

**MINT Meeting  
July 22, 2002**

**Present:**

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Barbara Derwinski-Robinson	MSU-Bozeman, Billings Campus	
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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:10.

**Introductions:** Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

**Review of Minutes:** Corrections to the list of attendees, and several acronyms were spelled out for clarification in the minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Barbara Swehla announced Karen Pollington is the new RN representative for the Board of Nursing.

**Morning Session:**

*Presentations:* Chere Allan gave a presentation on innovative ways to deal with the nursing crisis, looking at the regional float pool registry (provided as a handout), reentry programs, and cooperative purchasing programs.

Barbara Swehla stated when taking refresher courses, the nurse has a license, but the individual is responsible for his/her own competency.

There was a discussion about refresher courses offered in other states (North and South Dakota), which also require an actual license. Kathleen Wankel provided copies of the courses offered online.

After discussing the need for refresher courses, Lea Acord mentioned a survey developed by Bobby Derwinski-Robinson that might help determine the need for such courses. Several questions were asked when considering the development of a refresher/retraining course:

1. Who will teach the courses?
2. Will contracts be established with teachers/universities?
3. Will credits be offered for FTE for the university/college offering the course or providing the teacher who is contracted to teach the course? How will people get the credit and FTE?
4. Will there be partnerships with the hospitals?
5. Who would benefit from a refresher/reentry program?
6. One program for those out of nursing 3-4 years and another for those out 20 years or wanting a change in practice setting?
7. What is the difference between a reentry and refresher course?
8. How will various reentry/refresher courses meet the needs of the various stakeholders (i.e. critical care, LTC, public health) via the curriculum offered?
9. Would we utilize the Colleague in Caring site in Connecticut for refresher course information?

***Cooperative Purchasing Program:*** Through the MHA, they would take over the contract responsibilities for the hospitals in Montana. By taking the contracting issues away from the individual hospitals, all hospitals would be charged the same rates. There would be internal audits by the MHA, of the contracting agencies in order to meet JCAHO compliance. Audrey Conner Rosberg will share this information with the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

***Float pool registry:*** This would give the Montana licensed nurses an opportunity to be utilized. The reentry program could help feed the float pool.

Chere will give an update on her project at the August MINT meeting.

## **Reports:**

***Internships for nursing students:*** Kathy Wankel brought up a Vermont nursing internship project looking at new graduate internships, and training of preceptors. Barbara Swehla stated there are internships to bridge the gap between education and practice and internships to supplement education (summer jobs).

There are a lot of questions remaining as to differences in the scope of nursing practice between the states and what students are allowed to perform. There are also many questions about the liability issues.

The meeting broke for lunch from 12:15 – 1:15.

### **Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU):**

Lea Acord informed the members OHSU is developing a statewide articulation program similar to MINT. She suggested having a representative from OHSU come to Montana to discuss the program; their driving force is how to deal with the nursing shortage. Oregon is working on a final draft proposal. Once things are finalized, Lea will get a copy to share with everyone for feedback.

### **Report from Deans and Directors after discussion with Joyce Scott**

Joyce Scott asked that it be made very clear what the requirements were for the various nursing programs so students can articulate smoothly an “informed consent.” It also needs to be clarified what the differences are between the LPN and RN education requirements. Most of the consumers do not know the differences.

Trish Goudie stated our first responsibility is to the citizens. There are nursing slots, but we cannot compromise quality of education for numbers of graduates.

Margaret Wafstet emphasized that MINT has not successfully shared with the public its accomplishments. Kathleen Wankel and Audrey Conner Rosberg are working on a publication about MINT and asked for ideas for the cover drawing, emblem and preamble. They are also looking for ideas from the subcommittees.

### **Loan repayment and tuition refunds:**

Barbara Swehla stated a large number of Montana students utilize the program.

### **Report from data subcommittee:**

Lea Acord discussed the progress of the white paper and the survey of nursing students. Margaret Wafstet suggested using an abstract of the white paper in the MINT publicity.

### **Report on draft survey going out with licensure process**

Barbara Derwinski-Robinson distributed a draft of the nurse workforce survey for review. The survey covers LPNs and RNs in Montana. Barbara is looking for input to help clarify terms in the draft and refine the questions to attain usable information. It is her goal to reduce the survey to one page.

**Strategic planning:**

The group discussed sustainability of MINT funding when the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant ends in December 2002. The overall feeling was to continue as MINT and use the last three meetings to look into the future of nursing.

**Next meeting:**

Many members will not be able to attend the next meeting on August 13, 2002; therefore, the meeting was cancelled. Margaret Wafstet discussed having Mary Rapson speak at the September meeting via conference call.

Some of the agenda items for the September meeting are:

1. articulation
2. publicity
3. internships
4. survey
5. Oregon collaboration
6. task force overview

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.