



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BOARD OF NURSING

MISSION

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth by regulating the practice of nursing through licensing of practitioners of nursing, establishing standards for educational programs preparing students for nursing practice, and prescribing penalties for violations of the provisions of the Nurse Practice Act.



The NMI Board of Nursing

The Northern Mariana Islands Board of Nursing (NMI BON), formerly as Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners, was created within the Department of Public Health and established for the purpose of regulating the practice of Nursing. Pursuant to public No. 18-25, was re-establish as an autonomous public agency. The Board is comprised of seven (7) board members, having at least one representative from each island (Saipan, Tinian and Rota) and representing all nursing professions and technicians, respectively.

The purpose of the NMI BON is to provide for the regulation of the practice of nursing affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by regulating the practice of nursing and defining its powers and duties, including licensure of practitioners of nursing, establishing standards for educational programs preparing students for nursing practice, and prescribing penalties for violations of the provisions of the Nurse Practice Act (NPA).

OUR GOALS

- 1. Protect the integrity of quality care by nursing professions.*
- 2. Regulate and enforce the adopted rules & regulation in accordance with the law.*
- 3. Continue to evaluate prelicensure nursing education requirement and monitor providers licensed under the NMI BON.*
- 4. Implement quality service and standard compliance.*
- 5. Open and consistent communication.*

Fiscal Year 2023
Citizen-Centric Report
Pursuant to PL 20-83

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GOVERNANCE

Board Members

Roca Q. Sablan, CNP/NM
Board Chairwoman
(APRN, Saipan Representative)

Evita A. Kawai, RN
Board Vice Chair
(RN, Saipan Representative /
Investigation Committee Chair)

Anna V. Diaz, CCHT
Board Secretary
(Certified Technician
Representative)

Rafaela O. Perry
Board Member
(Public Community Rep.)

Milescelyn R. Gurrero, RN
Board Member
(RN, Saipan Representative /
Education Committee Chair)

Shirley L. Villanueva, LPN
Board Member
(LPN, Rota Representative)

Irene Rose D. King, RN
Board Member
(RN, Tinian Representative)



PURPOSE: To provide for the regulation of the practice of nursing in health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by regulating the practice of nursing.

PERFORMANCE

LICENSE REPORT

In Fiscal Year 2023 ("FY 2023"), the NMI BON issued **1,839** licenses in the following profession, as regulated:

- Advance Practice Registered Nursing (APRN): 4
- Registered Nurse (RN): **1,784**
- Licensed Practical Nurse (PN/LPN): 5
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA): 36
- Graduate Nurse (GN): 7
- Hemodialysis Technician (HT): 3
- Surgical/Psychiatric Technician (ST/PT): 0



Training

During FY 2023, the NMI BON board members and staff attended a full day of professional development training. Given the high influx of application process and the great demands of customer service, the training was long overdue. Completing this training allowed the NMI BON employees to improve productivity, increase confidence in work performance, provide efficient customer service and understand the importance of building trust and team work.

As a regulatory agency with the authority to discipline, revoke and/or suspend a license, the NMI BON has taken initiative to undergo special investigation trainings in various settings. Majority of board members and staff have been certified through training and hold an investigator badge. The second tier of certification will take place in 2024.

Furthermore, Board members and staff have been attending weekly virtual training that is needed with the transition to the Optimal Regulatory Board System ("ORBS"). This commenced on April 26, 2023 and is expected to continue until November 10, 2023 with an additional two (2) weeks of support call. NMI BON staff were able to visit other jurisdiction for ORBS collaboration with regards to the investigation and report processing.

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Next Generation NCLEX (NGN)

The National Council of State Board of Nursing (NCSBN) launched the Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) on April 1st, 2023. The NGN is a new version of the NCLEX that is designed to assess clinical judgment in nursing candidates. It includes new and unique item types that measure whether further nurses can think critically about how to care for clients. NGN has introduced new scoring methods, including partial credit. Since the inception of the NGN, the NMI BON has seen a high influx of candidates that passed the NCLEX from April 1st to the end of this fiscal year. Within the past five (5) months only, the NMI BON data shows about 1,077 passed the NCLEX-RN.

OUR MISSION: To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by regulating the practice of nursing and practitioners.



FINANCES

The budget for FY 2023 is derived from the NMI BON application fees and renewals/reinstatements. The revenue and expenditures are shown in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

TABLE 1: REVENUE RESOURCES

1. Application Fee:	\$486,532.15
2. Renewal/Reinstatement:	\$346,538.00
TOTAL:	\$833,070.15

FY-2023: REVENUE

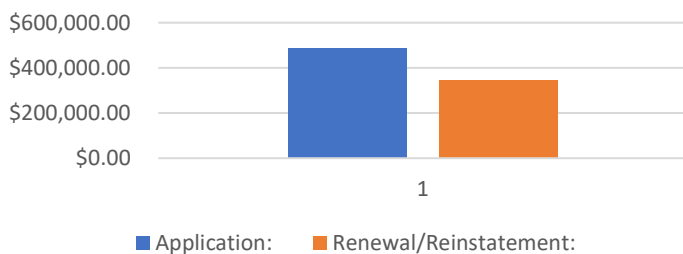


TABLE 2: EXPENDITURES

1. Salaries & Benefits:	\$167,260.96
2. Operational Expenses:	\$70,214.04
3. Travel:	\$132,870.98
4. Board Compensation:	\$1,1140.00
5. Donation:	\$23,500.00
6. Rent:	\$17,070.00
7. Utilities:	\$15,963.89
8. <u>Other – ORBS:</u>	<u>\$66,718.60</u>
TOTAL:	\$494,738.47

