

## Inaugural Issue of Nursing Forward

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the inaugural issue of *Nursing Forward*, the new regulatory newsletter for the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing. I began my appointment to the Board of Nursing in June of 2008. When I began my first term with the Board, the focus was assisting with the high numbers of disciplinary cases, researching and responding to practice questions and working with the department's Impaired Professional Program. In December of 2011, I was elected Chair and since then the Board has undergone significant changes. Last year we collectively developed the Board of Nursing's mission, vision and values and recently adopted a Board seal. We formed a legislative committee to research and address the needed changes and updates to 441 and the subsequent rules. The goal of the legislative committee is to modernize the nurse practice act and rules to be more in alignment with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Model Nurse Practice act. We continue to provide approval to new schools of nursing as well as provide regulatory oversight to over 40 schools of nursing within the State. We continue to work with the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to modernize approaches to discipline and most recently, the Board began piloting a regulatory decision tree to assist Board Members with disciplinary action decisions. We are also aggressively examining practice issues and are critically examining position papers to ensure compliance with statutes and rules.

The Board works with DSPS as we attempt to engage in the critical task of regulatory excellence for over 80,000 nurses in the State. We are a volunteer Board and are often challenged with the limited resources to meet the demands of our role. We are fortunate to have such dedicated, hardworking members.

There are significant changes in healthcare delivery systems, health care, nursing, and nursing education nationwide. As we look to the future, we will strive to move Nursing Forward.

Julia Nelson, RN

Chair, Wisconsin State Board of Nursing