

**SFY 2018**

# **Ohio Board of Nursing Annual Report**



**July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018**

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September 27, 2018

The Honorable John Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio  
77 South High Street, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Kasich:

On behalf of the Ohio Board of Nursing, we are pleased to submit this Annual Report for state fiscal year 2018, in accordance with Section 4723.06 of the Revised Code.

This Annual Report highlights the work of the Board members and staff. The Board is responsible for regulating over 290,000 licenses and certificates and 184 pre-licensure nursing education programs.

While the overwhelming majority of Ohio nurses practice with high standards, the actions or deficient practice of some have the potential to compromise patient safety and the public's confidence in the profession. The Board has an important role in impacting the safety of nursing care that touches virtually all Ohioans. In accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4723., the Board fulfilled its public duty in FY18 by disciplining and monitoring the practice of licensees and certificate holders who violated the Nurse Practice Act or administrative rules regulating practice. The report highlights the public protection role of the Board and the regulatory excellence that has been achieved by a lean and efficient Board with a common sense approach to meeting regulatory challenges while protecting the public.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank you for your support and leadership over your two terms as Governor. The Board has been proud to serve as a supporting member of the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team, promulgate prescribing rules to improve practice and save lives, and promote technology such as the eLicense platform allowing the Board to achieve an efficient and timely licensing program, to name just a few of your initiatives that continue to safe nursing practice and public protection.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Sharpnack DNP, RN".

Patricia Sharpnack, DNP, RN  
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy J. Houchen".

Betsy Houchen, JD, MS, RN  
Executive Director

## Board Overview

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### Mission

The mission of the Ohio Board of Nursing is to actively safeguard the health of the public through the effective regulation of nursing care.

### Board Overview

The Board's top priorities are to efficiently license the nursing workforce and remove dangerous practitioners from practice in a timely manner to protect Ohio patients. Public protection is critical, as nursing touches virtually every citizen of Ohio. The Board regulates over 290,000 licenses and certificates, as compared to 233,000 in 2009.

The Board is nationally recognized through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) for its regulatory excellence and public protection work. The Board has a demonstrated track record of ensuring public protection; funding initiatives to combat the nursing shortage; implementing innovative programs for patient safety; and regulating the largest number of licensed professionals of any agency in the State of Ohio.

## Contributions to Statewide Initiatives

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### Ohio's Fight Against Prescription Drug Abuse

The Board continues to collaborate with the administration, legislators, law enforcement, drug task forces, and other state boards and agencies in an ongoing effort to combat prescription drug abuse and the opioid epidemic. The Board supports and contributes to the work of the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT) and continues to collaborate with the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy to identify and investigate prescribers to determine abusive prescribing patterns and take disciplinary action as needed.

Board staff worked closely with the Governor's office and State Medical, Pharmacy and Dental boards to develop rule language that establishes requirements for treatment of acute, sub-acute, and chronic pain with opioid analgesics. This has been a strong collaborative effort and represents another building block in the fight to combat the Ohio opioid crisis.

## The Nursing Workforce

Data collection is a vital component of workforce planning and policymaking. The Board has been collecting comprehensive nursing workforce data each year since 2013. To support job growth and meet the demands of a growing health care workforce, the Board funds two programs through nursing license renewal fees.

- Nurse Education Grant Program (NEGP): Grants are awarded to Ohio pre-licensure and post-licensure nursing education programs for the purpose of increasing their student enrollment capacity.
- Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP): Tuition assistance is provided for the education of nursing students and future nursing faculty.

## Cultural Competency

Nursing is considered by many to be at the forefront of cultural competency educational efforts in pre-licensure programs, experiential learning opportunities, continuing education, and relevant course work at the state and federal levels. The Board has worked through its Advisory Groups on Continuing Education and Nursing Education to help identify and disseminate lists of continuing education and experiential learning opportunities; this information and the links to continuing education coursework in cultural competency have been added to the Board website. Certain course work is available at no cost to licensees and is approved under the Board's administrative rules. For example, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through their Office of Minority Health, provides a free, online educational program accredited for nurses.

