

(1) ~~CONVENE A CRISIS IN NURSING SUMMIT~~ A "CRISIS IN NURSING" SUMMIT TO RESPOND TO THE NURSING SHORTAGE IN THE STATE;

(2) ~~IN ADDITION TO THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED AND PRIORITIZED AS A RESULT OF THE SUMMIT CONVENE UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IN ADDITION TO THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED AND PRIORITIZED AS A RESULT OF THE SUMMIT CONVENE UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION,~~ DETERMINE THE CURRENT EXTENT AND LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE GROWING NURSING PERSONNEL SHORTAGE IN THE STATE, INCLUDING:

(I) AN EVALUATION OF MECHANISMS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE STATE AND ELSEWHERE INTENDED TO ENHANCE EDUCATION, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION OF NURSES IN THE WORKFORCE AND TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE;

(II) AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF SHORTAGES IN NURSING PERSONNEL ON ACCESS TO, AND THE DELIVERY OF, QUALITY PATIENT CARE;

(3) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON, AND FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF, STRATEGIES TO REVERSE THE GROWING SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED NURSING PERSONNEL IN THE STATE, INCLUDING:

(I) DETERMINING WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO EXISTING PROGRAMS, CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS, AND FUNDING MECHANISMS TO BETTER REFLECT AND ACCOMMODATE THE CHANGING HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ENVIRONMENT AND TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS;

(II) FACILITATING CAREER ADVANCEMENT WITHIN NURSING;

(III) IDENTIFYING MORE ACCURATELY SPECIFIC SHORTAGE AREAS IN A MORE TIMELY MANNER;

(IV) ATTRACTING MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INTO NURSING AS A CAREER; AND

(V) PROJECTING A MORE POSITIVE AND PROFESSIONAL IMAGE OF NURSING; AND

(4) SERVE AS AN ADVISOR TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

~~(E) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:~~

~~(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION, BUT~~

~~(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

~~(E)~~ ~~(F)~~ THE BOARD OF NURSING SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION.