

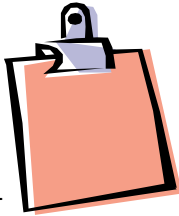
◆ Board News ◆

July 2001

From the Board Administrator

*Dana B. Welborn,
M. S. Gerontology*

The Board office has been busy processing the 2001-2002 license renewals these last few months. If you still have not renewed and need assistance in completing your renewal form, contact Stephanie Calhoun or me at the Board office. We will be glad to help you.



This issue of the newsletter is packed with information. Robin Wheeler with Protection & Advocacy for Persons With Disabilities and Special Needs has submitted an article on that organization's purpose and mission as it relates to community residential care facilities.

Information from the National Association of Boards of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators (NAB) is also included in this issue. There has been a decline in the number of nursing home administrator candidates nationally over the last several years, and the article presents the data and comments on the effects a need for NHAs could have on long term health care.

You will also find information on two amendments to the Long Term Health Care Administrator Practice Act. During the 2001 session of the S.C. General Assembly, two changes were made that affect all licensed administrators and CRCFA applicants.

Call on Board staff when you have questions on these and other Board matters.

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What is Team Adovacy Project?

Robin Wheeler, Attorney for Protection and Advocacy

The Team Advocacy Project is empowered to inspect institutions that house individuals with disabilities through Section 43-33-350 (4) of the South Carolina Code.

The Team Advocacy Project gathers information through unannounced on-site inspections about residents' living conditions in institutions run by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health and community residential care facilities which house individuals with mental illness.

Some key areas of assessment focus on:

- freedom of movement within the community;
- opportunities for community interaction both inside and outside the facility;
- homelike atmosphere of the facility including personal touches in the residents' private areas as well as the public areas;
- medication distri-

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This newsletter is a publication of the Board of Long Term Health Care Administrators and the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

Points of Interest

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|-----------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Team Advocacy</i> | <i>1 - 2</i> |
| <i>NHA Profession</i> | <i>3-4</i> |
| <i>Continuing Education</i> | <i>insert</i> |

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- bution accuracy;
- individualized plans of care;
- food quality and quantity;
- cleanliness; and
- resident health and safety issues.

Every Team Advocacy inspection consists of one Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. employee who leads the inspection and one trained volunteer who utilize a survey instrument designed to assess these living conditions. The inspectors not only write down their own observations, both positive and negative, but they generally interview at least two residents, one staff member and the administrator/owner.

The Team Advocacy employee then submits a written report to the administrator/owner as well as interested state agencies. Upon receipt of the report, the administrator/owner is asked to respond within 30 days. The Team Advocacy Project often re-inspects the facility to follow-up on corrections to the problem areas.

If you are interested in learning more about the Team Advocacy Project, contact the Team Advocacy Project Advocate, Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc., 3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 208, Columbia, SC 29204, (803) 782-0639, toll-free 1-800-922-5225, or FAX (803) 790-1946.

UPDATE: Disciplinary Sanctions Issued by the Board of LTHCA

The Board voted to issue the following disciplinary sanctions at the June 5, 2001, quarterly meeting:

- ◆ Administrator was charged with violating the LTHCA Practice Act after she left facility residents unsupervised and unattended for several hours at a time. Administrator voluntarily surrendered her license to practice CRCF Administration.
- ◆ Administrator was charged with violating the LTHCA Practice Act after she was found to be in substantial noncompliance with state regulations. Administrator voluntarily surrendered her license to practice CRCF Administration.
- ◆ Administrator was charged with violating the LTHCA Practice Act after she was found to be in substantial noncompliance with state regulations. Administrator was placed on probation for one year, fined \$500 and required to complete 12 additional hours of Board-approved continuing education.

- ◆ Administrator's license was suspended, and she was charged with violating the LTHCA Practice Act after she was arrested on charges of elderly neglect, found to be operating an unlicensed facility and the license of another facility she administered was revoked by DHEC. Administrator voluntarily surrendered her license to practice CRCF Administration.
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- ◆ Administrator was charged with violating the LTHCA Practice Act for not working full time at her facility as required for the number of licensed beds. Administrator was issued a public reprimand and fined \$500.
- ◆ Administrator was charged with violating the LTHCA Practice Act after she submitted misleading information to the Board during a complaint investigation. Administrator was issued a public reprimand and fined \$2,500. fine.

How to Verify an Administrator License

You can now verify a Nursing Home Administrator license, a Community Residential Care Facility Administrator license and a host of other professional and occupational licenses at the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Web site. The feature is named "License Lookup" and can be found on the main Web page and the individual licensing board pages.

To verify that someone has a NHA or CRCFA license, go to www.llr.state.sc.us and click on "License Lookup." Choose "Long Term Health Care Administrators" from the drop down menu and click on "Select." Type in the last name of the person whose license you want to verify and click on "Find." All persons by that last name with a NHA or CRCFA license will be shown. Scroll through the list to find the person you are looking for.

If you have any questions, you can email the Board directly from the Web site or call the office at (803) 896-4544.



National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators

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E-mail: NAB@bostromdc.com Web: www.nabweb.org

Nursing Home Administrators: A Vanishing Profession? Third Year of Decline, Increasing Need, Signals Crisis-in-the-Making

Randy Lindner, Executive Director of the National Association of Boards of Examiners for
Long Term Care Administrators

Washington, D.C. – The number of long term care professionals interested in becoming administrators of skilled nursing facilities is in steep decline. The number of applicants for the National Association of Board of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators (NAB) Nursing Home Administrator Licensing Examination has declined sharply for the third straight year. The examination is a requirement for becoming an administrator.

The NAB leadership is alarmed about this precipitous decline and its implications for the future of skilled nursing facilities. The number of exam candidates dropped 36.5 percent over the last three years from the 10-year average. Historically, the number of exam candidates averaged 3,778 from 1988 through 1997, with a high of 4,640 in 1989 and a low of 3,519 in 1991. The first significant decline began in 1998 with a 12% decline below the 10-year average of 3,778 from 1988 to 1997. In 1999 the number declined an additional 11% from the prior year to 2,975, and in 2000 a 19% decline from the prior year to 2,423.

“As a long term care professional, I am deeply concerned over this steep decline in the number of new candidates entering long term care administration,” said Steven Chies, Senior Vice President for Benedictine Health System, Long Term Care and Housing Division, and Secretary for the American Health Care Association. “This should be a wake-up call to America’s public policymakers: they need to step up and be part of the process to address the growing crisis of long term care policy. Punitive regulatory systems, inadequate public funding, and draconian personal penalties do not attract the best and brightest candidates into long term care. This shortage is just the tip of the iceberg and demands swift and decisive leadership by all parties.”

“With the nation’s elderly population projected to more than double over the next 30 years, what does this decline mean to state boards who have the responsibility to ensure that the frail elderly are cared for in a safe and caring environment?” asked NAB Executive Director Randy Lindner. “Who will care for the elderly in the future if properly educated, well-trained professionals are not entering the field?”

Finding answers to that question will require a partnership between government, industry and academia to explore and identify the reasons that long term care professionals are leaving the field, and why college graduates are not considering long term care administration as a career option. With this knowledge, programs and action plans can be developed to address the issues and reverse the downward trend.

“We see dropping enrollment as a symptom of an increasingly ailing profession,” said Charles H. Roadman, II, M.D., CEO and president of the American Health Care Association. “More and more I hear from my members that they’re disheartened. Administrators say they are not doing what they signed on to do; they’re cornered by a mountain of regulation into spending much of their day deciphering onerous regulations and trying to comply with them. I know they’d rather spend more of their time providing hands-on management and care.”

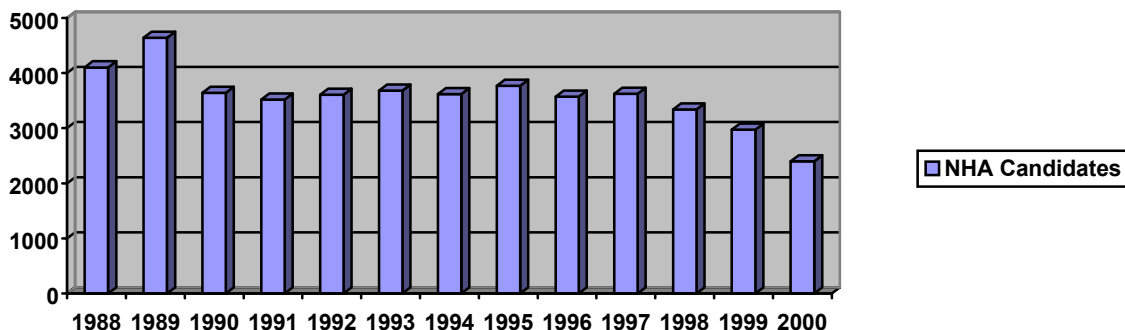
Dr. Roadman added, “This decline in people who are willing to care for our elderly does not bode well for the millions of baby boomers who will be needing care in the coming years. We hope we can work with the new Congress and Administration to address the array of problems the caregiver profession faces.”

Some of the reasons for the decline appear to be obvious on the surface but require validation. Some of the reasons may be: a punitive regulatory environment; compensation commensurate with responsibility; long hours; staffing shortages; a good economy offering many attractive career options; growth of the assisted living industry; need for industry career path development programs; funding shortages; industry financial distress; and negative press.

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Thanks to its members – nursing home administrator licensing boards and agencies from virtually every state and territory in the U.S. – NAB is taking the lead in calling for an exploration of, and response to, these issues. NAB members have a responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the nation’s elderly.

