

AGENCY MISSION:

The mission of the Board of Nursing is to assure the citizens of Kansas safe and competent practice by nurses and mental health technicians.

PHILOSOPHY

The Kansas State Board of Nursing subscribes to the philosophy of our democratic society which places emphasis on the inherent worth of the individual. The value of human life, and the attainment of the highest possible standard of health as a fundamental right of every individual.

We believe that the State Board of Nursing was established for the purpose of protecting the citizens of Kansas from the practice of nursing by unscrupulous and unqualified individuals.

We believe that individual licensure should only be granted to those persons who have met specific standards and have proven their competency to practice nursing at the level for which the license is issued, and that all individuals who practice professional or practical nursing should be currently licensed under a mandatory licensure act.

We believe each licensee must accept individual responsibility to maintain competency in nursing practice.

We believe that continuing education be required as one mechanism to increase competency.

We believe that the Board should promote communications and work cooperatively with local, state and national nursing organizations, and other organizations, and individual members of the health team to insure safe and effective nursing care for the citizens of Kansas.

We believe that the Board has the responsibility to promote high standards of nursing practice and of nursing education, but that it can not accomplish this without the cooperation of the nursing community.

We believe that nursing practice must be based on a theoretical framework and that nursing education must be based on sound educational principles.

We believe that self-evaluation, innovation and research are appropriate tools for improving nursing education and nursing practice.

OBJECTIVES:

The Kansas State Board of Nursing shall:

- 1) Establish and implement minimum standards for the practice of nursing and mental health technology through administering and interpreting the Kansas Nurse Practice Act, and the Kansas Mental Health Technicians Licensure Act.
- 2) License, as nurses and mental health technicians, duly qualified applicants in order to protect and safeguard the health and safety of the citizens of the State of Kansas.
- 3) Protect the public from persons (a) who are not competent to practice nursing or mental health technology, and (b) who seek to operate a non-accredited school of nursing or mental health technician program.
- 4) Require evidence of continuing education for relicensure of all registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and licensed mental health technicians.
- 5) Encourage and support a higher level of excellence for nursing education and nursing practice than the minimum standards established by the Board.
- 6) Approve nursing education programs and approve mental health technician programs which have achieved, and are maintaining, minimum standards and approve providers of continuing education for nurses.
- 7) Cooperate with appropriate groups in an effort to improve health services for all persons.
- 8) Provide interpretation and consultation services to individuals and groups in matters relating to the education and practice of the Board's licensees.
- 9) Consider current and future trends in nursing education and practice and mental health technician education and practice.