

To: California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission Date: October 26 – 27, 2016

From: Stacie S. Walker, Deputy Director 
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Healthcare Workforce Development Division

Subject: Song-Brown Funded Programs

Item: Action

Recommendation

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) staff recommend that the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission (Commission) allow the Board of Registered Nursing Nurse-Midwife Education Programs to apply for Song-Brown Registered Nurse Program funds.

Background

Song-Brown funds nursing education and family nurse practitioner programs to support education and training. Song-Brown gives participating nursing education programs a \$12,000 capitation payment for a maximum of ten Masters of Science Nursing students. In May 2016, the Commission requested that OSHPD staff research additional advanced practice nursing disciplines and scopes of practice to determine if they align with the Song-Brown mission and should be funded.

Analysis

The legislative intent for Song-Brown is to provide a program designed primarily to increase the number of students receiving quality education and training as primary care registered nurses in the specialties of family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatrics to maximize the delivery of primary care services to specific areas of California where there is a recognized unmet priority need.¹ The Board of Registered Nursing² defines scope of practice³ and certifies public health and advanced practice nurses, which include Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse-Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, and Public Health Nurses. The American Psychiatric Nurses Association⁴ defines scope of practice for Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurses. In each of these categories, the individual must first have a California registered nurse license before obtaining the certificate. The list below provides a high level summary of scope of practice for registered nurse advanced practice certifications.

¹ Health and Safety Code, Section 128200, Subsection (b)(6)

² Advanced Practice Certification. (2016). Retrieved from California Board of Registered Nursing: <http://www.rn.ca.gov/applicants/ad-pract.shtml>

³ Business and Professions Code, Chapter 6, Section 2700, Nursing Professions Act

⁴ American Psychiatric Nurses Association: <http://www.apna.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3342#1>

Registered Nurse Advanced Practice Certifications

- **Clinical Nurse Specialists** provide expert clinical practice, research, education, consultation and clinical leadership with an identified patient population. The Clinical Nurse Specialist scope of practice includes patients, nursing personnel, and organization systems. Clinical Nurse Specialists work in direct patient care and indirect patient care activities that affect a broad range of patients.
- **Nurse Anesthetists** provide anesthesia services ordered by a physician, dentist, or podiatrist.
- **Nurse-Midwives** attend cases of normal childbirth and provide prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, including family planning care for mothers and immediate care for the newborn under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon.
- **Nurse Practitioners** possess additional preparation and skills in physical diagnosis, psychosocial assessment, and management of health and illness needs in primary health care.
- **Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurses**⁵ work with individuals, families, groups, and communities to: assess mental health needs; develop nursing diagnoses and plans of care; implement the nursing process; and evaluate it for effectiveness.
- **Public Health Nurses** provide direct patient care as well as services related to maintaining public health.

Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Anesthetists, Public Health Nurses, and non-Family Nurse Practitioners provide care outside the scope of primary care services and should not be eligible for Song-Brown funds. Nursing education programs for Family Nurse Practitioners are already supported by Song-Brown funds through the Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Program. Psychiatry is considered a primary care specialty and services provided by Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurses align with the Song-Brown mission. The OSHPD Workforce, Education and Training Program, however, already supports nursing education programs for Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurses through Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Nurse-Midwife scope of practice focuses exclusively on providing obstetrics and gynecology services, which align with the Song-Brown mission of increasing primary care service providers in California. OSHPD staff recommend that the Board of Registered Nursing Nurse-Midwife Education Programs be allowed to apply for Song-Brown Registered Nurse Program funds, consistent with the funding guidelines for this program.

⁵ Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses. (2015). Retrieved from American Psychiatric Nurses Association: <http://www.apna.org/ji4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3292#1>