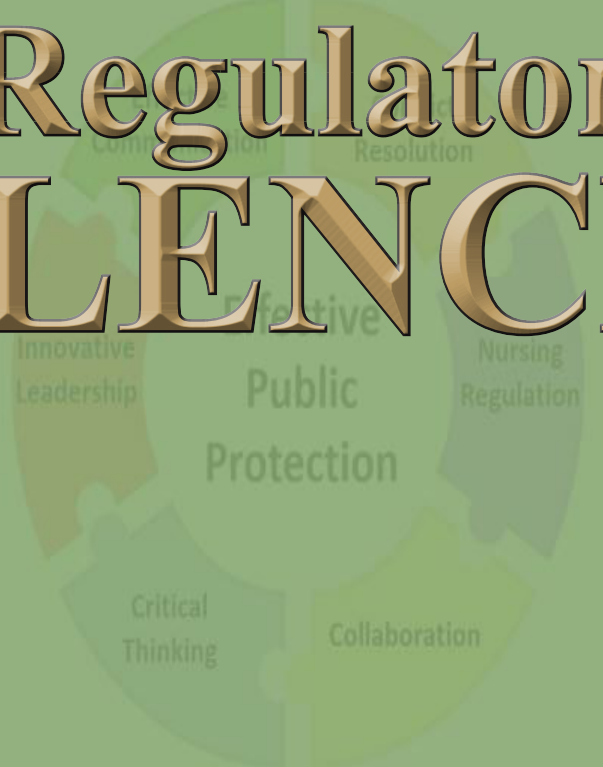


Alabama Board of Nursing 2017 Annual Report

Annual
Report 2014

Sustaining Regulatory EXCELLENCE



A Message from the Executive Officer

The Alabama Nurse Practice Act (NPA) requires the Board of Nursing to submit an annual report of its activities to the Governor. This is an important gauge of the Board's commitment to carrying out the core functions - licensing and regulation of nurses, review and approval of nursing education programs, and enforcement of standards - assigned to it by the Alabama Legislature.

This report reflects the Board's performance, but does so much more than that. It paints a picture of a dynamic and forward-thinking Board and staff, dedicated to adapting regulatory practice to the ever-changing world of modern healthcare.

The ABN currently licenses nearly 100,000 RNs and LPNs, and the numbers increase daily, making nurses the largest population of professionals licensed and regulated by a single board or commission in the state of Alabama. This is an awesome responsibility, but we embrace the challenge and daily work to ensure that we meet and exceed the highest standards of integrity and commitment to regulatory excellence.



Peggy Sellers Benson, RN, MSHA, MSN, NE-BC
Executive Officer
Alabama Board of Nursing

Our Mission

The mission of the Alabama Board of Nursing is to safeguard and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public through licensing and approval of qualified individuals and adopting and enforcing legal standards for nursing education and nursing practice.

Our Vision

The Alabama Board of Nursing strives to promote and safeguard the health of the public through regulatory excellence.

Our Values

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS

OBJECTIVITY

QUALITY

COLLABORATION

INNOVATION

DIVERSITY

Alabama Board of Nursing - 2017



Natalie Baker, Vice President
DNP, CRNP, Madison, AL



Francine M. Parker, President
EdD, MSN, RN, Auburn, AL



Gladys Davis Hill, Secretary
MSN, RN, Moundville, AL

Alabama Board of Nursing



2017



Cheryl Bailey, Board Member
RN, BSN, MBA, Cullman, AL



Cynthia Buford, Board Member
LPN, Fosters, AL



Peggie Carpenter, Board Member
BA, LPN, Tuscaloosa, AL



Valorie Dearmon, Board Member
DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Fairhope, AL



Richard Foote, Board Member
RN, MSN, MA, CEN, Daphne, AL



Jill B. Hightower, Board Member
MSN, RN, Felham, AL



Chrystabell King, Board Member
LPN, Montgomery, AL



Helen T. McAlpine, Board Member
EdD, Madison, AL



LaDonna McDonnell, Board Member
LPN, WCC, DWC, Northport, AL



E. Laura Wright, Board Member
PhD, MNA, CRNA, Birmingham, AL

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Natalie Baker, DNP, CRNP, Vice President, Madison Advanced Practice

Gladys Hill, MSN, RN, Secretary, Moundville Nursing Education

Cheryl Bailey, MBA, BSN, RN, Cullman Nursing Practice

Cynthia Buford, LPN, Fosters Licensed Practical Nurses Association of Alabama

Peggie Carpenter, BA, LPN, Tuscaloosa Alabama Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses

Valorie Dearmon, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Mobile Nursing Education

Richard Foote, RN, MSN, MA, CEN, Daphne Nursing Practice

Jill B. Hightower, MSN, RN, Homewood Nursing Practice

Chrystabell King, LPN, Montgomery Licensed Practical Nurses Association of Alabama

Helen T. McAlpine, EdD, Madison Consumer

Judith LaDonna McDonnell, LPN, Tuscaloosa Alabama Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses

Laura Wright, PhD, MNA, CRNA, Birmingham Advanced Practice

Developing Nursing Leadership



Created in Spring 2015, the ABN’s “New Direction” identified establishment of an ABN Leadership Institute as an emerging priority for the future of patient care and public protection.

Board staff conducted a survey of Chief Nursing Officers throughout the state, requesting input regarding which characteristics were most important for developing nursing leadership. The ABN received 158 responses. A second survey, involving all licensed nurses in the state in a non-executive role, elicited 6,701 responses.

