



Public Hearing Comment: January 11, 2019

Washington State Nursing Quality Assurance Commission
Department of Health
Point Plaza East, Room 152/153
310 Israel Road SE
Tumwater, WA 98501

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to share our comments at this public hearing. The Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses shares the Commission's goal to promote excellent nursing care and protect the public's health and safety in the state of Washington.

We recognize the challenge to find qualified preceptors is profound. And while it does not require the use of preceptors in nursing education programs, we appreciate the Commission's role of establishing and enforcing minimum standards.

AAPPN actively encouraged its members to share their thoughts and concerns during the public comment period which ended January 2. Several members also shared their concerns with us.

All members who commented to AAPPN agreed about the pressing need to expand the pool of eligible preceptors. Reducing the minimum level of preceptor experience in the specialty from two years to at least one year sparked lively discussion.

Members recognized that the nursing education programs will fully vet potential preceptors and clinical sites, and will not accept preceptors if they do not meet the requirements for a given course. They acknowledged that someone relatively new out of a nursing education program with past psychiatric nursing or ARNP experience may be able to bring a quality preceptorship experience to a student. Many members voiced their concerns that for Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing, few practitioners with less than two years of experience in the specialty will meet the nursing education program's preceptor requirements.

The Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses is dedicated to promoting excellence in our community and is committed to encouraging our members to become preceptors. We look forward to working with the Commission, nursing education programs in the state of Washington, and our members to expand the pool of potential preceptors, especially in the field of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing.

Thank you.

The Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses