



NEWSLETTER

Executive Director

Jenny Barnhouse, DNP, RN

Governor

J. Kevin Stitt

Mission statement of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing:
Public Protection Through Nursing Regulation

January 2026

Welcome to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing (OBN) Newsletter. The newsletter is a helpful way to stay informed about the Board of Nursing and information related to your nursing license and professional certification. To learn more about the general functions of the Board, see the [About](#) section on the OBN website

About the Oklahoma Board of Nursing

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing consists of eleven (11) members: six members are Registered Nurses, three members are Licensed Practical Nurses, and two members represent the public.

Board Member Nominations and Appointment - How to Apply



59 O.S. § 567.4. The Governor shall appoint the Registered Nurse Board members from a list of names submitted by the Oklahoma Nurses Association and Oklahoma chapters of nationally recognized Registered Nurse organizations. The Governor shall appoint the Licensed Practical Nurse Board members from a list of names submitted by the Oklahoma chapters of nationally recognized nursing organizations.

Board Members are required to meet specific criteria as outlined in the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act (ONPA).

[Access the ONPA](#)

Current Board Members and Terms

President

Nikole Hicks, PhD, RN, CNE
Term: 2021-2026

Vice-President

Shawn Stachovic, LPN
Term: 2022-2026

Secretary/Treasurer

Callie Rinehart, MSN, RN, CPN
Term: 2022-2027

Melissa Alvillar, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, RNC-OB, CRCST
Term: 2025-2030

Carol Kennedy, MSN, APRN-CNP, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC
Term: 2025-2026

Paul Curtis Baker, PhD, RN
Term: 2024-2028

Cynthia Leathers, MBA-HCM, BSN, RN
Term: 2024-2029

Mary "Beth" Bierig, LPN
Term: 2025-2027

Rachel Plunkett, AS, LPN
Term: 2024-2028

Melissa Bird, MBA
Public Member
Term: 2025-2027

Vacant
Public Member

Review/Revision of Board Policies, Guidelines, Position Statements and Declaratory Rulings

July 2025 Board Meeting with documents available on the OBN website:

[Preceptor Policy for Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses renamed to Clinical Supervision Policy for Nursing Education Programs](#)

[Special Reports from Nursing Education Programs to the Board Guidelines](#)

[Issuance of Temporary Licenses for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses by Endorsement into Oklahoma](#)

[Refresher Course Policy](#)

September/October 2025 Board Meeting with documents available on the OBN website:

[Exclusionary Formulary for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with Prescriptive Authority](#)

[Decision-Making Model for Scope of Nursing Practice Decisions: Determining Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Scope of Practice Guidelines](#) (reviewed without revisions)

[Advanced Practice Registered Nurse \(APRN\) Certification Examinations No Longer Approved by The Oklahoma Board of Nursing for Initial Licensure](#) (reviewed without revisions)

[Advanced Practice Registered Nurse \(APRN\) Certification Examinations Approved by The Oklahoma Board of Nursing for Initial Licensure](#)

November 2025 Board Meeting with documents available on the OBN website:

[Simulated Patient Care Experience \(SPCE\) for Registered and Practical Nursing Education Programs Guidelines](#) (reviewed and remanded back to committee)

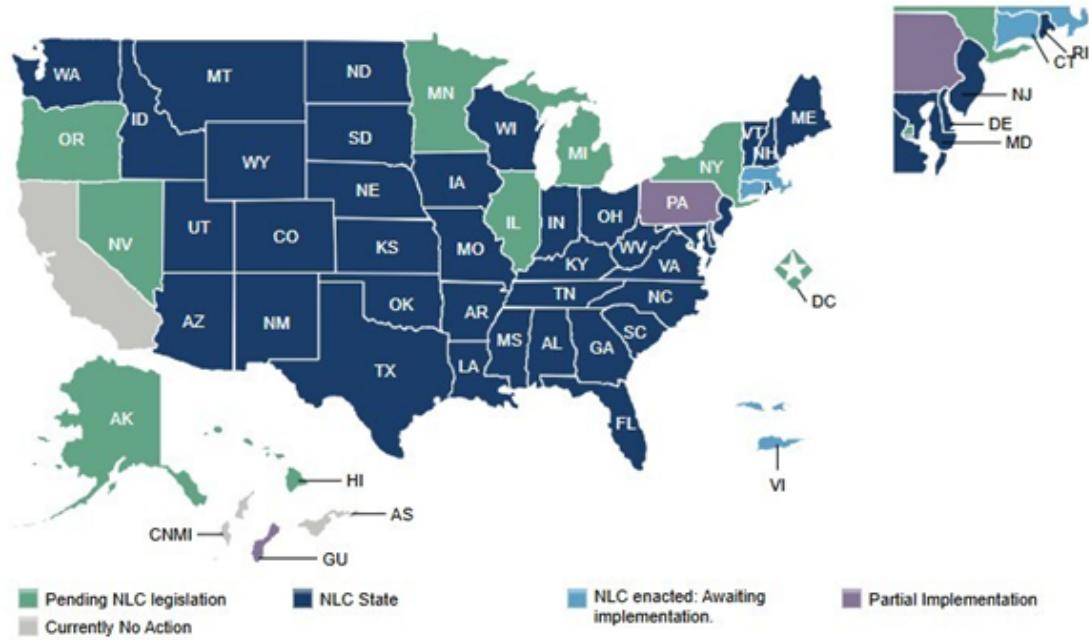
Efficiency Highlight



In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, the Board staff processed 49,854 licensure applications with an average number of days to process completed applications of 1 day or less!