Research conducted on existing leadership competency programs included the American Nurses Association (2013), the American Organization of Nurse Executives (2015), and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), among other education and healthcare entities. This research resulted in the foundational plan to develop leadership competencies that will improve public protection, as part of the Leadership Institute curriculum.

Educational programs related to leadership competencies presently under development include:

1. Effective Communication
2. Conflict Resolution
3. Proficiency in Nursing Regulation
4. Collaboration
5. Critical Thinking
6. Innovative Leadership

Licensure

Licensure in Alabama

An active, valid Alabama license is required to practice nursing in the state of Alabama. Initial licensure is accomplished either through completion of the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for LPNs or RNs, or through endorsement, where nurses who hold a license from another state are licensed in Alabama, based on already having qualified for licensure at the national level and meeting any other qualifications necessary for an Alabama license.

The tables at right reflect activities of the Licensure Division during FY 2017.

New Alabama Licensure Applications - FY 2017

License Type	Examination*	Endorsement
LPN Temporary	362	127
LPN	1,063	631
RN Temporary	1,491	1,693
RN	4,570	5,042

New Alabama Licenses Issued - FY 2017

License Type	Examination*	Endorsement
LPN	717	429
RN	2,995	3,765

*Examination application data reflects new graduates applying to take the NCLEX exam. Applicants do not necessarily receive their licenses during the same fiscal year the application is filed.

Reinstatement Applications Processed - 2017

Reason for Reinstatement	Total Processed
Revoked	15
Lapsed	1,580

License Verifications Processed

8,513

Continuing Education

Continuing Education

The Board recognizes that nursing practice is constantly evolving, and that licensed nurses must stay abreast of new technologies, new medicines, and new diagnoses, in order to provide patient care that complies with current standards of practice. Continuing Education (CE) is mandated in the Nurse Practice Act, the foundation for ABN Administrative Code Chapter 610-X-10 - Continuing Education for Licensure.

The ABN Administrative Code mandates at least 24 hours of Continuing Education for each licensed nurse during each two-year license period.

Continuing Education Providers

Alabama Board of Nursing-Approved Providers, recognized by their ABN Provider number (ABNPXXXX) and expiration date, have successfully completed an application process in compliance with ABN Administrative Code Chapter 610-X-10. Approved providers electronically transmit all continuing education contact hours earned by the licensed nurse directly to the Alabama Board of Nursing. There were 280 ABNP Providers at the close of FY 2017.

*Includes various non-traditional providers, such as pharmacies, durable medical equipment (DME) companies, churches, K-12 schools, and nursing sororities.

ABN Continuing Education Audit - 2017

Total RNs Selected for CE Audit (2% of Licensee Population)	1,378
Licensees with All-ABNP Provided CE Credit	435
Licensees Reviewed and Compliant	711
Licensees who Passed Audit Late	174

Continuing Education Provider Applications Processed - 2017

Applications Reviewed	Applications Approved	Initial Applications Approved	Continuing Applications Approved	Reinstatement Applications Approved	Pending
92	91	8	77	6	1

Continuing Education Providers by Type

Provider Type	Number
Clinic	13
College/University/School	3
Healthcare Facility	2
Home Health/Hospice	24
Hospital/Medical Center/Medical System	79
Mental Health Service	8
Nursing/Rehab Center	32
Other*	64
Outpatient Service	5
Public Health Agency	2
Regional/National Association	10
Regulatory Agency	2
Rehab Center	6
Self-Employed Provider	15
State Association	8

The Alabama Nursing Resource Center



Through the ANRC, the ABN offers nurses a variety of resources, such as information regarding additional CE opportunities, besides those that are ABN-produced. The ANRC provides direct links to CE courses previously developed by ABN, as well as courses provided by both ABN-approved and other accredited providers.

The ABN's Graduate Nursing Student and Research Advisory Council formulated processes by which nursing graduate students could engage in clinical, research, and/or CE development activities at the ABN. In FY 2017, the ABN educated students on nursing regulation and public safety.



ABN-Produced CE Courses Available Online

ABN Course	Contact Hours	Date Available
Documentation: A Case Study	0.7	March 2017
Mandatory Class Part 1: Nurse Practice Act	1*	June 2017
Mandatory Class Part 2: Board Functions	0.75*	June 2017
Mandatory Class Part 3A: Licensure Regulations	0.62*	June 2017
Mandatory Class Part 3B: CE Regulations	1*	June 2017
Mandatory Class Part 4: Conduct and Accountability	0.63*	June 2017
Understanding Competency	1	August 2017

*Multiple-part course comprising Mandatory Class content.

Other CE Opportunities Available Online*

Course Provider	Contact Hours
ABN	17.5 Pharmacology CE: 2.2
Other: ABNP	13.1
Other: Non-ABNP (provider accredited by another entity)	15+ Pharmacology CE: 6+

*Value listed reflects direct-linked courses only. Additional contact hours available through some direct linked providers indicated by +.

Student Clinical Activities

ABN Focus	School Period	School	Major
Clinical	Spring 2017	UAB	MSN - Health Administration
Clinical	Spring 2017	Samford	DNP – Nursing Education Administration
Research	Summer 2017	UAB	PhD – Nursing
Online CE	Fall 2017	Samford	DNP – Nursing Education

Nursing Practice

The definitions of practice for professional nursing and practical nursing, stipulated in the Nurse Practice Act, are the foundation for ABN Administrative Code Chapters 610-X-6 - Standards of Nursing Practice and 610-X-7 - Nursing Practice - Specific Settings.

Opioid dependence and accidental drug overdose have reached epidemic proportions throughout the United States - and Alabama is no exception. In December 2016, the Alabama State Health Officer addressed the issue, by allowing treatment of opioid-related drug overdoses with a Standing Order for Naloxone Distribution. The Board approved rule changes specific to the emergency use of naloxone for opioid-related drug overdose, relevant to the following sections of the ABN Administrative Code:

§ 610-X-7.02, Delegation by School Nurses

§ 610-X-7.03, State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Program

§ 610-X-7-.06, Alabama Department of Mental Health Residential Community Programs

Nurses who practice within these specific settings can delegate the administration of premeasured Naloxone auto injections for opioid-related drug overdoses.

The Board also made changes to ABN Administrative Code § 610-X-7-.04(3)(e) - Registered Nurse As First Assistant (RNFA), to allow RNFAs who have been deemed competent to perform placement of secondary trocars, if the attending surgeon is within proximity of the sterile field.

The ABN acknowledges the constant changes in nursing practice and has instituted the Standardized Procedure process to enhance scope of practice beyond the licensed nurse's basic education. The Standardized Procedure process ensures public safety, by using education, training, and competency validation for procedures beyond basic nursing education.

Each year, chief nurses/administrators or their designees attest to Standardized Procedures currently being performed in each facility/agency/company, in accordance with ABN Administrative Code § 610-X-6-.12(6). The chief nurse/administrator or designee cannot add procedures to the facility report. However, he or she can add, delete, or change licensee types (RN, LPN) to previously-approved Standardized Procedures. Procedures are added by submitting Standardized Procedure applications, which are subject to Board approval. The Standardized Procedure application process provides guidance to the Board on specific areas of the rules that may need revision or development. The application also provides pertinent data on current procedures being performed by all license types. In FY 2017, 33 Standardized Procedure applications were processed and approved. The leading request was Insertion, Removal, and Care of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter, with and without tip confirmation.

Advanced Practice Nursing

Advanced Practice Nursing in Alabama

The Advanced Practice Nursing Division of the ABN is responsible for approval of the four roles of advanced practice nurses - Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). Under Alabama law, CNMs and CRNPs are required to work in collaboration with at least one Alabama-licensed physician.

Collaborative practice applications require joint oversight by the ABN and the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (ABME), each of which appoints three members to the Joint Committee for Advanced Practice Nursing. The Division works closely with staff from the ABME to support the work of the Joint Committee. In FY 2017, Advanced Practice Nursing saw an increase in all types of applications processed for collaboration, resulting in a 25% increase in average weekly workload.

Advanced practice nursing continues to be a major focus of the Board and Board staff.

Advanced Practice Nursing - 2017

Advance Practice Role	Approval Initial Issue FY 2016	Approval Initial Issue FY 2017	Total Active September 30, 2016	Total Active September 30, 2017
CNM	3	0	13	13
CRNP	617	712	3,531	4,039
CRNA	105	60	1,690	1,705
CNS	4	4	83	79
Total:	729	776	5,317	5,836

Nursing Education Programs

Education Programs

One of the ABN's primary charges under the law is review and approval of nursing education programs. At the close of FY 2017, 65 total education programs were approved in Alabama.

Alabama Nursing Education Programs - 2017	
Program Type (License Class Sought)	Number
Practical Nursing (LPN)	22
Associate Degree in Nursing (RN)	28
Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing (RN)	15
Total	65

Program Monitoring

During FY 2017, nine ADN Programs and two BSN programs were monitored for improvements and correction of deficiencies.

NCLEX Pass Rates

New graduates applying for licensure are required to take the NCLEX exam. The ABN tracks the pass rate percentage for first-time writers of the NCLEX, as a measure of program success.

NCLEX Pass Rates - 2017		
Program Type	Alabama Pass Rate	National Pass Rate
Practical Nursing	91.95%	83.65%
Associate Degree in Nursing	87.30%	84.08%
Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing	94.06%	89.89%

ITT Tech Program Closures

Three schools operated by ITT Tech Institute closed during FY 2017, without warning or any arrangements for teach out. Two established Associate Degree programs - Judson College and Bishop State Community College - were approved to provide and to conduct teach out programs for the ITT Tech students.

Operations

The ABN Operations Division is comprised of two sections: Operations and Finance. Under the management of the Director of Administrative Services, the Operations section is responsible for administrative functions such as personnel and fleet management, records disposition, and other vital day-to-day operations of the Board, as well as the Board's Call Center. The Chief Fiscal Officer oversees the Finance section, which maintains the agency's budget, as well as the Graduate Scholarship Program and the Loan Repayment Program for Advanced Practice Nursing.

Financial Activity

Revenues and Expenditures – Information and Comparison

Projected revenues for FY 2017 were \$7,857,643.00. Actual receipts totaled \$7,562,211.74 or 96.24% of budgeted revenues. Projected expenditures for FY 2017 were \$6,743,404.00. Actual expenditures totaled \$5,791,090.26 or 86% of budgeted expenditures. All major categories of expenditures were below estimated projections.

Revenues:

Licenses and Permits	\$	6,635,556.50
Examination Fees	\$	475,480.00
Board Penalties	\$	121,660.00
Miscellaneous Fees	\$	326,543.43
Other Revenues	\$	2,971.81
Total Revenues	\$	7,562,211.74

Expenditures:

Salaries and Benefits	\$	3,941,645.55
Travel Expenses	\$	48,658.31
Operating Expenses	\$	1,608,324.73
Equipment Purchases	\$	192,461.67
Total Expenditures	\$	5,791,090.26

Internal Audits and Dishonored Checks

During FY 2017, ABN conducted internal audits of revenues, expenditures, and the licensing process. The licensing processes reviewed included receipt of applications, receipt of fees, issuance of licenses, and imaging of records associated with each license. Any inaccuracies were noted, forwarded to the appropriate person, and corrected.

