



JIMMY H. BAKER
Chancellor

Fall 2024 Nursing Chair/Director Meeting

November 21, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting Agenda

1. Opening/Welcome
2. Address from the Deputy Chancellor – Dr. Chris Cox
3. Revised Plan of Instructions Update/Discussion
4. Direct Patient Care Discussion
5. Nursing Specialist Technician Update
6. Stand-Alone LPN Grant Update
7. Questions and Answers
8. Adjournment of the Fall 2024 Meeting



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Meeting: ACCS Nursing Program Deans and Directors

Date & Time: November 21, 2024; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: Dr. Bryant C. Cline – Director of Health Sciences

In Attendance:

State Organization	Name
Alabama Community College System	Dr. Bryant C. Cline
Alabama Community College System	Dr. Chris Cox

College	College
Bevill State Community College	Northeast Alabama Community College
Bishop State Community College	Northwest-Shoals Community College
Calhoun Community College	Reid State Technical College
Central Alabama Community College	Shelton State Community College
Coastal Alabama Community College	Snead State Community College
Drake State Community & Technical College	Southern Union State Community College
Enterprise State Community College	Trenholm State Community College
Gadsden State Community College	Wallace Community College – Dothan
Jefferson State Community College	Wallace State Community College – Hanceville
Lawson State Community College	Wallace State Community College – Selma

Opening and Welcome

- Dr. Cline began the meeting with an welcome to all the guests in attendance and reviewing the agenda.

Address from the Deputy Chancellor – Dr. Chris Cox

- Deputy Chancellor, Dr. Chris Cox (ACCS), addressed the college’s nursing administration and faculty regarding the most recent meeting with the Alabama Community College System and the Alabama Board of Nursing. Dr. Cox clarified that the Alabama Board of Nursing does not intend to restrict colleges but expects them to ensure 50% of clinical hours are direct patient care. He encouraged flexibility in scheduling clinical hours but emphasized the need for compliance as support you with the assistance of State legislators providing funding in support of the Nursing and Health Science across the state,



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- Kenneth Kirkland (Calhoun Community College) addressed from the meeting the importance of university partnerships and the need for colleges to defend their scheduling decisions during site visits. With a little more flexibility in language coming out soon, colleges can defend on paper when you have your onsite visit, the student completed the course spectrums and specialties by the time they've completed NUR 115.
- Kenneth Kirkland also addressed “direct patient care” and why it was implemented in Alabama due the state of Florida decision to allow colleges 100 online clinicals and student from Florida were trying to get multiple reciprocity in Alabama through multi-state license or single state licensure.

Revised Plan of Instructions Update/Discussion

- Brittany Humphres (Northwest Shoals Community College) encouraged all colleges to make sure that they are meeting all objectives within that course and know you have your outcomes and objectives all mapped that you are measuring clinically and didactically. She also shared that the Board of Nursing is open minded with prior communication being established and the Board of Nursing might could give you provisionary or an approval to do something to benefit their program and others.
- Deborah Hoover (Wallace State Community College – Hanceville) informed attendees of her take-a-ways from the Alabama Board of Nursing Board Meeting that was held on November 15th. One of the key points she made mention of was regarding Mrs. Peggy Benson and her stance on the Alabama Board of Nursing not clearing anybody to take PN-NCLEX without covering all the specialty areas.
- Dr. Anita Naramore (Jefferson State Community College) expressed her concerns regarding ACEN visit being in compliance versus the Alabama Board of Nursing visit receiving a non-compliance concerning NUR 113 pediatrics clinical component and Children's Hospital not accepting first year students.
- Dr. Pearlie Miller (Wallace State Community College – Selma) and Dr. Debra Lett (Trenholm State Community College) expressed her concerns regarding the clinical requirement interpretation in NUR 221. Dr. Cline (ACCS) provided feedback regarding the experiential clinical associated with the direct care for NUR 221 and how the Alabama Board of Nursing will allow “wobble room”/minor adjustments can be implemented to achieve course requirements. However, colleges should also have the autonomy to “think outside the box” and utilize other facilities to meet the requirement for direct patient care and clinical competencies. The ABN nor the ACCS is not trying to limit you to the clinical experience that you can get for those students.
 - Dr. Alice Raymond (Drake State Community & Technical College), Dr. Lisa Brock (Snead State Community College), and Dr. Myrna Williamson (Northeast AL Community College) also provided feedback on several options they have explored to meet the direct patient care clinical requirements.
- Dr. Jennifer Gilliland (Central Alabama Community College) inquired about NUR 112 and simulation being utilized within the required clinical hours. Dr. Cline answered reminding the attendees 50% of clinicals must be direct patient care. The remaining 50% can be via simulation.
- Dr. Myrna Williamson (Northeast Alabama Community College) provided feedback regarding their opportunity to complete pediatric competencies through several options outside of the local hospitals



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and travel outside of the state to complete other clinical competencies to meet the minimum requirements. Dr. Williamson wanted to confirm that she was not operating outside the scope of “direct patient care.”

- Mr. Kenneth Kirkland addressed and confirmed that as long as programs are within the guidelines/ definition set forth by ACEN, then your program will be within the administrative code of the ABN.
- Dr. Cline finished this section of the agenda by notifying attendees that the recommendation is to replace the term, required with the word encouraged to provide colleges the flexibility to complete clinical competencies within the nursing accreditation and regulatory board guidelines.
- Dr. Cline also provided updates from the ABN recommendation for compliance. These recommendations consist of:
 - No more than 50% of the clinical learning experience for each population setting may be conducted using simulation.
 - Th nursing education programs must ensure that all ABN-required clinical competence have been completed at the end of the 3rd semester in order for the program to issue an LPN certificate.
 - Ensure that colleges are keeping up with everything, but they want to ensure that they want you to ensure that your course, descriptions, and syllabi reflect clinical learning experiences by being completed in this course. If the curriculum plan of recession does not comport with the ACCS concept-based curriculum. From that standpoint the student will not complete clinical learning. Experience in all. ABN required population setting from NUR 112 to 115.They're asking that you please submit a substantial change notification that includes your individual curriculum plan and instructions no later than March 1, 2025.