To see more information about the work of the agency, important statistical data and other reports, please visit the [Agency Data and Reports](#) page on the OBN website.

Reminder: NLC 60-Day Rule for Multistate Licensees: Relocation and Primary State of Residence



The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (ICNLCA) adopted a Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) rule pertaining to the requirement of nurses when relocating and therefore, changing primary state of residence (PSOR).

Rule 402(2): A multistate licensee who changes primary state of residence to another party state shall apply for a multistate license in the new party state within 60 days (effective January 2, 2024).

To access the full NLC rule text, click the button below

Access NLC Rules

Seeking Peer Assistance Program Committee (PAC) Member

Assist the Board in protecting the public while supporting safe recovery and return-to-practice for nurses across Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing's Peer Assistance Program provides a structured, voluntary pathway to support nurses whose ability to practice safely may be compromised due to substance use. The Program balances public protection with recovery support and return to safe nursing practice, as authorized by 59 O.S. § 567.17(A).



A critical component of the Peer Assistance Program is the Peer Assistance Committee (PAC). The Program relies on dedicated volunteer committee members appointed by the Board of Nursing to serve three-year terms.

PAC members contribute approximately seven (7) days per year, with all meetings and case reviews conducted virtually, eliminating travel requirements. Committee responsibilities include reviewing applications for program entry, establishing participation terms, monitoring compliance and progress, and determining successful completion or termination from the Program when appropriate.

Licensed nurses and other qualified licensed professionals with experience in substance use disorders are encouraged to apply.

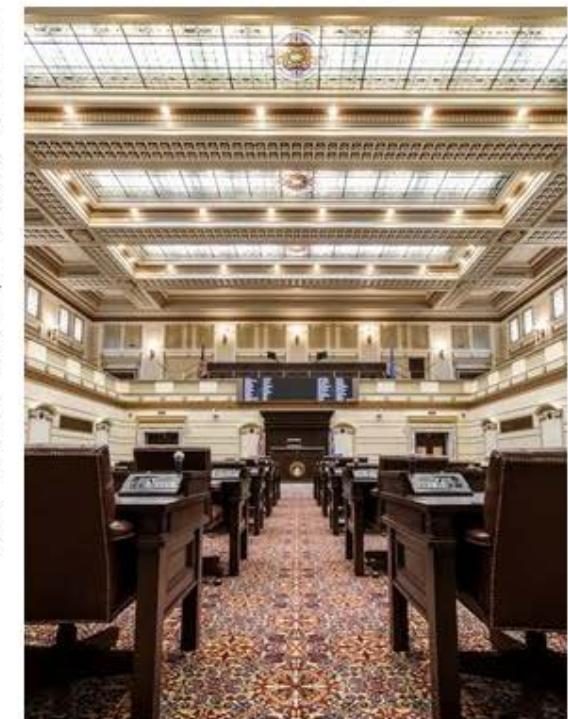


If you are interested in being considered for appointment to the Peer Assistance Committee, please contact:

Melissa Monroe, DNP, RN
Peer Assistance Program Coordinator
405.962.1818 melissa.monroe@nursing.ok.gov

Independent Prescriptive Authority for the APRN-CNS, APRN-CNP, APRN-CNM

With the passage of House Bill (HB) 2298, which became effective Saturday, November 1, 2025, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses meeting the requirements enumerated in the bill are eligible to apply for independent prescriptive authority recognition. Following approval of emergency rules by the governor, with an effective date of November 1, 2025, OBN began accepting applications for independent prescriptive authority at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, November 3, 2025. If you currently have prescriptive authority recognition, you **must** maintain a supervising physician until you have applied for and been granted independent prescriptive authority.



In addition, **all** APRNs are encouraged to review the requirements imposed by HB 2298 and the resulting amendments to the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, 59 O.S. § 567.1, *et seq.*, to ensure their continued compliance with the legal requirements of the Act. New requirements created by HB 2298 include those governing independent prescriptive authority and malpractice insurance, among others. If you have questions about the legal requirements imposed by HB 2298, please consult with legal counsel and your employer to ensure your continued compliance.

For more information regarding the application process, please click the button below to access the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which contains a link to the application instructions, the bill text, and other information.

[More Information](#)

Practice Resources

Did you know the Oklahoma Board of Nursing offers many resources online to provide guidance for your nursing practice questions? Along the top of each page on the OBN website, there is a header menu providing links for navigation, as well as the tiled menu under Online Resources from the main landing page.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing website. It includes a gear icon, a search bar with a magnifying glass icon, and links for "Translate" and "State Agencies". The main navigation menu includes "About", "Nursing Practice Act", "Rules Title 485.", "Complaints", "Nurse Portal", "Publications", "Opioids", and "More". Below this, a secondary navigation bar shows "About", "Nursing Practice Act", and "Rules Title 485." with the "Nursing Practice Act" link circled in red.

