

CHAPTER 116

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.18A:65-89 Findings, declarations relative to New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing.

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative was established in 1996 through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to assist nursing schools, hospitals and other nursing service institutions to initiate concerted workforce development systems within the State; b. Under the terms of the grant, New Jersey Colleagues in Caring is responsible for: conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current and projected nursing care needs in the State; developing a dependable system for estimating future needs; analyzing the capacity of the State's nursing workforce to meet these needs and the area's educational infrastructure to produce the numbers and types of nursing professionals required; developing a Statewide nursing workforce consortium among schools, providers and other relevant institutions to plan and implement State models that enhance educational and career mobility for nurses; and establishing a formal mechanism to keep the consortium in place over the long term so that monitoring of nursing care needs and the building of a workforce with corresponding strengths become ongoing components of the State's health care structure;

c. Establishment of an independent nursing center, which will function as a future-oriented research and development organization that will develop and disseminate objective information and provide an ongoing strategy for the allocation of State resources directed toward the nursing work force, will assure the best possible nursing care for the residents of the State; and

d. Therefore, it is appropriate to establish the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing to provide an investment in nursing by ensuring that the strategic work begun by New Jersey Colleagues in Caring continues under a State-supported infrastructure.

C.18A:65-90 New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing; establishment, goals.

2. There is established the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, to address issues of supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including education, recruitment, retention and utilization of adequately prepared nursing personnel. The center shall be administered by an executive director under the direction of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing board established pursuant to this act.

The primary goals of the center shall be to:

a. develop a strategic plan for the continuing development of an adequate nursing workforce, in number and in education and training, to meet the needs of New Jersey residents by:

(1) collecting and analyzing information about and maintaining a database of the current and projected supply and demand of the nursing workforce, including home health aides, nursing assistants, unlicensed assistive personnel, registered nurses, practical nurses, advanced practice nurses and doctorally prepared faculty; and

(2) determining priorities to be addressed from the plan;

b. continue the collaborative approach originating from New Jersey Colleagues in Caring by convening representative groups of health care stakeholders to:

(1) review and comment on the data analysis conducted by the center;

(2) recommend systemic changes in the State's health care system, including strategies for the implementation of the changes; and

(3) disseminate the results of the reviews and recommendations to the Legislature, health care stakeholders and consumers;

c. acknowledge the valued contribution of the nursing work force to the health of the State by:

(1) promoting positive image-building efforts in nursing;

(2) supporting existing mechanisms for rewarding outstanding nurses; and

(3) reporting with evidence-based data the relationship of nursing care to the positive outcomes of the health of consumers;

d. provide consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources within and outside of the State and serve as a clearinghouse for data related to nursing resources;

e. foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity and enhance the knowledge of nurses and others in health policy and health services research; and

f. seek competitive funding to support specific research endeavors or model programs to enhance the resources available in supporting innovative projects.

C.18A:65-91 Membership of board.

3. The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing shall be governed by a 17-member board. A majority of the members first appointed to the board shall include nurse representatives from among the members of the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative.

a. The members shall be appointed as follows:

(1) four members appointed by the President of the Senate who include: one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Hospital Association; one representative of long-term care facilities recommended by the Health Care Association of New Jersey; one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; and one representative of home health care agencies recommended by the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey;

(2) four members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended by the Organization of Nurse Executives - New Jersey; one representative of acute care facilities recommended by the New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals; and one licensed practical nurse recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey; and

(3) nine members appointed by the Governor who include: one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey State Nurses Association; one registered professional nurse recommended by the New Jersey League for Nursing; one health care facility staff nurse providing direct patient care, who is recommended by an organization that represents such nurses; two consumers of health care; one representative of baccalaureate and higher degree university nursing programs recommended by the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs; one representative of associate degree nursing programs recommended by the Council of Associate Degree programs; one representative of diploma nursing programs recommended by the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional Nursing; and one representative of practical nursing programs recommended by the Licensed Practical Nurses Education Council.

b. The term of office of each member shall be two years; except that, of the members first appointed, two members appointed by the Senate President shall serve for a term of one year and two for a term of two years; two members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of one year and two for a term of two years; and four members appointed by the Governor shall serve for a term of one year and five for a term of two years.

A member shall hold office for the term of his appointment and until his successor has been appointed and qualified. All vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. A member of the board is eligible for reappointment, but no member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.

c. The board shall meet at least quarterly and shall meet as soon as practical following the appointment of its members to choose, from among the members and by a majority vote of the members, a chairperson and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The chairperson and other officers shall serve in their elected office for a term of two years and may not succeed themselves in office.

d. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for the reasonable travel and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in a manner consistent with the policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

C.18A:65-92 Duties of board.

4. The board shall:

a. determine global policies for the center;

b. implement the primary goals of the center as established in this act;

c. appoint a multidisciplinary advisory council to provide input and advice on policy matters. The advisory council shall include representatives from all of the organizations represented in the collaborative of New Jersey Colleagues in Caring;

d. appoint a full-time executive director who shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The board shall authorize the executive director to employ such other staff as the executive director deems necessary and within the limits of funds available to the center. All policies and procedures concerning the hiring of center employees shall be the same as and consistent with the applicable policies and procedures of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey;

e. apply for and accept grants of money available for carrying out the policies and activities of the center from the federal government, and accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations, corporations,

governmental agencies and other organizations and institutions to carry out the purposes of this act; and

f. submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature one year after the center is established, and every two years thereafter, on its activities and findings. The report may include such recommendations for legislative action as the board deems appropriate. The board shall make its annual report available to members of the public, upon request.

C.18A:65-93 Interim responsibility.

5. Until such time as the members of the board are appointed, the New Jersey Colleagues in Caring collaborative shall be responsible for establishing the center and implementing the purposes of this act.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 12, 2002.