## Ohio Action Coalition/The IOM Future of Nursing Report

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* set forth eight recommendations for nursing. The Ohio Action Coalition was established for the advancement of the IOM recommendations and to promote nursing collaboration throughout Ohio. Board President Patricia Sharpnack and Executive Director Betsy Houchen represent the Board on the Coalition Steering Committee. Director Houchen is a Co-Chair for the Data and Research Work Group.

## Program Area Highlights and Statistics

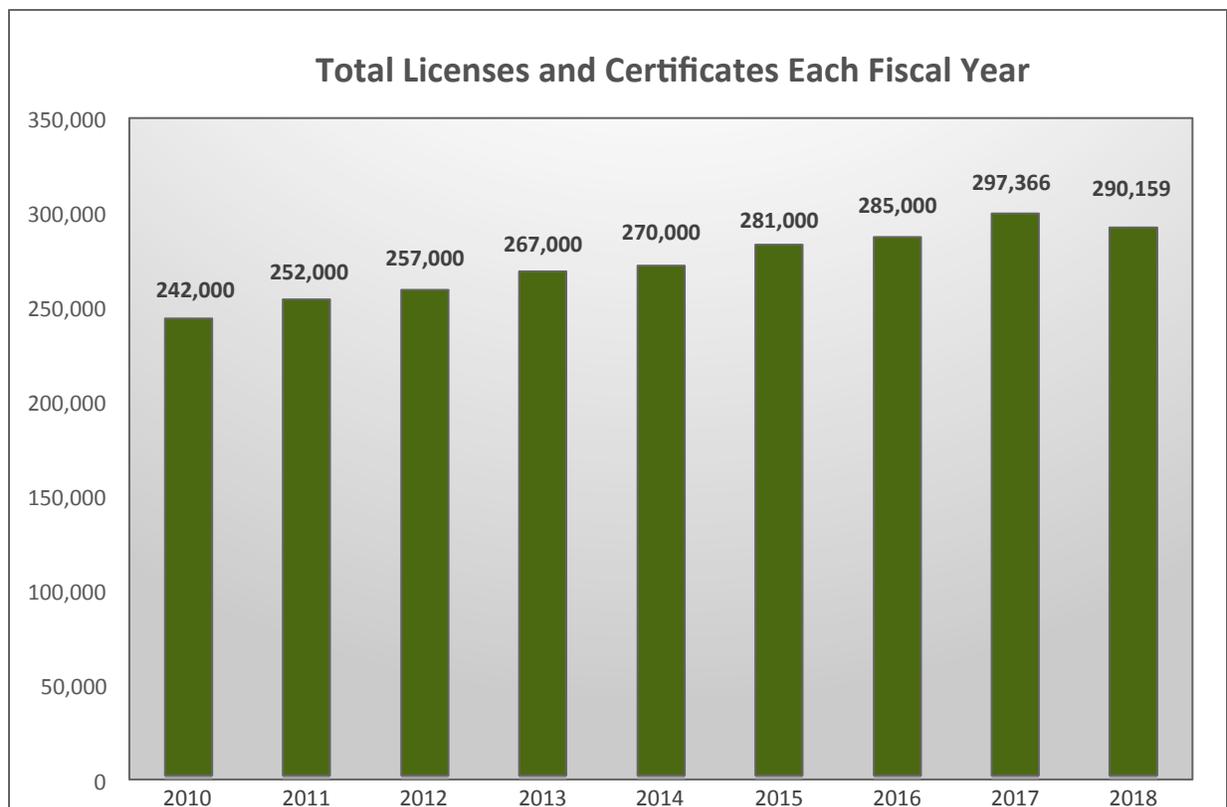
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### Licensure and Certification

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**Strategic Initiative:** Assure licensees and certificate holders meet statutory and regulatory requirements to be licensed or certified to practice in Ohio and are appropriately credentialed to practice, while maintaining an efficient and effective system to license or certify applicants as quickly as possible to enter or remain in the workforce.

