

Nevada State Board of **NURSING**

March 26, 2015

Roger McClellan
Health Care Policy Specialist
Legislative Counsel Bureau
Research Division, Constituent Services Unit
555 East Washington Ave., Room 4000
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101-1072

Dear Mr. McClellan,

On July 1, 2013 APRNs were given authority by the Nevada Legislature to practice to the full extent of their license without a collaborative agreement. The following statistics provide a snapshot of the first year of autonomous APRN practice.

The total number of active APRN licensees in Nevada as of June 30, 2014 was 1105, an approximate 20% increase over the previous fiscal year of 880 when AB170 became effective and has grown to 1,162 as of May 26, 2015. According to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners the number of licensed Nurse Practitioners (NP) in the U.S. has nearly doubled over the past 10 years. The number of NPs increased from approximately 106,000 in 2004 to 205,000 as of December 31, 2014. The AANP also reported that more than 15,000 individuals graduated from NP programs during the 2012-2013 academic year.

The total number of APRN licenses issued from July 1, 2013 through January 31, 2015 is 245. Thirty-nine APRNs came from states that have full practice authority per NCSBN's Consensus Model Implementation Status Map updated as of May 2014. Therefore 84.1% of newly licensed APRNs in Nevada came from a state that does not allow APRNs full practice authority since the implementation of AB170. One might assume that APRNs are migrating from more restrictive practice environments to Nevada to be able to practice their full scope.

The APRN/patient ratios are not available. This information would be dependent on the practice setting for the APRN.

At the end of FY 2013, 80% of APRNs worked in Clark and Washoe counties, the remainder could be defined as "rural". At the end of FY 2014, 78% of APRNs worked in Clark and Washoe counties, an increase of 2% of APRNs working in the "rural" parts of Nevada.

The Nevada State Board of Nursing promulgated regulations to ensure that all APRNs maintained documentation of their professional credentials and competencies. Our agency audits 5% of all APRNs monthly. All APRNs have successfully completed the audits.

Please feel free to contact me at 775-687-7734 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Debra Scott, MSN, RN, FRE
Executive Director