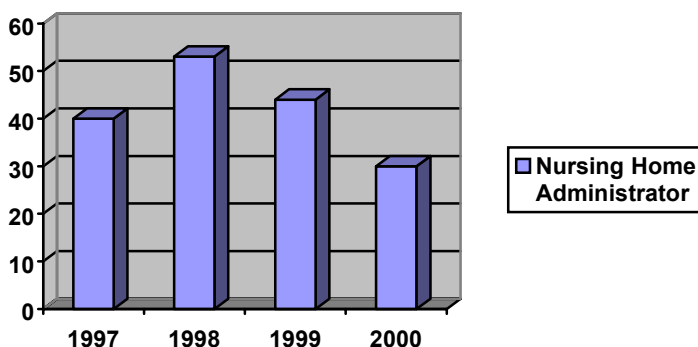


36.5% Decline 1997 – 2000

Source: National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators (Jan 2001)

**Nursing Home Administrators in South Carolina
1997-2000**

The number of candidates testing for the Nursing Home Administrator license in South Carolina have fluctuated over the last few years. During the period of 1997-2000, the number of candidates peaked in 1998 and was lowest in 2000.



If you have any questions about the profession of nursing home administration, contact Randy Lindner at NAB.

questions about the national data

2001 Amendments to the LTHCA Practice Act

In the 2001 legislative session, two amendments were made to portions of the LTHCA Practice Act, S.C. Code of Laws §40-35-230(B) and S.C. Regulation 93-160. Each section of the Code and Regulation is below with the amendments underlined.

S.C. Code of Laws §40-35-230(B) *The Board shall issue a community residential care facility administrator license to a person who submits sound evidence satisfactory to the Board that the person:*

(1) *is at least twenty-one years of age;*
 (2) *is of reputable and responsible character;*
 (3) *is of sound physical and mental health;*
 (4) *has a high school diploma or the equivalent and at least two years of on-site work experience with supervisory and direct resident care responsibilities under the supervision of a licensed community residential care facility administrator before July 1, 2000;*

(5) *beginning July 1, 2000, all initial applicants must have:*

(a) *a minimum of an associate degree with at least one year of on-site work experience with supervisory and direct resident care responsibilities under the supervision of a licensed community residential care facility administrator; however, a person who has a health related associate degree or higher is required to have only six months of on-site work experience with supervisory and direct resident care responsibilities under the supervision of a licensed community residential care facility administrator; or*

(b) *had at least three months of on-site work experience under the supervision of a licensed community residential care facility administrator and has a:*

(i) *health related baccalaureate degree and at least two years work experience, as defined by the Board, in a health related field other than in a community residential care facility; or*

(ii) *non-health related baccalaureate degree with at least three years work experience, as defined by the Board, in a health related field other than in a community residential care facility; or*

(c) *has a combination of education and experience as established by the board in regulation*

The Board has set three policies relating to other combinations of education and experience acceptable for the CRCFA license. Furthermore, the Board has defined the phrase “health related field other than in a community residential care facility” from § 40-35-230(B)(5)(b). Those policies and definition are:

- ◆ Successful completion of at least 48-college credit hours and at least 2 years of CRCF work experience.
- ◆ Applicants who submit evidence that their qualifying health care experience was gained while practicing with a NHA license in good standing will not be required to demonstrate additional CRCF experience.
- ◆ Other certificate programs in combination with CRCF and other health care work experience will be considered on a case by case basis.
- ◆ “Work experience in a health related field other than in a community residential care facility” is defined by the Board of Long Term Health Care Administrators as a satisfactory demonstration through the application for licensure that the applicant has sufficient knowledge of and experience with business and fiscal management responsibilities and coordinating patient care and direct patient contact in a health care setting

S.C. Regulation 93-160. Registration of Licenses.

A. Every person who is licensed as a nursing home administrator or a community residential care facility administrator by the Board shall immediately be deemed registered with the Board and issued a certificate of licensure.

B. Only a person who is licensed as a nursing home administrator or a community residential care facility administrator pursuant to the provisions of these regulations for the current licensure period shall have the right and privilege of using the title of “Nursing Home Administrator” or “Community Residential Care Facility Administrator” No other person shall use or shall be designated by title or by abbreviation or any other words, letters, sign, card, or device tending to or intended to indicate that the person is a licensed Nursing Home Administrator or a Community Residential Care Facility Administrator.

C. The Board shall maintain a register of all licensed administrators and applicants.

D. All licensees must notify the Board in writing within fifteen (15) days of any change of address and employment in a nursing home or community residential care facility.

Both amendments are in effect. Be sure to advise Board staff in writing when you have address and employment changes as now required by regulation. If you have any questions about the changes, contact Dana Welborn at 803-896-4544.

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In This Issue...

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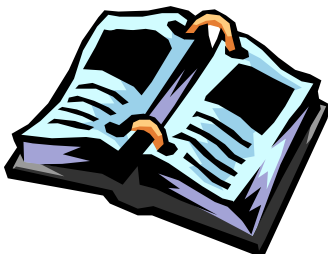
AIT Program News



James King completed his NHA AIT program with Ginger Stewart, preceptor, at Easley Nursing Center, Inc.

The Board has on-going programs at NHC Anderson and Laurel Hill, Inc..

If you have any questions about the Board's NH AIT program, contact the Board office or read about it on the Board's website: www.llr.state.sc.us.



2001 Board Meeting Calendar

September 12-13
December 11-12