FY-2023: EXPENDITURE

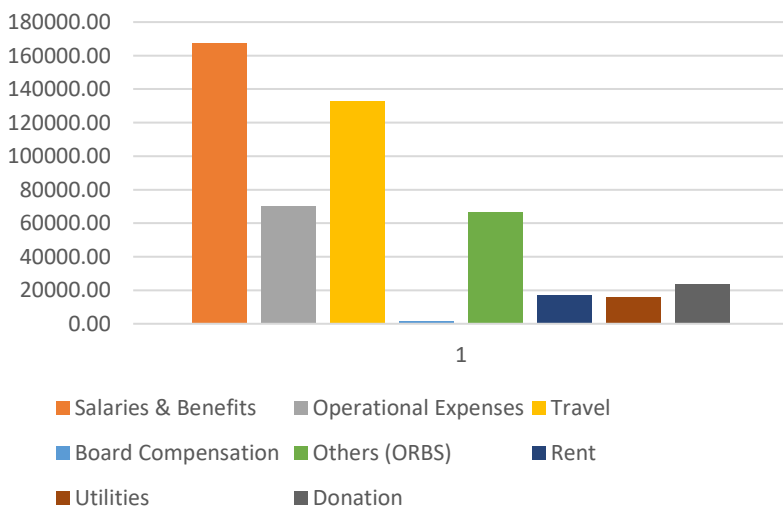


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During FY 2023, the rise of NCLEX applications due the Next Gen NCLEX and NCLEX score transfer applications illustrates a tremendous increase in the NMI BON's revenue as illustrated in Table 1. Thereby, having to employ four (4) additional staff to equalize the substantial amount of paper works.

As illustrated in Table 2, expenditures with the launching of ORBS includes the office renovation and extension, purchase of office equipment such as scanners to digitize all paper files and restructured computers and current software in accordance to the technical requirements and highspeed internet using direct fiber optic.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing ("NCSBN"), with its significant assistance to the NMI BON, hosted various trainings and conferences which allowed all state boards to attend. Membership with NCSBN allows all state boards to meet several times a year to discuss and adopt updated policies and standards of nursing practice. These meetings are vital to improve the quality of care in the nursing profession.



FUTURE OUTLOOK: The Board strives to ensure quality education of the nursing program in the Commonwealth and protect the integrity of quality care by nursing professions.



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FUTURE OUTLOOK

The NMI BON board members and staff are currently attending a weekly training with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (“NCSBN”) IT department. The Optimal Regulatory Board System (“ORBS”), which was initially supposed to go-live on October 30, 2023, is now moved to November 14, 2023. Thereafter, a support call of two weeks with NCSBN to ensure a smooth transition. This means that data of all licensed regulated professions entered in The Licensure Application (TLA) system is expected to be migrated on or by November 7, 2023. Thereafter, applicants will need to apply thru ORBS, either as a new applicant or renewal. Instructions and guide will be available to the public in our website. This is a significant milestone for the NMI BON as this will increase efficiency in filing system, improve productivity, provide accurate application report, speed up the approval process, ensure compliance and security, most especially applicants will be able to access the status of their application in the nurse portal. Absent the online payment process, a vendor has been contracted to provide services to accommodate potential applicants. This is expected to be available by the early spring of 2024.

In line with ORBS, the future of license verification will become even more accessible as all NMI BON licensed professions will be available to verify a license in real-time. In the past, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) were not made available for licensure verification under the NMI BON, but once the launch of this program, APRNs will soon have the option to verify license thru the online portal, Nursys, a national data base for nurse license verification, or the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), a web-based repository of reports and a confidential information clearinghouse created by the US congress.

Consequently, the NMI BON members are tediously working to update the Administrative Rules and Regulation to ensure safe and competent care is provided by practitioners who are accountable for their own practice. Changes are inevitable as healthcare is constantly evolving and changing with current times and technology.

As a regulatory body in the nursing professions, the NMI BON seeks to work closely, provide support and guidance to Guam Marianas Training Center (GMTC) and the Northern Marianas College Nursing Department (NMC). Both institutions offer the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program and both programs are Board approved. GMTC and NMC provides basic training and important skills such as assisting with patient personal care, tracking vital signs including blood pressure, temperature and pulse. With an increase number of CNA graduates during FY-2023, the NMI BON looks forward to more interested candidates from our local community.



NMI Board of Nursing

CEDA Bldg., suite 207
PO Box 501458
Saipan, MP 96950
(670)233-2263
www.nmibon.info