- Regulated 290,159 licenses and certificates<sup>1</sup>
- Completed the COA renewal/APRN license issuance process with 14,829 (91%) APRNs completing the process to transition their certification status to licensure
- Prioritized 1,354 applications for service members, veterans, and spouses
- Issued 16,769 new licenses and certificates
- Re-registered 2,369 applicants who failed and applied to re-take the examination



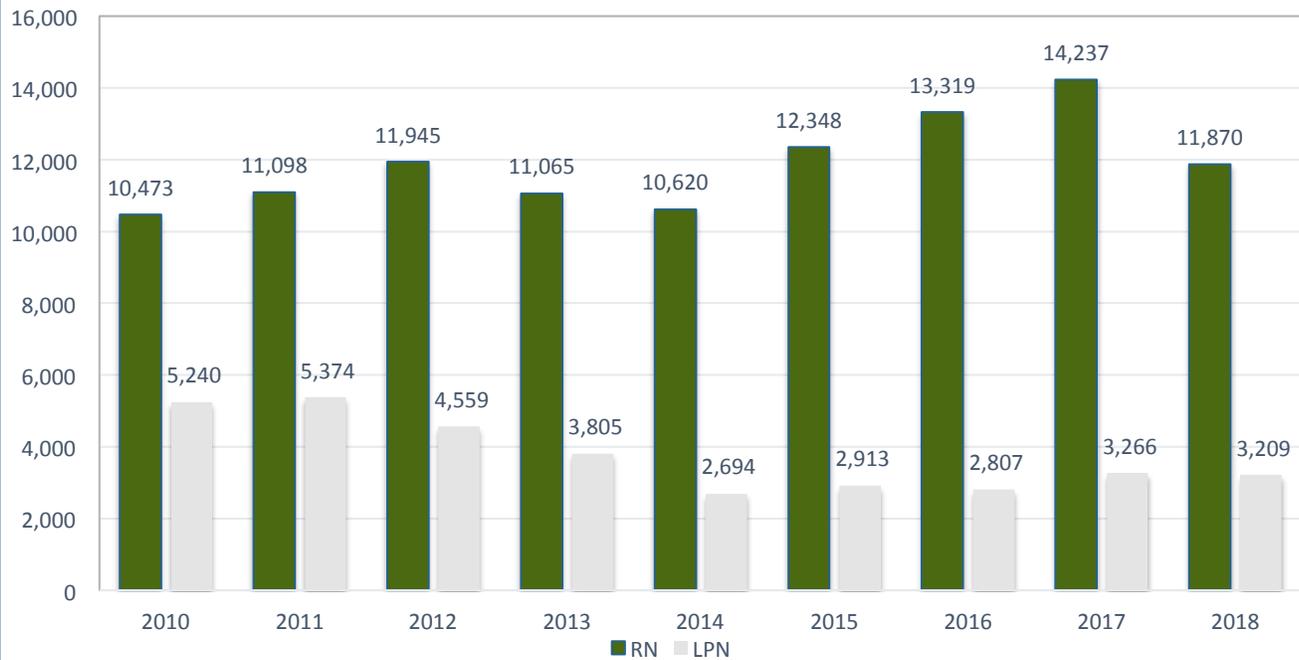
<sup>1</sup> HB 216 (132<sup>nd</sup> GA) eliminated Certificates of Authority (COA) and Certificates to Prescribe (CTP) as of December 31, 2017, and replaced both certificates with one license for APRNs that designates them as CRNAs, CNPs, CNSs, or CNMs and authorizes certain APRNs to prescribe.

Active Licenses and Certificates as of June 30, 2018	
Registered Nurse (RN) Licenses	211,488
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Licenses	56,200
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Licenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist – 3,087</li> <li>▪ Certified Nurse Midwife - 402</li> <li>▪ Certified Nurse Practitioner – 12,817</li> <li>▪ Clinical Nurse Specialist – 1,130</li> </ul>	17,436
APRN Certificates through December 31, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Certificates of Authority (COA) – 1,062</li> <li>▪ Certificates To Prescribe (CTP) – 931</li> </ul>	1,993
Ohio Certified Dialysis Technician Certificates	1,699
Dialysis Technician Intern Certificates	382
Community Health Worker Certificates	739
Medication Aide Certificates	222
<b>Total</b>	<b>290,159</b>