Direct Patient Care Discussion

- Dr. Cline provided context regarding the agenda topic by providing definition of “direct patient care” provided by ACEN, the Washington State Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Following the review of the definitions, Dr. Cline opened the floor for recommendation and discussion.
- Dr. Lynn Hogan (Calhoun Community College) was in favor of ACEN accredited & provided information and explained how ACEN definition provides ACCS nursing programs the best option.
- Brittany Humphres was in favor of the ACEN definition. She went on to explain that ACEN encompasses various types of programs, various levels of programs and that the broad definition would allow programs not to “paint themselves into a corner”.
- Dr. Tiffany Scarborough (Coastal Alabama Community College) was in favor of the ACEN definition. She provided context discusses how clinical slash practicum experiences overseen by qualified nursing faculty and may include assistance from preceptors who provide feedback to students in support of their learning and professional development may help programs as well with that 221 conversation where they basically categorize the clinical preceptorship.
- Kenneth Kirkland recommended including the word, "geriatrics” revised by NCSBN and potentially geriatrics replacing “adult lifespan” in the current plans of instructions for nursing.

Nursing Specialist Technician – Certified



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- Dr. Cline opens the discussion for Nursing Support Technician – Certified (NST-C). The Alabama Board of Nursing amended Sections 34-21-2 and 34-21-25, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the board, by rule, to provide standards for the scope of practice for certified nursing support technicians (NST) and to issue permits to eligible applicants. Following the introduction, Dr. Cline turned this section of the meeting over to Mr. Kenneth Kirkland, who has been working directly with ABN regarding the topic.
- Kenneth Kirkland began with an overview on NST and how it will be a portable credential between hospitals with regulatory authority being the ABN. Students will be eligible to take this certification, and they can get a permit so they can either do nurse aid through long-term care, or they can do NST-C, or they can do both.
- NST-C will come through the ACCS Innovation center that's designed through non-credit training. And so, it's standardizing that curriculum to support the colleges that way. Once a nursing student completes NUR 112, the student can challenge the NST-C examination and test at one of the ACCS testing centers.
- In the nursing administrative code for NST-C, there is an NST-C 1 and NST-C 2. NST-C. 2 was designed for the paramedic who is working in those hospital ERs, because, of course, paramedics are the office of EMS. This helps bring those individuals with an NST-C 2 certification to be permitted and regulated by the Board of Nursing for what they will be doing in the hospital setting.
- Currently in the works are the testing guides, the handbook, and piloting college with Wallace State Community College – Hanceville. Skills utilized for NST-C are very similar to how they're doing for Nurse Aid program now and being able to pilot there will allow a test calibration before it's distributed across the entire system. Kenneth Kirkland, open the floor for questions.
- Dr. Tiffany Scarborough (Coastal Alabama Community College) asked the question of the number of credit hours that will be associated with that? If it's a standalone course?
 - Kenneth Kirkland responded that NST-C currently is not a stand-alone course, however it will be rolled out as a non-credit format course.
 - We also rolled out the test because individuals who are already PCTs, PCAs, or whatever we may be calling them in system, need a way to be able to challenge the exam through worker or employer attestation forms without having to go through the education process to do so.
 - Currently, no NAS course is assigned to NST-C. I think right now we're using Nas. 100 for long-term care for dual enrollment. But there's the NAS 120 and 121 that's out there. That's a 10-credit hour that at some point may culminate at the end of that course with NST-C.

Stand-Alone LPN Grant Update

- Dr. Cline addressed the topic of Stand-Alone LPN Grant update. The ACCS has administered a Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) grant program over the last three years that is intended to create new and/or expand existing LPN programs at community and technical colleges in order to increase the available workforce pipeline of LPNs in Alabama.
- Governor Ivey has signed into law Act 2024-351, the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Education Trust Fund Budget, which includes a \$3 million appropriation to the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) specifically to "establish new and to support current stand-alone LPN programs throughout the state".



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- The ACCS will award these funds based on a competitive grant process that is based on innovative ideas and demonstrated need.
- In addition, with the recent Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) approval of Dual Enrollment LPN programs for high school students utilizing the concept-based curriculum, grant funds may also support college proposals with the intent to establish Dual Enrollment LPN programs at your college.

Questions and Answers

- Dr. Anita Naramore (Jefferson State Community College) had an inquiry regarding the LPN option, of NUR 115 and what is allowed for the preceptor hours and which direct patient care is typically used, acute care or long-term care, or both?
 - Feedback was provided by Dr. Cynthia Mullinax (Gadsden State Community College), Dr. Alice Raymond (Drake State Community & Technical College) Deborah Hoover (Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, and Kenneth Kirkland (Calhoun Community College)
- Kenneth Kirkland suggested planning a spring 2025 to address updates for NUR 221 and reflective language across the ACCS Nursing POI's. Potentially late January or early February.
 - Deborah Hoover (Wallace State Community College – Hanceville) identified the next ABN meeting January 17, 2025.
- Dr. Kimberly Eddy (Bevill State Community College) inquired on when the updated POI's will be uploaded as she a several other colleges have ACBE site-visits in the spring 2025.
 - Dr. Cline informed Dr. Eddy that all information including POI' s and meeting minutes should be updated by the end of the month.

Adjournment of the Fall 2024 Meeting

- The fall 2024 meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.