

Registration of Healthcare Professionals Study
Meeting One Call
April 13, 2010
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Present for Call: Darleen Bartz, Buzz Benson, Senator Judy Lee, Representative Gary Kreidt, Rocksanne Peterson

The Registration of Healthcare Professionals Study workgroup met on Monday, April 5, 2010. Two questions came out during the meeting that needed clarification from the Legislative Committee.

Question 1: The UAP's are identified in several categories; Nurse Aide, Medication Aide I, Medication Aide II, Medication Aide III, Surgery Tech, Dialysis Tech, and Medical Assistant to Physicians. Which groups would the Department of Health potentially oversee?

Representative Kreidt and Senator Lee stated that the committee was to look at the individuals on the UAP registry that would be a good fit for the Department's Registry. The intent was not that all individuals needed to be moved to the Department's Registry. They indicated that they felt it was a reasonable approach to have the Department of Health to oversee the Nurse Aide, Medication Aide I, and Medication Aide II groups. Medication Aide III, Surgery Tech, Dialysis Tech, and Medical Assistant to Physicians would stay with the North Dakota Board of Nursing.

Question 2: The Department of Health currently does not have the authorization or funding to complete investigations in all settings that currently CNAs work. When considering moving a portion of the UAP registry to the Department of Health, should the workgroup look at moving the regulation of the individuals as well as the registration of the individuals?

Representative Kreidt, Senator Lee, Buzz and Darleen discussed the benefits of having the Department both register and regulate the individuals that would be relocated to the Department's registry. All felt that it would result in less confusion, and improve the safety to the individuals receiving care, if the Department would both register and regulate this group of individuals. It was recognized that this would take additional staff time and funding for the Department to do both, and that the previous discussion had been around a hub concept rather than to move the registry and regulation responsibility to the Department. Buzz indicated that there was a need to ensure that nursing oversight continued to be present and that provision of oversight by nurses to individuals on the Department's registry would not impact the nurses' licensure status. All agreed safety of the individuals receiving care was of high importance.

A third question was raised based on the previous discussion. Should the Department charge for Nurse Aide, Medication Aide I, and Medication Aide II registration, or should these individuals be handled the same as the Certified Nurse Aides currently on the Department's registry?

Darleen explained that the federal regulations prohibit charging Certified Nurse Aides for training, testing, registration, or criminal background checks. After discussion, the group agreed that there would be a benefit in approaching this in a consistent manner all individuals on the Department's registry – not charge a registration fee. The Department of Health would need funding for processing applications, registration, and investigations. A budget proposal would need to be put together for the committee. It was felt the money invested would be money well spent.

It was also suggested, if there was to be a fee; that the employer could possibly pick up the fee or it could be split between the employer and UAP.

The Registration of Healthcare Professionals Study workgroup is to come up with a workable plan and budget to present at the May 6, 2010, Legislative Committee meeting.

Note: The North Dakota Board of Nursing wants to make sure that whatever is done is less confusing for the CNA, UAP, and Medication Aides. They would also like the group to keep patient care in mind and that no one comes to harm in the process.