Newly Issued Licenses/Certificates	
RN Licenses	11,870
LPN Licenses	2,703
APRN Licenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist – 192</li> <li>▪ Certified Nurse Midwife - 34</li> <li>▪ Certified Nurse Practitioner – 1,192</li> <li>▪ Clinical Nurse Specialist – 30</li> </ul>	1,448
Ohio Certified Dialysis Technician Certificates	159
Dialysis Technician Intern Certificates	341
Community Health Worker Certificates	221
Medication Aide Certificates	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,769</b>

Nurses Licensed By Examination or Reciprocity				
Type	Examination	Reciprocity	Temporary Permits	Total
RN	8,003	3,867	965	12,835
LPN	2,795	414	114	3,323
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,798</b>	<b>4,281</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>16,158</b>

## RNs and LPNs Licensed by Examination and Reciprocity Each Fiscal Year



## Certificates Issued Each Fiscal Year

### Community Health Workers

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New	23	13	33	13	41	111	215	244	221
Active	73	61	95	83	122	190	401	516	739

### Dialysis Technicians and Dialysis Technicians Interns

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New	378	368	396	324	394	429	439	466	500
Active	1,680	1,637	1,802	1,670	1,824	1,723	1,898	1,886	2,081

### Medication Aides

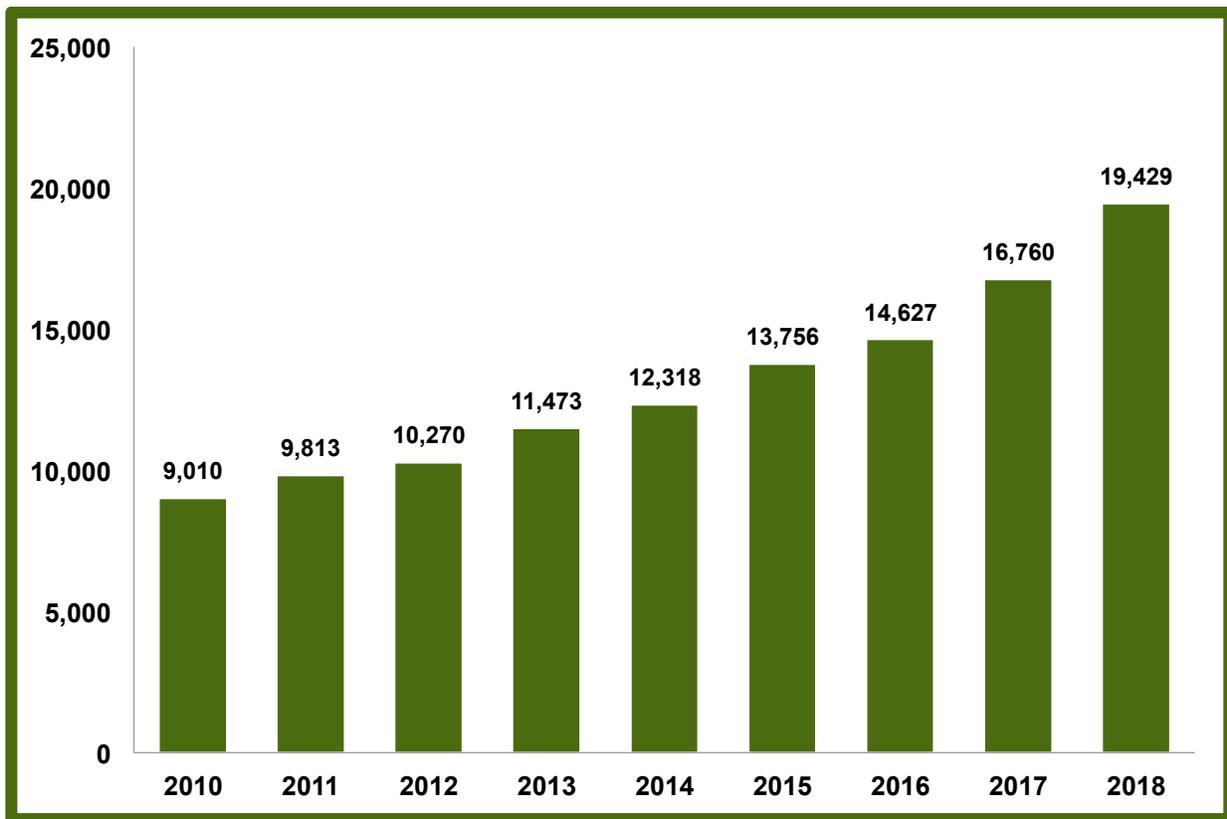
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New	55	38	46	46	30	40	51	54	27
Active	94	133	112	163	192	184	164	164	222

## Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

HB 216 (132<sup>nd</sup> GA) required that APRNs practicing with the designations of CNPs, CNSs, CNMs or CRNAs be licensed in Ohio rather than certified. HB 216 eliminated the COA and the CTP. The new licenses include the authority to prescribe for CNPs, CNSs and CNMs. All Ohio APRNs were required to transition to APRN licensure by December 31, 2017.

The Board successfully completed the transition of both COAs and CTPs to one APRN license as part of the COA renewal/APRN License Issuance Process that ended December 31, 2017.

### APRN Licenses for Fiscal Year 2018 and COAs Through December 31, 2017



## Nursing Education and Approved Training Programs

**Strategic Initiative:** Approve pre-licensure education programs to assure the programs maintain academic and clinical standards for the preparation of entry-level nurses.

Competent and safe nursing practice begins with education programs that prepare individuals for practice. The Board reviewed nursing education programs and various types of training programs to assure the programs maintain academic and clinical standards for the preparation of entry-level nurses and other health care workers.

- Continued approval of 184 nursing education programs.
- Approved 9 new nursing education programs.

Number of Education Programs Each Fiscal Year									
Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
RN	86	94	102	106	108	109	113	110	110
PN	73	74	72	72	70	69	69	70	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>184</b>

- Determined that certain pre-licensure nursing programs were not meeting and/or maintaining regulatory requirements and issued sanctions: nine programs were placed on provisional approval status and one program was issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing that resulted in a settlement agreement.
- Convened the Advisory Group on Nursing Education to provide recommendations regarding nursing education and the related administrative rules.
- Provided two Nursing Education Workshops for Program Administrators and faculty.

Training Programs Approved Each Fiscal Year							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dialysis Technician	24	29	25	24	21	23	22
Medication Aide	21	18	15	16	15	15	14
Community Health Worker	3	4	6	9	12	14	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>

## Compliance, Discipline and Monitoring

**Strategic Initiative:** Efficiently handle complaints, investigations, and adjudications to safeguard the health of the public and, in cases involving chemical dependency/substance use disorders or practice issues, provide alternatives to discipline programs, if determined appropriate.

### Board Complaints and Applicants for Initial Licensure

- The Compliance Unit processed and investigated complaints regarding criminal activity, substance use abuse, theft of drugs, sub-standard practice, patient abuse and neglect, and other violations of the Nurse Practice Act and administrative rules.
- Board Member Sandra Ranck was elected to serve as the Supervising Member for Disciplinary Matters.
- Prescription drug abuse was targeted through collaboration with law enforcement, other state boards and agencies, and the use of OARRS data.



License Applicants Referred To Compliance For Review		
Type	Total Number	Referred to Compliance
Licensure by Examination	10,798	1,330
Licensure by Reciprocity	4,281	490
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,079</b>	<b>1,820</b>

<b>Complaints</b>	
<b>Type of Complaint</b>	<b>Number</b>
Action Taken in Another State or Jurisdiction	920
Addendum to Board Actions	28
APRN Practice Issues	107
APRN Lapses (certification, licensure, CTP)	16
APRN Prescribing	31
Boundaries	60
COA/CTP Applicant	101
Community Health Worker Applicant	25
Confidentiality	36
Criminal	371
Default/Child Support	2
Dialysis Applicant	109
Drugs/Alcohol	787
Endorsement Applicant	490
Fraud (Theft)	159
Fraud (Medicare/Medicaid)	23
Imposter/Never Licensed	37
Invalid License (lapsed/inactive)	38
Medication Aide Applicant	13
Multiple Allegations	508
NCLEX Test Applicant	1,330
Non-compliance with Board Actions	430
Patient Abuse	69
Practice	708
Physical Impairment	0
Psychiatric Impairment	8
Renewal Applicant	664
Reinstatement Applicant	247
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,317</b>

## **Board Discipline, Alternative Programs, and Monitoring**

While the overwhelming majority of Ohio nurses practice with high standards, the actions or deficient practice of some have the potential to compromise patient safety and the public's confidence in the profession.