In 2001, the Legislature granted ABN authority to accept personal checks as payment for fees and fines. The Board does not accept third party checks, counter checks, or checks drawn on out of state banks. The majority of monetary transactions occur online (97%), and the number of checks received by ABN is minimal, in relation to the total number of transactions processed. ABN received only one dishonored check during FY 2017.

Supporting Graduate Education

Graduate Nursing Scholarships

Under authority granted by the Alabama Legislature, the ABN is responsible for maintaining two programs designed to improve Alabama healthcare, by funding graduate nursing education. The first - the Graduate Scholarship Program - has been in existence since 1977, and primarily aims to advance nursing education. The Legislature appropriated \$166,027 in the FY 2017 Education Trust Fund Budget for the program. Thirty-nine recipients received \$4,257.10 each.

Graduate Nursing Scholarships - 2017

Name	Degree	County	School	Name	Degree	County	School
Barnes, Caulita	MSN	Tuscaloosa	Capstone	Mapp, B. (Carol)	DNP	Tuscaloosa	Samford
Batts, Kimberly	MSN	Madison	UAH	Markwell, Emily	MSN	Limestone	UAB
Beasley, Amy	PhD	Tuscaloosa	UAB	McCormick, Robin	DNP	Macon	Troy
Bishop, Haley	MSN	Baldwin	USA	McQueen, Resha	MSN	Montgomery	Auburn
Bolden, Tameka	MSN	Mobile	University of Mobile	Meadows, Katie	MSN	Lee	UAB
Brewer, Willard	PhD	Lauderdale	UAB	Miller, Katie	MSN	Jefferson	UAB
Carriger, Sydney	MSN	Madison	UAH	Miller, Sarah	MSN	Madison	UAB
Coley, Kimberly	DNP	Elmore	USA	Moore, Cadeatrizlius	MSN	Madison	USA
Combs, Heather	MSN	Dekalb	UAB	Morris, Ashleigh	MSN	Perry	Capstone
Dees, Wesley	MSN	Baldwin	Troy	Prosser, Frederic	MSN	Marshall	UNA
Duff, Dana	MSN	Talladega	UAB	Ruzicka, Allison	MSN	Madison	UAH
Frazier, Kay	MSN	Madison	UAH	Sheedy, Sarah	MSN	Madison	UAH
Goodwin, Heather	DNP	Calhoun	USA	Stafford, Traci	MSN	Houston	USA
Greeson, Brandi	MSN	Madison	UAH	Taylor, Courtney	MSN	Mobile	UAB
Harrington, Lisa	EdD	Cullman	Capstone	Thomas, Aulisha	DNP	Dallas	Troy
Jones, Jennifer	MSN	Jackson	USA	Todd, Africa	MSN	Russell	University of Mobile
Kellum, Lauren	MSN	Madison	UAH	Vaughn, Casey	MSN	Jefferson	USA
Lanham, Stacey	MSN	Baldwin	Capstone	Willis, Rebecca	DNP	Shelby	Samford
Lee, Tinikki	MSN	Mobile	UAH	Wright, Kayla	DNP	Calhoun	JSU
Logan, Alicia	DNP	Tuscaloosa	Samford				

Supporting Graduate Education

The Loan Repayment Program for Advanced Practice Nursing

The second graduate education program maintained by the Board - the Loan Repayment Program for Advanced Practice Nursing - was created by the Legislature during the 2016 Regular Session, making FY 2017 the program's inaugural year. This program provides loans to qualified applicants pursuing degrees to become CRNPs, CNMs, and CRNAs, who commit to working full-time in a rural area of Alabama for a specified period after graduation. In FY 2017, eighteen recipients received \$12,000.00 each.

Advanced Practice Loans - 2017			
Name	Degree/Role/Specialty	County	School
Sellers, Ashley	Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP	Franklin	Walden
Sykora, Laura	Family Nurse Practitioner	Baldwin	USA
Falkenberry, Noelle	Adult Geriatrics	Monroe	Walden
Rainer, Tyson	Family NP	Dekalb	UAH
Lockett, Krystal	Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP	Mobile	USA
Kidd, Deborah	Family Nurse Practitioner	Clarke	South University
Jackson, Charleen	MSN	Mobile	Kaplan
Freeman, Tonya	FNP	Madison	UAH
Williams, Kristen	DNP, FNP	Pike	Troy
Noles, Heather	Family Nurse Practitioner	Dekalb	UAH
Hilley, Shannon	Family Nurse Practitioner	Jackson	UAH
Seales, Amanda	Masters of Science in Nursing- FNP	Chilton	Troy
Odom, Tracy	Family Nurse Practitioner	Geneva	South University
Hamlett, Lakisha	Family Nurse Practitioner	Tuscaloosa	Auburn
Goodwin, David	Family Nurse Practitioner	Houston	Troy
Barnett, Matthew	MSN, Nurse Practitioner	Escambia	Auburn
Hobbs, Jennifer	MSN Primary Care NP	Escambia	Auburn
Howell, Marlene	Doctor of Nursing Practice	Walker	Troy

