Agenda Item 8.5

Information only: Licensing Unit update

BRN Board Meeting | February 15-16, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 8.5
DATE: February 15-16, 2023

ACTION REQUESTED: Licensing Program Update, Information only.

REQUESTED BY: Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN
                      Chair, Education/Licensing Committee

LICENSING UPDATE:
Application Processing:
The licensing evaluators are currently processing the initial review of:
- US exam and endorsement applications received in January,
- International exam and endorsement applications received in December,
- APRN applications received in January,

To streamline our efforts, licensing continues working to become more paperless, cross-train staff, and reduce the processing time for all applications. The BRN continues to identify and make process improvements to ensure that efficiencies are identified and implemented.

Nursys®:
The BRN continues working with DCA IT staff and has reviewed the data interface between BreEZe and Nursys® and the daily transmission of licensure information. Identified data discrepancies are being reviewed as IT staff continue to validate the data exchanges and update the interface to include additional data points that are being transmitted to Nursys®. Updates to the daily transmission of licensure information is expected to be implemented in an upcoming BreEZe release. This will assist with the overall cleanliness of the data sent to Nursys® and will ensure all verifications data is complete, accurate and available in Nursys®.

Licensing Implementation of New Legislation: Effective 01/01/2023
- Assembly Bill (AB) 657 Healing arts: expedited licensure process: applicants providing abortions (Reg. Sess. 2021- 2022) - Required several DCA Boards, including BRN, to expedite the licensure process for applicants who will provide abortion services. The online applications were updated to include questions to identify these expedited application requests and identifies the required documentation to be submitted by the applicant.
- AB 890 Nurse practitioners: scope of practice: practice without standardized procedures (Reg. Sess. 2019- 2020) - Created two new categories of Nurse Practitioners (NP), commonly known as a 103 NP and 104 NP, that can function within a defined scope of practice without standardized procedures. On January 19, 2023, BRN released the 103 NP application as part of its implementation of AB 890.
- AB 1407 Nurses: implicit bias courses (Reg. Sess. 2021- 2022) - Required licensees within the first two years of licensure to complete a course in implicit bias. The online renewal application was updated to include questions regarding completion of implicit bias for RN's renewing for the first time.
- AB 2684 Nursing (Reg. Sess. 2021- 2022) - This is from the BRN's sunset bill and required the NP and Certified Nurse Midwife applications to be combined with their respective furnishing applications to allow applicants to apply for both the certification and the respective furnishing by submitting only one application.

<u>Statistics:</u>
The BRN utilizes custom reports, via QBIRT, to identify areas of improvement in processes, predict workflow fluctuations, and to assign application workload to staff. The following information is gathered from the DCA Annual Report and a custom BRN Licensing Performance Measures Report.

The custom BRN Licensing Performance Measures Report utilizes initial review and deficiency dates, entered by staff on each application, to determine the processing time for an application from the received postmark date of the application.

In reviewing this data a few factors should be considered:
1. Data entry errors
    - BRN licensing management runs quarterly performance measures reports and makes every effort to validate data entered by staff to identify and fix any date entry errors.
2. Applications made deficient for three (3) years/Applications expired in error
    - At times applicants' education may be deficient in required nursing courses. In these circumstances, Licensing Program staff will make the applicant deficient in the required nursing coursework and allow three years for the coursework to be completed without requiring an additional fee or submission of previously submitted documents. In these instances, application expiration dates must be extended to allow for completion of the deficiency. Instances occur where the application expires in error and must be reopened for processing. When this occurs the application postmark date, deficiency and initial review dates may not match original application dates and will cause discrepancies in data.
3. Dishonored check process
    - If BRN receives a dishonored check from an applicant, application processing ceases. Once fees are received to cover the dishonored check, a new postmark date is added to the application record. This creates an issue with the calculation of processing time as the postmark date will be after the initial review and deficiency dates which causes a negative number to appear on the reports. Licensing Program staff do not adjust dates related to a dishonored check clearance.

The Average Processing Time for Approved Applications table was created to provide more information on the processing time in days for each application type. This table captures the processing time in days for Exam, Endorsement and Advanced Practice applications and breaks out the application type California, US or International:
- Exam applications: Receipt of an application to approval for exam <u>minus the deficiency period.</u>
- Endorsement and Advanced Practice applications: Receipt of an application to licensure <u>minus the deficiency period</u>.

Average Processing Time for Approved Applications			
Application Type	Fiscal Year 2020-2021	Fiscal Year 2021-2022	Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (Quarter 1&2)
RN Exam			
California	51	37	28
US	51	31	19
International	60	66	76
RN Endorsement			

US	64	69	59
International	48	64	72
Certifications			
Clinical Nurse Specialists	54	5	2
Nurse Practitioner	45	12	4
Nurse Practitioner Furnishing	51	13	3
Nurse Anesthetist	34	8	3
Nurse Midwife	36	10	7
Nurse Midwife Furnishing	37	15	7
Public Health Nurse	61	41	8
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse	59	17	0

The Licensing Applications Received table provides the total number of applications the BRN received by fiscal year:

Licensing Applications Received				
Application Type	**Fiscal Year 2019-2020**	**Fiscal Year 2020-2021**	**Fiscal Year 2021-2022**	**Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (Quarter 1&2)**
Exams	16,174	17,923	19,679	9,175
Endorsement	17,706	23,602	38,490	19,382
Repeat/Reapply	5,990	6,096	7,978	5,292
Advanced Practice	9,450	10,204	11,527	6,936
Total	49,322	57,825	77,674	40,785

The Additional Request Received table provides the total number of out-going verifications, aka out of state verification, and Inactive to Active requests the BRN received by fiscal year:

Additional Requests Received				
Request Type	**Fiscal Year 2019-2020**	**Fiscal Year 2020-2021**	**Fiscal Year 2021-2022**	**Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (Quarter 1&2)**
Out of State Verification	21,233	17,245	14,409	1,248
Inactive to Active	2,548	926	941	488
Total	23,781	18,171	15,350	1,736

NEXT STEP: Continue to monitor business processes, timeframe improvement and staff hiring.

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