The Board provided the Alternative Program For Chemical Dependency/Substance Use Disorders and the Practice Intervention and Improvement Program, confidential programs offered to licensees in lieu of disciplinary action.

<b>Board Actions</b>	
Board Order	362
Permanent Surrender	41
Default Order	37
Consent Agreement	597
Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing	328
Immediate Suspension	95
Temporary Suspension	0
Summary Suspension	7
Automatic Suspension	134
Suspension Without Stay	455
Stayed Suspension (Probation)	342
Permanent Revocation/Denial	80
Reprimand with requirements	187
Permanent Withdrawal of Application	1
Non-Permanent Withdrawal of Application	4
Voluntary Retirement	26

## Monitoring Compliance

The Board provided monitoring and oversight to assure licensees fulfilled the terms and conditions of their disciplinary agreements, Board Orders, or Participant Agreements for the Alternative Program for Chemical Dependency/Substance Use Disorders and the Practice Intervention and Improvement Program.

Cases	Number
Active cases	1,482
Inactive cases <sup>2</sup>	3,461
Monitoring ceased – issued Automatic Suspension and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing	131
Monitoring ceased – released from the terms and conditions of their Board Order/Consent Agreement	173
Completion of Reprimand requirements	132

## **Regulatory Clarity and a Common Sense Approach**

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**Strategic Initiative:** Address pertinent nursing regulatory issues and requirements for licensees and certificate holders and provide greater clarity about the requirements to those regulated by the Board and to the general public.

### **Nursing Practice**

- Responded to an average of 336 questions per month to provide guidance regarding the application of the Nurse Practice Act and administrative rules.
- Discussed nursing practice and education issues by attending Ohio Organization of Nurse Executive (OONE) and Ohio Hospital Association meetings.
- Published practice articles in *Momentum*, developed FAQs and Interpretive Guidelines for practice guidance, and FAQs about continuing education requirements.
- Convened the Advisory Group on Dialysis; the Committee on Prescriptive Governance; and the Advisory Committee on Advanced Practice Registered Nursing.
- Submitted data about nursing practice breakdown to a national patient safety database.

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<sup>2</sup> Cases on inactive monitoring status generally involve suspended licenses or certificates. The case is assigned to “active” monitoring status upon an individual’s request for reinstatement and/or entry into a post-suspension consent agreement.

## Legislation

- The Board monitored proposed legislation that could impact the practice of nursing and Board operations. Bills of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Ohio General Assembly related to the Board that became effective in fiscal year 2018 include:
  - Am Sub HB 49: Budget  
Most Sections of Am Sub HB 49 became effective September 29, 2017. The Act authorized the provision of nursing care at a free camp accredited by the SeriousFun Children's Network for individuals with chronic diseases, upon meeting specified conditions; authorized LPN applicants who successfully complete an education program approved by the US Air Force to be licensed; specified that beginning January 21, 2018, the Nursing Board's Executive Director is no longer required to be an Ohio licensed RN with at least five years of practice experience as a RN; and authorized APRNs to provide medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders.
  - Am Sub HB 111: APRN-Mental Health  
Am Sub HB 111 was signed by the Governor on June 29, 2018. Certain Sections pertaining to APRN licensure became effective immediately, with the majority of the bill becoming law on September 2, 2018. The bill authorized APRNs to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination; modified APRN standard care arrangement requirements; clarified APRN license application requirements; and authorized certain APRNs to be licensed based on prior certification.