Information Technology

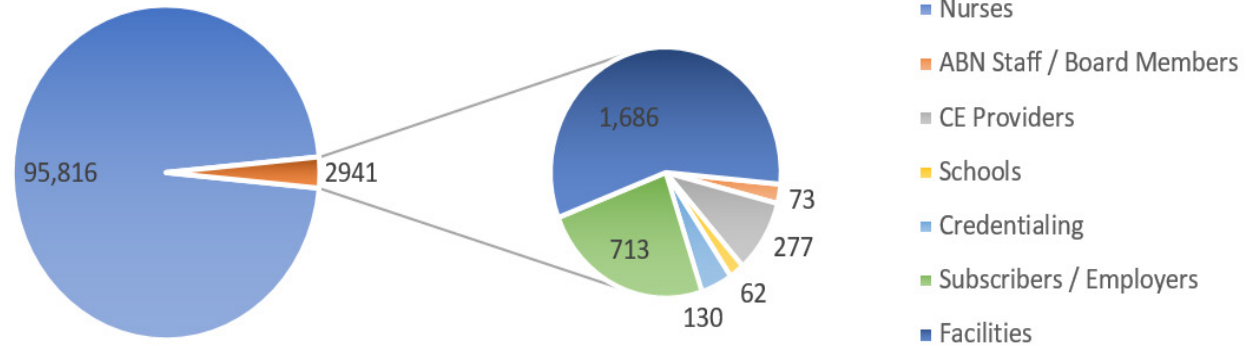
The IT Department

The mission of the Information Technology (IT) Department is to provide infrastructure, support, and innovation in the delivery of information technology products and service to facilitate and augment the mission of the ABN. Ninety-five percent (95%) of the infrastructure is virtualized. In FY 2017, the ABN IT department supported 98,757 users, by means of electronic processes.

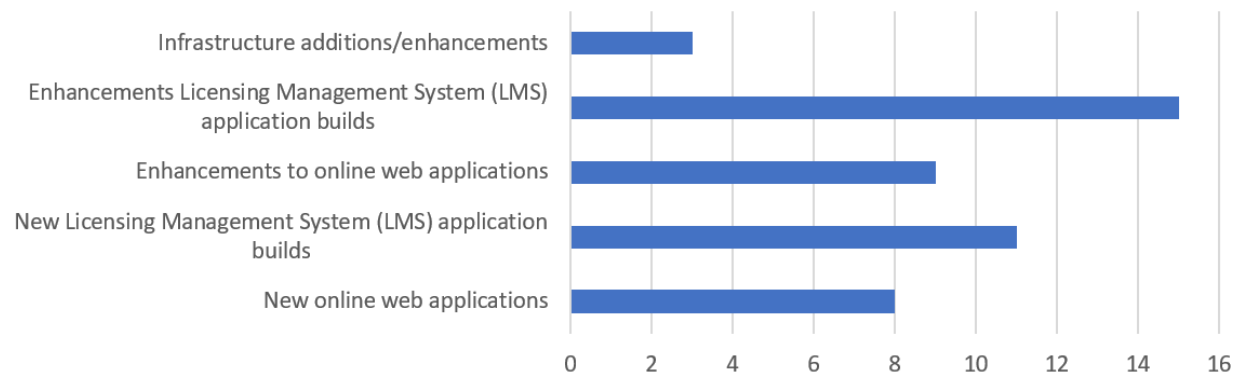
Web and Social Media Analytics - 2017

Website	Facebook	Twitter
Average Daily Users – 3,014	6,405 followers	170 new followers
Total Users - 1,100,042		59 tweets
Pageviews – 4,049,344		
Unique Pageviews – 2,564,709		

ABN IT Customers - 2017



New/Enhanced Applications and Infrastructure in FY 2017



The Legal Division

Functions of the Legal Division

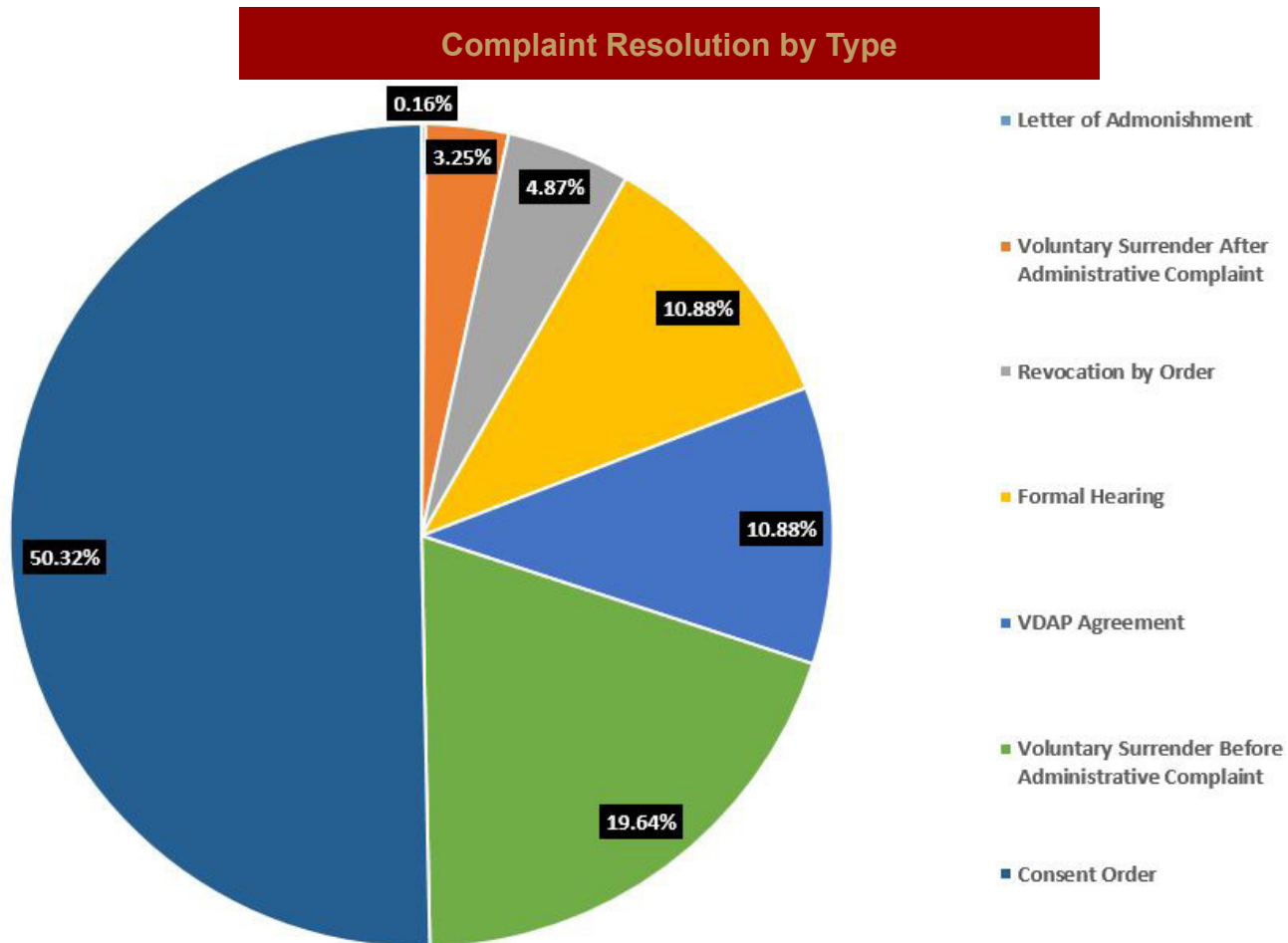
The primary role of the Legal Division is to investigate complaints related to the Board's licensees and applicants for licensure, and to prosecute disciplinary actions when those complaints are substantiated. In addition, the Legal Division supports the Board and its employees, by providing legal advice to the Board and representing the Board in litigation. The Legal Division does not provide legal advice to licensees or applicants for licensure.

