**Report of the Meeting**

**National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)**

**February 27, 2020**



#  /s/ Arthur E. Keiser, Ph.D., Chair

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**DISCLAIMER**

This report summarizes the deliberations of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) at its February 27, 2020 meeting. The NACIQI is an advisory committee established by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 and is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This report represents the views of the NACIQI. The report has not been reviewed for approval by the Department of Education, and therefore, the report’s recommendations do not purport to represent the views of the Department.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NACIQI was most recently authorized by Section 106 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. NACIQI’s primary functions include advising the Secretary of Education on the establishment and enforcement of criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies under Subpart 2 of Part H, Title IV, of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), as well as the recognition of specific accrediting agencies or associations or a specific State approval agency. The NACIQI also advises the Secretary on the eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education under Title IV, of the HEA, including the relationship between accreditation of institutions of higher education and the certification and eligibility of such institutions, and state licensing responsibilities with respect to such institutions.

NACIQI met on February 27, 2020 at the Embassy Suites-Old Town Alexandria, 1900 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, VA to carry out its responsibilities to advise the senior Department official with respect to the recognition of accrediting agencies.

NACIQI reviewed the following types of applications at its February 27, 2020 meeting:

* Four applications for renewal of recognition from accrediting agencies;
* One compliance report from an accrediting agency;
* One initial application for recognition from an accrediting agency; and
* One request for an expansion of scope from an accrediting agency.

NACIQI reviews all information submitted by an agency in support of its petition, the staff analysis and report, and third-party comments.

Chairman Arthur Keiser opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee (including those newly appointed by the Secretary) and members of the public.

Diane Auer Jones, Principal Deputy Under Secretary Delegated the Duties to Perform the Duties of Under Secretary, updated the Committee regarding the Department’s accreditation rules that will take effect July 1, 2020.

The Subcommittee on Governance and Political Influence, chaired by Richard F. O’Donnell, tabled its scheduled report until the Fall 2020 meeting.

The Acting Executive Director of NACIQI and Designated Federal Official, George Alan Smith, facilitated elections for the Committee Chair and Vice Chair. Arthur Keiser was re-elected as Chair and Claude O. Pressnell, Jr. was elected as Vice Chair.

NACIQI members in attendance for all or part of the meeting included Arthur Keiser (Chair), Kathleen Sullivan Alioto, Ronnie L. Booth, Wallace E. Boston, Amanda Delekta, Jill Derby, David E. Eubanks, Paul J. Leblanc, D. Michael Lindsay, Richard F. O’Donnell, Mary Ellen Petrisko, Claude O. Pressnell, Jr., Steven VanAusdle, and Ralph Wolff.

U.S. Department of Education representatives who participated in the meeting included: NACIQI Acting Executive Director and Designated Federal Official George Alan Smith; Accreditation Director Herman Bounds; Office of the General Counsel staff members Angela Sierra and Donna Mangold; and accreditation staff members Elizabeth Daggett, Nicole S. Harris, Charity Helton, Jass Holt, Valerie Lefor, Stephanie McKissic, Karmon Simms-Coates, and Michael Stein.

# SUMMARY OF AGENCY-RELATED ACTIONS

(\*In alphabetical order.)

The following agencies were acted on under NACIQI’s consent agenda:

**Compliance Report | Accrediting Agency**

**Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (ODCTE)**

Action for Consideration: Compliance report Recommendation: Vote: 13-0

Renew the agency’s recognition for four years.

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Kathleen Sullivan Alioto
* Richard F. O’Donnell

# Renewal of Recognition | Accrediting Agencies

**Kansas State Board of Nursing**

Action for Consideration: Renewal of recognition Recommendation: Vote: 13-0

Renew the agency’s recognition for four years.

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Kathleen Sullivan Alioto
* Brian W. Jones

**Pennsylvania State Board of Career and Technical Education**

Action for Consideration: Renewal of recognition Recommendation: Vote: 13-0

Renew the agency’s recognition for four years.

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Brian W. Jones
* Ralph Wolff

The following agencies were acted on using NACIQI’s standard review procedures:

# Initial Recognition | Accrediting Agency

# National Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Training Consortium

Action for Consideration: Initial recognition Recommendation: Vote: 13-0

Grant the agency initial recognition for a period of five years.

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Jill Derby
* Claude O. Pressnell, Jr.

Representatives of the Agency:

* Kerry Bamrick, MBA, NNPRFTC Executive Director
* Lucien Capone III, J.D., Accreditation Consultant
* Margaret Flinter, Ph.D., Chair, NNPRFTC Board of Directors
* DoQuyen Huynh, DNP, Chair, NNPRFTC Accreditation Commission
* Mark Masselli, President and CEO, Community Health Center Inc.

 Third Party Comment:

1. Craig Kennedy, President and CEO, Medicaid Health Plans of America

# Expansion of Scope | Accrediting Agency

# Association for Biblical Higher Education, Commission on Accreditation

Action for Consideration: Expansion of scope

Recommendation: Vote: 13-0

Recommend approval of the agency's request for an expansion of scope to include the accreditation of graduate certificates, and master’s degrees. Continue the agency's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time and require the agency to come into compliance within 12 months with the criterion listed below and submit a compliance report due 30 days thereafter that demonstrates the agency's compliance.

**[602.15(a)(2)]--**The agency does not meet the requirements of this section of the criteria. The agency must provide documentation demonstrating the training of all appeal panel members, a decision making body of the agency, on distance education pursuant to the criteria which requires competent and knowledgeable individuals, qualified by education and experience in their own right and trained by the agency on their responsibilities, as appropriate for their roles, regarding the agency's standards, policies, and procedures, to conduct its on-site evaluations, apply or establish its policies, and make its accrediting and pre-accrediting decisions, including, if applicable to the agency's scope, their responsibilities regarding distance education and correspondence education.

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Claude O. Pressnell, Jr.
* Ralph Wolff

# Representatives of the Agency:

* Kevin Hester, Ph.D., Chair
* Ronald Kroll, Ed.D., Director
* Shane Wood, Ph.D., Associate Director

# Renewal of Recognition | Accrediting Agencies

**Maryland Board of Nursing**

Action for Consideration: Renewal of recognition NACIQI Recommendation: Vote: 12-1

Continue the Maryland Board of Nursing's (agency) recognition as a state approval agency for nurse education at this time, and require the agency to come into compliance within 12 months with the criteria listed below, and submit a compliance report due 30 days thereafter that demonstrates the agency's compliance.

**[3a.]--**The agency does not meet the requirements of the criteria. The agency must provide the Practice and Education Committee report (described in Criteria 2) for the decision letter provided as evidence to demonstrate the application of its full review of the approval process.

**[3d.]--**The agency does not meet the requirements of the criteria. The agency must provide evidence of the execution of the provided action plan; application and review of the Maryland Board of Nursing’s newly created standard/regulation/policy regarding the enforcement of a school’s ethical practices, including recruitment and advertising by providing it as evidence; a completed self-study, pursuant to the newly created COMAR regulations/guidelines; a survey report; Practice and Education Committee report; and the Board decision letter from the same institution to demonstrate this enforcement.

**[3g.]--**The agency does not meet the requirements of the criteria. The agency must provide the corrective action plan formulated to address the delinquencies in completing the required site visits within the required 5-year period to demonstrate compliance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requirements. The agency must also provide evidence of the execution of the action plan. Further, the agency needs to clarify the discrepancies surrounding the number of approved nursing education programs identified by the agency within the petition responses to the Department and the actual number of approved nursing education programs documented by the screen shot of the agency website and site visit schedule provided as evidence. Lastly, the agency must demonstrate initial and periodic on-site inspections of each school of nursing it accredits/approves.

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Paul J. Leblanc
* Steven VanAusdle

Representatives of the Agency:

* Michael Conti, J.D., Maryland Office of the Attorney General
* Karen E.B. Evans, MSN, RN-BC, Executive Director
* Sheila Green, Ph.D.
* Patricia Kennedy, Ph.D.

# New York State Board of Regents, State Education Department, Office of the Professions (Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, Practical Nursing)

Action for Consideration: Renewal of recognition Committee Recommendation: Vote: 13-0

Continue the agency's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time and require the agency to come into compliance within 12 months with the criteria listed below and submit a compliance report due 30 days thereafter that demonstrates the agency's compliance.

**[603.24(b)(1)(i)]—**The state has not yet brought its advisory board into compliance with the compositional requirements of its by-laws and this criterion. The state’s solutions to having student involvement on the advisory board seems acceptable and in accord with the state criteria; however, the state must demonstrate through the application of its policy that it has reached compliance in this area.

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Paul J. Leblanc
* Richard F. O’Donnell

Representatives of the Agency:

* Renee Gecsedi, MS, RN, Associate in Nursing Education

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# ACCREDITATION RULES EFFECTIVE JULY 2020

Diane Auer Jones, Principal Deputy Under Secretary Delegated the Duties to Perform the Duties of the Under Secretary, addressed NACIQI and the public regarding the impending new Accreditation Rules that will take effect July 1, 2020.

Third Party Comment:

1) Bernard Fryshman, Executive Director, Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools

# SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE

The Subcommittee on Governance, chaired by Richard F. O’Donnell, tabled its scheduled report until the Fall 2020 meeting.

**ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The Acting Executive Director of NACIQI and Designated Federal Official, George Alan Smith, facilitated elections for the Committee Chair and Vice Chair. Arthur Keiser was re-elected as Chair and Claude O. Pressnell, Jr. was elected as Vice Chair.