In Attendance:

Debbie Sargent (Vice Chair)  
Stephen Bishop  
Janine Lennox (Secretary)  
Jocelyne Van Neste-Kenny (Treasurer)  
Jan Meiers  
Pam Burton  
Teresa Petrick  
Hannah MacDonald  
Noreen Frisch (Chair)  
Linda Pickthall  
Sheila Epp  
Barb Fenwick  
Sherri Dahlkie  
Jean Nicholson-Church  
Martha McLeod (teleconference)  
Bernice Budz  
Patricia Covington  
Suzanne Campbell  

Teleconference: Debbie McLachlan (MoH)

Regrets:  
Yvonne Moritz  

Guests: Karen Evers-Fahey (UVIC); Lenora Marsalis (UVIC) Nursing Academic Leadership Administration, Cynthia Johansen (Executive Director, CRNBC), Natasha Dookie CRNBC); Lori MacKenzie (MAVED); Debbie McLachlan (MOH).

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting commenced at 0915 with Noreen Frisch in the Chair. Introductions offered from those around the table and from those participating by teleconference.

2. Approval of Agenda

Noreen reviewed the agenda. Approval by consensus.
3. Review and Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2012

Minutes were approved by consensus.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. NCLEX-RN exam and preparation for this exam in BC. Presentation by Karen Evers-Fahey, Associate Director, Undergraduate Programs UVIC. Karen presented information from the Sept NCSBN workshop in Boston. Details are available in the PowerPoint document distributed to NECBC members by Karen. Salient points included:
   - Information on how the NCLEX test is constructed and how it tests nursing abilities.
   - How the NCLEX differs from the CRNE
   - How practice expectation differs between Canada and the United States.

b. Discussion about entry-to-practice exam with guests from CRNBC. Cynthia Johansen, CEO, CRNBC and Natasha Dookie, Director of Registration, Inquiry and Discipline, CRNBC. Cynthia addressed several points from Karen’s presentation and added further details.
   - Item writing will begin in February. CRNBC plans to make sure the test works for our graduates but there were no details available at this time as to how this would look. They will advertise for volunteers to review items.
   - There will be a Canadian conference for educators in the spring. No venue identified as of yet.
   - Update regarding the NCLEX will be available soon on the CRNBC site. As a consistent practice, information will be released from provincial regulatory bodies simultaneously across the country.
   - Regulatory bodies with the NCSBN will develop a new test plan for 2013 and it will be ready soon on the website.
   - Cynthia says the NCSBN website has good information and a NCLEX test bank available.
   - Natasha will be the lead on selection of volunteers. No information available yet on the selection process.
   - Reciprocity in registration will continue between provinces.
   - Reciprocity with U.S. has not been determined. Bernice asked for it to be determined soon and information put on the CRNBC website as this is a major issue in the minds of candidates as well as educators and employers.
   - Permanent writing sites will be situated in the Lower Mainland. Temporary sites will be available at appropriate times throughout the province.
Weekly quizzes and simulation are methods that have been seen as valuable in assisting students to prepare for the NCLEX. There is an interest in providing students with an opportunity to experience a CAT prior to writing the NCLEX.

NECBC may plan faculty development for provincial nurse educators (see information from de-brief below)

Cynthia states Canadian educated nurses do well on the NCLEX and identifies that it can be discerned via the NCLEX site that Canadian educated nurses achieve good results compared with IENs who have been most recently registered in Canada.

A webinar will be available for educators before Christmas for all nurse educators.

c. Discussion with representatives from the Ministries re Nursing Workforce and Education.

Guests Lori MacKenzie (MAVED) in person and Debbie McLachlan, MOH (teleconference). Lori updated us on a variety of initiatives:

- Open textbooks online are being promoted by the Ministry. Bernice identified that BCIT is shifting in this direction. Lori stated that there is political support for this move.
- The LPN program syllabus is available online through CLPNBC. LPN regulation amendments are reflective of current practice. Noreen mentioned that recent information shows that some of the new language identifies LPN diagnosis and RPN diagnosis similar to NANDA. Cynthia says it is brand new but is becoming a conversation for all colleges. There is a move to have shared lexicon with the three groups, CRNBC, CLPNBC, and CRNPNBC and to define scopes of practice and restricted activities. Lori identified that LPNs don’t have a pathway to BSN and sees this as a gap. The Ministry is interested in whether there is an option for this provincially. A two plus two option was suggested by Noreen. Jocelyne would like to develop a matrix from across the province to identify various methods for bridging. There was a question as to how LPNs upgrade to a diploma level from a certificate. Discussion but no conclusion related to designing a bridge for this to happen and the need to work with Health Authorities. Lori says this has implications for Aboriginal education. There is a need the laddering nursing education. It was identified that older female students with dependents require this type of program. UBCO has an access program, as does Thompson Rivers. Tutoring and Special Biology program were identified as strategies for support in these programs.

- Some institutions are finding competitive admission is not working as expected. UVIC identified that they had a project called the “Rivers and Eddies Project” which identified student journeys through completion of degrees in nursing. It traced attrition vs. “on time” completion rates. Areas of concern listed were writing, math assessments, use of an interview process, and requirement of some UT courses as admission criteria. BCIT will use the McMaster model. Some require students to attend a mandatory information day so that they understand the requirements for nursing. UBCO uses a broad based admission program based on the Oregon model. A percentage will be weighted on GPA. An interview is based on soliciting information on coping with
adversity, life-challenges, critical thinking. Also moving to using grade 11 and 12 marks for Sciences.