In FY 2017, the Board received 1,525 complaints for investigation. Approximately one-third of the complaints were filed using the Board's online complaint process. Complaints may be received from a variety of sources such as patients or their family members, coworkers, law enforcement, employers, other boards of nursing, etc., and may also be docketed, based on information Board staff discovers during the Board's work. Employers were the most frequent source of complaints in FY 2017. In FY 2017, the Legal Division continued to implement a complaint triage system, developed to prioritize and expedite complaints. Combined with use of the Board's License Management System, this process enables the Board's investigators, nurse consultants, and attorneys to identify those cases with the highest priority and manage their workloads more effectively.

The Board resolved 1,372 cases in FY 2017, and 64% of those were closed within six months. Approximately 40% of the cases resolved in FY 2017 resulted in disciplinary action against the nurse. Cases may be resolved with discipline by consent order, administrative hearing, or voluntary surrender of the license. In FY 2017, the Board updated the templates for the orders it issues in disciplinary matters, to provide additional clarity regarding the requirements for successful completion of the orders.

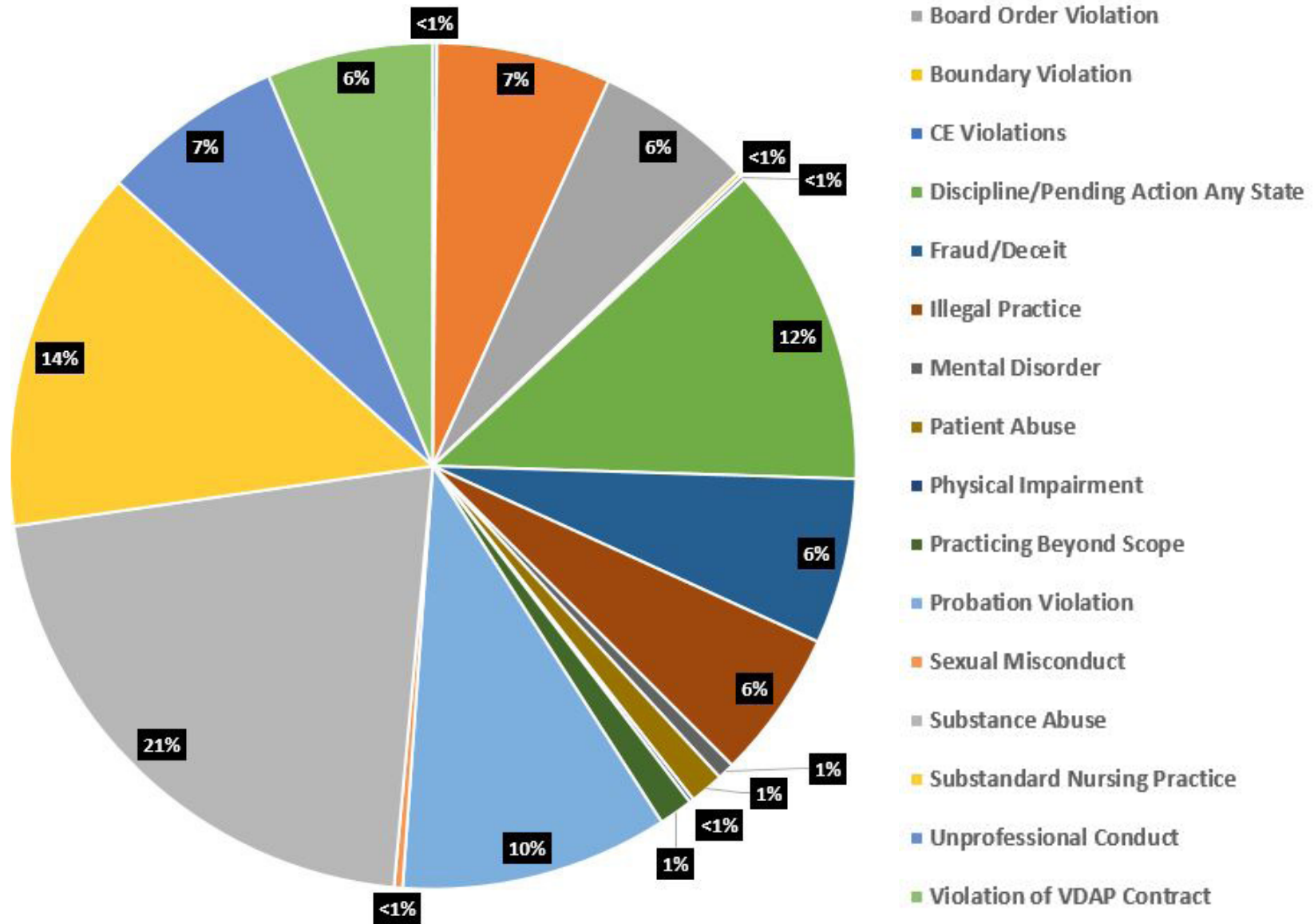
Legal Division Statistical Summaries

ABN Legal Division Case Activity - 2017	
Cases Received	Number
Cases Docketed in FY 2017	1,525
Cases Resolved in FY 2017	1,372
Cases Open at End of FY 2017	815



Assigned Violations

Assigned Violation - Discipline and VDAP



Nurses in Monitoring

Probation/Compliance

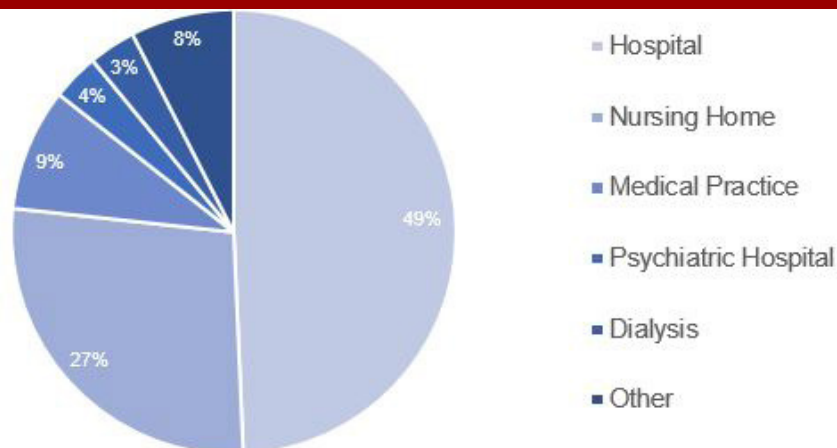
The Probation/Compliance section monitors the compliance and progress of licensees who have a license status of Suspension or Active/Probation pursuant to an Order issued by the Board. The Order is a public action. The probation department in FY 2017 monitored the compliance and progress of 345 licensees who had a license status of either Suspension or Active/Probation.

The suspension of a license prevents the nurse from continuing legally to practice in Alabama. Initial suspension is generally applied “until conditions met,” which may include a comprehensive substance use disorder evaluation and treatment, payment of a fine, completion of corrective education, or such other stipulations as the Board may prescribe.