## Administrative Rules

- The Board amended Rule 4723-9-10, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), effective August 31, 2017. The rule amendments generally limit initial opioid analgesic prescriptions for the treatment of acute pain to five days for minors and seven days for adults. The rule also includes a 30MED average daily dose limit over those periods.
- The Board timely completed its five-year review of applicable administrative rules as required by Section 119.032, ORC. These rules became effective on January 1, 2018 and included the following:
  - Chapters 4723-1, Board Organization and Records; 4723-3 Definitions; and 4723-14, Continuing Education.
- Individual rules not slated for five-year review were amended to comply with recent legislative changes or for technical or non-substantive reasons. Individual rules became effective on January 1, 2018 within Chapters related to Licensing for Active Duty Military and Veterans; Examination and Licensure; Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Certification and Practice; Prescriptive Authority; and Dialysis Technicians.

## Communication and Collaboration

- Used multiple venues, such as *Momentum*, a quarterly news magazine, electronic (internet-based) news updates, Board website, Twitter, and Facebook to inform the public and interested parties about the Board's disciplinary actions, proposals for rule making, practice guidance, new regulatory requirements, statewide initiatives, and Board activities and processes.
- Provided over 1,232 records to the public in response to public records requests, with over 98% provided in three business days.
- Updated the Board website and maintained the Ohio Center for Nursing website, in conjunction with the Ohio Network for Nursing Workforce.
- Presented regulatory updates at stakeholder meetings such as the Ohio Council of Associate Degree Nursing Education Administrators, the Ohio Council of Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nursing Programs, and the Ohio Organization of Practical Nurse Educators.
- Continued collaboration with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN): participated in conference calls/meetings for Discipline, Education, Practice, Executive Officers, Policy; attended meetings and conferences; were members of NCSBN Committees such as the Institute of Regulatory Excellence, NCLEX Examination Committee, Marijuana Regulatory Guidelines Committee, and Active Supervision Committee; attended NCSBN Board of Nursing Investigator Training; participated in the Reentry into Nursing Licensure Focus Group; became one of 10 states participating in the Discipline Efficiency Project. Board President Patricia Sharpnack completed a NCSBN sponsored Health Policy and Media Engagement program, The George Washington University, School of Nursing.

**APPENDIX A - Board Member Roster  
(Members for All or Part of Fiscal Year 2018)**

Name/Position	City	End of Term
Patricia Sharpnack, DNP, RN, President Chair, Advisory Group on Nursing Education	Chardon	2021
Brenda Boggs, LPN, Vice President	Germantown	2019
Sandra Ranck, RN Supervising Member for Disciplinary Matters	Ashtabula	2018
Sandra L Beidelschies, RN	Upper Sandusky	2021
Matthew Carle, JD, Consumer Member	Blacklick	2019
Barbara Douglas, RN, APRN-CRNA Chair, Dialysis Advisory Group	Chardon	2020
Nancy Fellows, RN	Willoughby Hills	2020
Erin Keels, RN, APRN-CNP Chair, APRN Advisory Committee	Columbus	2018
Lisa Klenke, RN	Coldwater	2019
Deborah A. Knueve, LPN	Columbus Grove	2021
Lauralee Krabill, RN Chair, Continuing Education Advisory Group	Sandusky	2021
Daniel Lehmann, LPN	Dayton	2021
Joanna Ridgeway, LPN	Hilliard	2018
Janet Arwood, LPN	Hilliard	Served part of FY 2018
Maryam Lyon, RN	Sidney	Served part of FY 2018
Jane McFee, LPN	Perrysburg	Served part of FY 2018

**APPENDIX B - Fiscal Report**

<b>FY 2018 Appropriations</b>	
Operational Budget (4K90)	\$ 8,909,895
Special Issues (5P80)	\$ 2,000
Nurse Education Grant (5AC0)	\$ 1,518,500
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$10,430,395</b>

<b>FY 2018 Revenue</b>	
Income from Fees	\$18,169,485
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$18,169,485</b>

<b>FY 2018 Expenditures</b>	
<b>Payroll &amp; Personal Services</b>	
Payroll	\$6,716,288
Personal Services	\$112,697
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,828,985</b>

<b>Maintenance</b>	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,393,365</b>

<b>Equipment</b>	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$29,009</b>

<b>Refunds</b>	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$837</b>

<b>Operational Costs Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,252,196</b>
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<b>Special Issues Fund</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500</b>

<b>NEGP Fund</b>	
Actual Disbursed	\$1,513,500
Administrative Expenses	\$4,981
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,518,481</b>