**Action Items**

Jocelyne will send out a template for all participating schools to identify information about their LPN to BSN bridging programs.

d. **NECBC members’ discussion related to morning presentations.**
   - Determined that NECBC would send a proposal to the CASN Board suggesting that a workshop for nurse educators be added to the schedule of events for the CASN conference being held in Vancouver in June 2013. This conference is being sponsored by NECBC as per June 8, 2012 minutes. Noreen will collaborate with CASN and NECBC on this project even though she will be on sabbatical. Janine Lennox, Suzanne Campbell, and Karen Evers-Fahey offered to work with CASN on the presentation. This would offer a national perspective. Karen would be asked to do a presentation at the conference. It was suggested that NECBC should present the Policy Framework at the conference.
   - Suggestions for building success in the NCLEX from committee members include A Pilot Project with graduating students who volunteer to write the NECLEX, 4 day intensive exam review “boot camp” where students are required to attend and pay for the review, increased use of simulation, and regular testing as well as testing with up to 100 questions.
   - Discussion of previous NECBC minutes where it was decided to invite the Ministries to attend our meetings twice a year. With no budget for travel, this will not be possible. MOTION: Jean to offer for Lori (MAED & IT) and someone from MOH to attend our next meeting on January 25, at our expense for next meeting. Seconded by Stephen. Discussion ensued related to the appearance of such a move. Motion withdrawn.

**Action Items:**

Noreen to follow up with CASN regarding NCLEX workshop at CASN conference being held in June 2013.

5. **Reports**

   a. **Treasurer’s Report (Jocelyne Van Neste-Kenny)**
      
      The Treasurer’s Report was circulated by Jocelyne and accepted by consensus.

   b. **Deans & Directors Updates (Patricia Covington)**
      
      - Currently there is little money available in the budget. Similar reports were heard from both Ministries.
- Immunization policy discussed and issues with mandating immunizations in a union environment. There is 50% compliance with volunteerism.
- IPP continues to be a topic of interest with some work coming from the PEC soon on a model for BC. Grace Mickelson is a member of the group working on this.
- Bill Dow will be working on Terms of Reference for the Provincial Simulation Group. A previous report was discipline specific to medicine and the conversation has been started again to include more disciplines.
- The Provincial Health Quality Network identifies strategies for tighter relationships between education and practice for the purposes of ensuring patient safety. They want feedback from students regarding clinical practice experiences. Janine volunteered to attend this meeting.
- BC Care Aide Registry. Standards for programs and a review process are currently under discussion. Individual courses for International RCA are being considered to bring up to upgrade their qualifications with PLAR.
- Leanne Currie attended the meeting regarding the PLACES project.
- March 21, 2013 is the next Deans and Directors meeting, with March 22 a NECBC meeting.
- HSPNet is managed through the BCAHC and BCIT. Restructuring of BCAHC may affect HSPNet and NECBC as our site is managed through their website. HSP Net has recently added rural Nwfld and New Brunswick to the network.

**Action Items**

Leanne Currie will be asked to attend the January 2013 NECBC meeting to talk further about the PLACES project.

6. **Nomination and Selection of NECBC Chair.**

Noreen Frisch will be on sabbatical for six months starting in January 2013. Anne Bruce will be covering in the Director role at UVIC. Debbie Sargent nominated to Chair with Suzanne Campbell accepting position of Vice Chair. Janine will remain as Secretary and Jocelyne as Treasurer. Hannah remains as member at large.

7. **Handling of the NECBC mailing/distribution list.**

Difficulties have been experienced with members sending out information via outdated distribution lists. Distribution list will now go to Debbie and her office at VCC. Send messages through Debbie and her assistant. All transfer of information should go through them.
Natalie at BCAHC can update the NECBC site. Discussion around need for an updated website and enhanced, web conferencing abilities. No decisions or action items.

8. **Open position for a Western Director on CASN Board.**

Determined to nominate Janine Lennox as a nomination from the floor for this position. Suzanne Campbell to speak to the nomination at the November Council meeting.

9. **General discussion on issues affecting BC Schools of Nursing:**
   - **LPN program:**
     - Jocyelyne discussed the PN Articulation Report. Stage one recognition visits have been completed. CLPNBC is starting to work on Phase 2 of this process and will give us information early in the new year. 2013 spring and summer diploma graduates will be entering the workforce for the first time.
     - The ESL requirements were removed from the admission criteria in the provincial curriculum. It will be up to each school to ensure that graduates have the requisite ENG skills upon completion of their program and CLPNBC will not require additional English tests prior to writing the registration exam.
     - All faculty teaching in these programs have to be prepared with PIDP (Provincial Instructors Diploma Program) or equivalent for PN School recognition through CLPNBC. If without, it is considered a minor deficiency. There will always be some faculty who have not met this requirement and it was pointed out to CLPNBC that programs will continually have this “minor deficiency”. Some challenges may potentially be coming from unions as a grievance in cases where this is not a universal qualification for faculty.
     - An provincial PN program Coordinator is being considered and will be discussed further by program heads via a teleconference which Jocelyne will organize. Original proposal was for all schools, public and private, that offer the program to contribute financially to this position.

**Faculty Issues:**

- Fit testing for faculty was brought up as an item for discussion by Jean. Most schools are paying for it themselves and it is generally not a Health Authority responsibility.
- Communication between faculty and students in clinical practice discussed related to texting. These issues should be discussed with Risk Management at our institutions. We should keep a record of all communication in the case of appeals and we should not be using our own devices.

**Action Items**
10. Announcements

CASN award and Health Infoway: Teaching Informatics award. June Kaminski from Kwantlen won the award. Will be honoured at the November CASN council meeting.

**Adjourned at 1500.** Next meetings set for Jan 25 at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Richmond Campus, and March 22.