A licensee with an active/probation license is permitted to practice as a nurse subject to specific conditions and monitoring.

Monitoring Activities - 2017	
Type	Total
Suspension completed, released from monitoring	18
Suspension completed, reinstated on probation	28
Suspension exceeded 12 months, revocation	29
Probation completed, released from monitoring	87
Complaint docketed for Probation Violation	85
Open complaints for Probation Violation at end of fiscal year	6
Probation Violation resulting in additional disciplinary action (new Order)	64
Stay probation, Board-Lapsed	3
Probation	2
Suspension	1
Suspension with probation	30
Revocation	28
Probation interview	124
Total FY 2017 Monitoring Activities	505

Monitored Practice Sites for Active/Probation Licensees



Nurses in Monitoring



The Voluntary Disciplinary Alternative Program (VDAP) is a program authorized by the Alabama Legislature to promote early identification, intervention, treatment, and rehabilitation of any registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or applicant issued a valid temporary permit for licensure whose competence is found to be impaired or compromised because of the use or abuse of drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, chemicals, or other substances or as a result of a physical or mental condition rendering the person unable to meet the standards of the nursing profession. The program has been in existence since 1994.

VDAP is a program intended for nurses who readily admit to a problem with alcohol and/or drugs or a mental or physical disorder that may cause the nurse to be unable to meet the standards for the nursing profession. VDAP is not disciplinary action and there is no discipline associated with the nurse's license, following completion of the program.

The division saw an increase in the number of applications, as a result of the implementation of an awareness campaign that included a social media campaign (i.e. ABN website and Facebook) and an online application process.

VDAP is a major focus of the Board and Board staff. Nurses who provide care to patients while impaired or otherwise practicing unsafely represent a significant risk to patients. The American Nurses Association (ANA) estimates that 6-8% of nurses have experienced significant impaired performance, due to the use of alcohol or drugs. The awareness campaign is intended to allow the ABN to better identify impaired nurses, intervene, and protect the public, by removing those nurses from unsafe nursing practice.

