



State of Idaho
Division Of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Idaho Board of Nursing

HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE POSITION STATEMENTS

HISTORY BOARD OF NURSING

Original Adoption: 05/08/1998
Revision Date: 1999, 2006
Review Date: 07/26/2023

To describe the statutory purpose of the Board of Nursing and to represent the membership of the Board.

On March 11, 1911, Chapter 186 of the Idaho Session Laws was passed, creating the Idaho Board of Nursing.

1. The Board was charged to “safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Idaho through regulation of nursing practice and nursing education”.
2. The Board strives to achieve its purpose:
 - a. by reviewing and approving applications for licensure;
 - b. by assisting individuals and institutions to meet defined standards of nursing practice;
 - c. through investigation of complaints, initiation of disciplinary action; and
 - d. by applying established standards to the evaluation and approval of educational programs preparing persons for licensure;

The Board of Nursing is a self-governing agency composed of nine individual members appointed by the Governor.

1. Members include:
 - a. five (5) licensed professional nurses (RNs):
 - b. three (3) of whom are educated at no higher than the diploma or A.D. in nursing,
 - c. two (2) of whom are educated at the B.S., M.S. or doctoral in nursing degree,
 - d. two licensed practical nurses (LPNs);
 - e. one consumer; and
 - f. one RN licensed as an APRN.
2. No member shall be appointed for more than three (3) consecutive terms.



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PURPOSE, VALUES AND ASSURANCES

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The Board of Nursing was created to protect the public from unsafe nursing care.

The Board of Nursing endorses these values and assurances for application in all Board activities and decisions, including those delegated to staff, appointed bodies, and contractors.

The Board Core values:

- **Innovation:** Forward thinking, Evidence-based
- **Service:** Thoughtful, Caring, Understanding, Compassion & Responsive
- **Leadership:** Professional, Knowledgeable, Competent, Resource, National Leaders
- **Integrity:** Just culture, Principled, Respectful & Courteous, Fair, Approachable
- **Accountability:** Open, Honest, Transparent, Efficient & Effective, Committed

The Board assures that:

1. Processes for licensure, discipline and program approval are unbiased, reasonable, fair and consistent.
2. Compliance with requirements of state and federal laws.
3. Issues of economics and access to care are considered in making policy decisions.
4. Scope and standards of practice are clearly defined.
5. Only qualified applicants are licensed.
6. Nursing education programs maintain established standards.
7. Alleged violations of the Nursing Practice Act and administrative rules are investigated.
8. Disciplinary procedures are appropriate for public protection.
9. Records and proceedings are appropriately managed as defined by law.
10. Accurate, relevant information related to nursing education, licensure, and practice is accessible and used as the basis for development of public policy.



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BOARD PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNANCE

Original Adoption: 05/08/1998
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The Board is responsible for:

1. Decisions related to nursing practice, education, licensure, and discipline.
2. Development of policies directing their own governance as well as that of the organization as a whole.
3. Adherence to established policies, for continually assessing the effectiveness of policies and for participating in modification of policies toward the goal of continued improved governance.

The Board will approach its responsibilities with a focus on:

1. Strategic leadership
2. Encouragement of diversity in points of view
3. Clear distinction of Board and staff roles
4. Collective decisions
5. Proactivity

The Board will:

1. Be accountable to the public for competent, conscientious accomplishment of its responsibilities.
2. Monitor and regularly discuss the Board's own process and performance.
3. Initiate policy, not merely be a reactor to staff initiatives.
4. Focus primarily on long-term goals.
5. Allow the Executive Officer to administer the agency as defined in Board policies.
6. Adhere strictly to the Board's Mission in all decision-making.
7. Adhere strictly to provisions of Idaho law.



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CODE OF CONDUCT

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The Board expects members' conduct to be ethical and professional. This commitment includes proper use of authority and appropriate behavior by the group and by each individual when acting as a Board member.

Board members will:

1. Actively participate in policy and decision-making activities during meetings of the Board of Nursing.
2. Assume personal responsibility to be knowledgeable of and uphold the Idaho Nursing Practice Act and the Rules of the Board of Nursing.
3. Review and make decisions regarding all issues presented to the Board from the position of protection of public safety, health and welfare, and without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability or other discriminating factors.
4. Publicly uphold majority decisions of the Board regardless of personal opinion.
5. Not speak or act on behalf of the Board without authorization.
6. Not hold elected or appointed office in a state, regional or national association or body if such an office might result in potential, actual or appearance of conflict of interest.
7. Abstain from voting on any question if they determine the issue to have real or perceived personal, private or financial conflict of interest.
8. Deal honestly and fairly with issues, considering a variety of options and avoiding polarization based on group affiliation, personal prejudice, or partisanship.
9. Prepare for review of issues presented to the Board by consulting available information regarding current trends and standards as well as other appropriate resources.
10. Protect the confidentiality of Board matters, including documents, discipline matters and other protected information.