



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890

Tel: (360) 236-4501 • FAX: (360) 586-7424 • TDD Relay Service: 1-800-833-6388

December 23, 2013

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor of the State of Washington
Post Office Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

The Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6582 in 2010. The legislation lets home care aides and medical assistants take alternative training to qualify for their nursing assistant-certified (NA-C) credential. The bill requires the secretary of health, in consultation with the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission, to report annually to the governor and the legislature on progress made to advance certified home care aides and medical assistants into nursing practice. This is our second progress report.

Summary of Progress – The commission approved the first two programs for alternative training on October, 8, 2012. Since that time, the commission has approved 15 other alternative training programs.

Background – ESSB 6582 required the commission to adopt criteria for alternative training programs. The criteria should meet requirements of a state-approved competency evaluation program consistent with 42 U.S.C. Section 1395i-3(e) and (f) of the federal Social Security Act. The criteria must allow an applicant to take the competency evaluation by completing 24 hours of training on topics that aren't addressed in home care aide or medical assistant training. This alternative training is often called "bridge training."

Rules – After consulting with stakeholders, the commission adopted requirements for bridge training programs in 2011 for both home care aides and medical assistants. The requirements included curriculum and minimum education and training standards for program directors and instructors. The commission created a process to approve and deny training programs as well. It also put together a process for individuals completing a bridge training program to take the competency evaluation and apply for an NA-C credential. These requirements can be found in WAC 246-841-530 through 585.

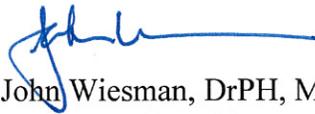


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Status of Programs and Certification as Nursing Assistant – The 17 approved alternative training programs include eight medical assistant training programs and nine home care aide training programs. The programs report that 72 medical assistants and 83 certified home care aides have completed an alternative training program. The department has issued nine NA-C credentials for applicants who completed alternative training since July 1, 2012. The department currently has 10 NA-C applications pending from applicants who completed an alternative training program.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Mindy Schaffner, nursing education advisor for the commission, at mindy.schaffner@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-4745.

Sincerely,



John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health

cc: Senator Randi Becker, Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee
Representative Eileen Cody, House Health Care and Wellness Committee
Jason McGill, Executive Policy Office
Martin Mueller, Department of Health
Mindy Schaffner, Department of Health