A new drug testing plan was implemented January 2017. The new testing plan includes four testing options, including a PEth (Phosphatidylethanol) test, a highly-reliable blood test, allowing detection of chronic excessive alcohol abuse over the previous 3-4 weeks, with a sensitivity and accuracy rate of over 99%.

At the close of FY 2017, 191 nurses were enrolled in VDAP.

Board Actions

While day-to-day operations of the agency are carried out by Board staff at the direction of the Executive Officer, major policy and directional decisions require the Board to take action. The following is a summary of significant actions taken in FY 2017.

November 2016

Approved Final Certification changes to ABN Administrative Code Section 610-X-5-.12.

Approved Final Certification changes to ABN Administrative Code Section 610-X-5-.23.

Approved Final Certification repeal and replacement of ABN Administrative Chapter 610-X-3, Nursing Education Programs.

Approved Final Certification repeal and replacement of ABN Administrative Code Chapter 610-X-4, Licensure.

Approved Herzing University, Birmingham Generic RN program.

Approved Judson College Teach Out Program for ITT students.

Approved 2017 Board meeting dates.

Approved FY 2017 ABN Budget, as presented.

Denied elliptical excision procedure as being within the scope of practice of Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner.

Elected Francine Parker, EdD, MSN, RN, as President, Natalie Baker, DNP, RN, as Vice President, and Gladys Hill, MSN, RN, as Secretary.

January 2017

Approved Bishop State Community College teach out program for displaced ITT students.

Approved education program guideline revisions.

Denied petition for CNS to be in collaboration, as current law does not allow.

Awarded 23 Advanced Practice Loans, with rural practice agreement.

Approved a APRN consensus model advisory committee.

March 2017

Approved revisions to ABN Administrative Code Chapter 610-X-7, Delegation by School Nurses 610-X-7.02(6); State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Program 610-X-7.03(2); Alabama Department of Mental Health Residential Community Programs 610-X-7.06(4); related to Nursing Practice in a Specific Setting, specific to emergency treatment Naxolone for opioid-related drug overdose.

Appointed Ms. Sheila Marie Lopez, RN, CNM, as a member of the Joint Committee for Advanced Practice Nursing, for the unexpired term of Melissa Hatter.

Approved revisions to disciplinary consent orders and VDAP agreements.

Board Actions

While day-to-day operations of the agency are carried out by Board staff at the direction of the Executive Officer, major policy and directional decisions require the Board to take action. The following is a summary of significant actions taken in FY 2017.

May 2017

Approved four strategic goals for 2018.

Approved recommended changes to ABN Administrative Code Section 610-X-7-.04, "Registered Nurse as Surgical First Assistant (RNFA)," related to Nursing Practice operating room placement of secondary trocars.

Approved consolidation of middle and advanced level critical care protocols into a single critical care protocol.

Appointed Ms. Kathleen "Katie" Rhodes, CRNP, as a member of the Joint Committee for Advanced Practice Nursing, to complete the unexpired RN term of Dawn Daniel.

July 2017

Appointed Executive Officer, Ms. Benson, MSHA, MSN, NE-BC, and Ms. Henley, Deputy Attorney General/General Counsel as the two delegates, to represent the Board at the 2017 NCSBN Annual Meeting. In addition, the Board appointed Ms. Bailey, BSN, MBA, and Dr. Dearmon, DNP, as the two delegate alternates.

Approved recommended change to ABN Administrative Code Chapter 610-X-12-.03, "Loan Conditions," related to loan amounts.

Approved final certification of rules to the sections of ABN Administrative Code Section 610-X-7-.04, "Registered Nurse as Surgical First Assistant (RNFA)," related to nursing practice operating room placement of secondary trocars.

Approved final certification of rules to the sections of ABN Administrative Code Chapter 610-X-7, Nursing Practice - Specific Settings: "Delegation by School Nurses," 610-X-7.02(6)(b), "State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Program," 610-X-7.03(2)(a), "Alabama Department of Mental Health Residential Community Programs," 610-X-7.06(4)(b), related to nursing practice in a specific setting, specific to emergency treatment Naloxone for opioid-related drug overdose.

Approved recommended change to ABN Administrative Code Section 610-X-4-.16, "Special Circumstances," for vote July 21, 2017.

Approved appointment of APRN and Collaborative Practice Advisory Committees.

Declaratory Ruling: The Board approved allowing Ms. Trent to be made eligible to test for licensure as a RN in Alabama despite having graduated from a foreign nursing school.

Board Actions

While day-to-day operations of the agency are carried out by Board staff at the direction of the Executive Officer, major policy and directional decisions require the Board to take action. The following is a summary of significant actions taken in FY 2017.

September 2017

Approved awarding Graduate Scholarships to approved applicants.

Approved the FY 2019 proposed ABN Trust Fund Expenditure Budget.

Approved the 2018 ABN Strategic Plan.

Approved Board-Designated Areas of Critical Need for Advanced Practice Loans.

Approved Ms. Paula Brennan, RN, as the nominee for appointment to the Certified Professional Midwife Board.

Approved final certification of ABN Administrative Code, Section 610-X-12-.03, "Loan Conditions," related to loan amounts.

Approved ABN Administrative Code Section 610-X-4-.14, "Fees," revision.

Approved changes to ABN Administrative Code Sections 610-X-5-.09 and .20, for CRNP and CNM, respectively.

Re-appointed Ms. Sheila Lopez to the Joint Committee for a full term, ending September 30, 2020.

Approved Joint Committee recommendation regarding revision of GXT-Stress Echocardiogram and graded exercise testing CRNP standard protocol.

Approved the ABN Disaster Temporary Permit Guideline.

Approved appointment of the Leadership Institute Advisory Committee.