment is between 100 and 110 students. The board members wanted to clarify this program for students who legally declare Utah as their primary state of residency.

Dr. Campbell motioned to approve University of Pennsylvania MPN program for qualifying graduates for licensure.

Mr. Haskell seconded the motion.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Updates from the ITAC Team:

(Refer to audio for specifics. 01:04:50 – 01:17:35)

Ms. Moret introduced herself and team members. Ms. Moret presented an update on the Internationally Trained Applicant Credentialing (ITAC) team and new pathway for internationally trained nurses. ITAC's mission is to develop licensure pathways for qualified professionals trained outside the US by implementing key legislation.

- Implement key pieces of legislation.
 - SB 43 (2022) – Allows the Division of Professional Licensing to issue licenses to applicants with substantial similar qualifications in some professions.
 - SB 35 (2023) – Expands authority to other regulatory agencies.
 - HB 58 (2024) – Expands DOPL's authority to issue licenses (and limited supervised training permits.) in all professions.
- Priorities: professions with labor shortages and high numbers of qualified talent that are already in the state of Utah.
- Pathways to licensure are available for Internationally trained Nurses in Utah. Currently, DOPL is accepting and reviewing Request to Test (RTT) for the NCLEX exam for internationally trained:
 - Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)
 - Registered Nurses (RN)
- Overview: Pathway for Internationally Trained Nurses.
 - Complete a foreign education program substantially similar to the Utah requirements for Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse programs.
 - Request an evaluation of credentials by a DOPL approved evaluator.

- Pass an English exam if your education's language of instruction was not English.
- Apply and receive authorization to test and pass the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN.
- Submit a license application.
- Evaluation of Credentials
 - a. If the applicant has NOT been licensed for at least 1 year in a country outside the U.S., they must submit one of the following:
 - TruMerit Credential Evaluation Service (CES) Professional Report.
 - TruMerit Visa Screen.
 - Visa4Nurses Certificate from Josef Silny & Associates.
 - b. If the applicant has been licensed for at least 1 year in a country outside the U.S., they may use one of the three options listed in (a) or:
 - Have their education and license/registration credentials professionally evaluated by one of the following DOPL approved member organizations of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES):
 - The Evaluation Company
 - Josef Silny & Associates
 - International Education Evaluations
 - Institute of Foreign Credential Services
 - Education Records Evaluations Services
 - Education Perspectives
- English exam providers:
 - TOEFL
 - IELTS
 - Cambridge
 - TOEIC
 - Michigan English Test
 - Occupational English Test
 - Pearson PTE Academic

PROGRAM UPDATES:

(Refer to audio for specifics. 01:17:39 –01:21:40)

In-State Program Updates:

No current program updates.

Out-of-State Program Updates:

There are 103 out-of-state programs that have students completing clinicals in Utah.

Medication Aide Programs Updates:

There are six approved programs in Utah.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN:

Mr. Haskell advised Universities and Colleges are concerned about benefits rolling back from the government.

NCLEX SCORE REVIEW FOR ANNUAL Q2 AND Q3 2025:

2025 Q2

RN – US = 89.01%

RN – UT = 82.21%

LPN – US = 86.50%

LPN – UT = 96.44%

2025 Q3

RN – US = 84.00%

RN – UT = 77.68%

LPN – US = 88.80%

LPN – UT = 93.04%

2024 NCLEX OVERALL SCORE REVIEW: Nightingale College

(Refer to audio for specifics. 01:21:50 – 01:36:09)

Ms. Salvesen assistant director of Nightingale College went over the efforts to strengthening their overall first-time pass rates.

- They have purchased access to Mountain Measure NCLEX program reports.
- Implemented the HESI coaching support throughout the term instead of towards the end of the semester.
- Increased focus on early intervention for at risk learners.
- Developed a new course that supports learners who have successfully completed the didactic portion but didn't achieve a passing score on the HESI.

The board members had a discussion on using the first-time pass rate to measure the overall average pass rate percentage for the state of Utah.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: MAY 7, 2025

ADJOURN: 10:06 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:06 A.M.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

02/05/2026

Date Approved

Brenda Luther

Brenda Luther (Feb 5, 2026 10:20:17 MST)

Brenda Luther - Education Committee

02/05/2026

Date Approved

Jeff Busjahn

Jeff Busjahn - Bureau Manager, DOPL