As a Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, you are ultimately responsible for determining your personal and legal scope of practice in compliance with the **Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act (ONPA)** and **Oklahoma Board of Nursing Rules (O.A.C. Title 485.)**. The best way to make sure you are practicing within your scope is to be familiar with these documents. Both are available at no charge when accessed from the Board's website. Access the ONPA and Rules via the header menu (pictured) and also from the buttons below.

[Access the ONPA](#)

[Access the Rules](#)

In addition, there is a significant amount of topic-specific Board-approved practice guidance available on the website under the *Guidelines and Position Statements* menu tile (pictured at right). One of the most frequently referenced documents under this section is the **Decision-Making Model for Scope of Nursing Practice Decisions: Determining Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Scope of Practice Guidelines**. The seven-step decision-making model is for use in determining whether an activity is within a nurse's personal scope of practice. Formal nursing practice opinions issued by the Board are listed in Addendum A of this guideline.



[View the Decision-Making Model](#)



Under the Practice/Advanced Practice menu tile (pictured left), resources are available including practice policies and guidelines, application instructions and forms, and valuable prescribing information. Effective January 1, 2016, APRNs shall have completed an accredited graduate level advanced practice registered nurse education program in at least one of the following population foci: family/individual across the lifespan, adult gerontology (acute and/or primary), neonatal, pediatrics (acute and/or primary), women's health/gender related, or psychiatric/mental health. APRNs are responsible to ensure they practice within their role title (APRN-CNP, APRN-CNS, APRN-CNM) and population foci.

If you still have practice-related questions after reviewing resources available on our website, reach out to Mike Starchman, RN, CPA, Deputy Executive Director, at: michael.starchman@nursing.ok.gov

NOTICE: Board staff can provide guidance and help you locate resources but do not provide legal advice about specific practice issues.

New APRN Certification Exam

At its September 2025 meeting, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing approved an additional Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) certification examination as acceptable by the Board for initial licensure as an APRN. The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP-C) certification examination, developed and administered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB), was added to the Board's list of approved certification examinations. This latest addition, which brings the total number of approved certification exams to eighteen, will add an additional pathway for APRN licensure and increase access to mental healthcare for Oklahomans.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Certification Examinations Approved by The Oklahoma Board of Nursing for Initial Licensure is available via the button below. The document also provides those APRN Certification Examinations no longer approved by OBN for initial licensure.

[APRN Certification Examinations](#)

Notification of License Expiration

The National Council of State Board of Nursing offers Nursys e-Notify, a **FREE**, convenient way for nurses to receive license expiration reminders and status updates on their licenses. License renewal is completed through the Nurse Portal. View this webpage for complete instructions: [Renewal for Current Oklahoma Active Licensees: LPN, RN, APRN and AUA Certificate Holders](#)

Practicing nursing without an active license is a violation of the Nursing Practice Act and Rules. As a reminder, OK license renewals and Prescriptive Authority for APRNs occur every two years. Nurses can renew their license in the Nurse Portal up to 90 days before the expiration date of the license. LPN licenses expire the last day of the month in the birth month of odd years; RN and APRN licenses, and Prescriptive Authority recognition, expires the last day of the month in the birth month of even years.

Click the button below to sign up and enable automated license notifications and status updates for LPNs, RNs, and APRNs from participating Boards of Nursing.

[Nursys e-Notify Sign Up](#)

APRN Preceptorship Tax Credit Info

HB 3351 was passed by the Oklahoma Legislature in 2024 creating a tax credit for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) who serve as preceptors for APRN students. The new law allows qualified APRNs to claim a credit of \$165 each for up to three preceptorship rotations and \$340 each for up to seven subsequent rotations. The tax credit is funded by \$4 allocated from every annual APRN licensure fee collected by the Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing has not increased licensure fees as of this point in time. To apply for the tax credit, please contact the Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Training Commission at (405) 604-0020 or visit their website for more information.

[OK Health Care Workforce Training Commission Website](#)

Timely Submission of Name and Address Changes



- Pursuant to O.A.C. 485:10-7-9, all licensed RNs and all licensed LPNs are to notify this Board of a name/address change within 30 days of the change.
- Pursuant to O.A.C. 485:10-10-11, all certified AUAs are to notify this Board of a name/address change within 30 days of the change.
- Pursuant to O.A.C. 485:10-15-10, all licensed APRNs are to notify this Board of a name/address change within 30 days of the change.
- **Address changes** are to be submitted through the Manage Profile/Demographics section of the Nurse Portal account.
- **Name changes** are to be submitted through the Other Applications link of the Nurse Portal account.
- **Email address changes** are to be submitted through the Manage Profile link of the Nurse Portal account.

This publication is issued by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing as authorized by the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act [59 O.S. § 567.1, et seq.] and is located at the following website: <https://oklahoma.gov/nursing/publications/newsletters.html>

This publication has been submitted in compliance with Section 3-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes.