

Quarterly Management Report

THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

FIRST QUARTER—FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

Division of Medical Quality Assurance Provides Online Application Process for Nursing Applicants

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) announces that nursing applicants who apply for licensure in Florida now have an improved online application to speed-up the process. MQA launched its new online nursing application on July 1st. MQA anticipates that this improvement coupled with the new criminal background fingerprint scanning program will reduce the amount of time it takes to process licensing applications. For example, nursing applicants who apply to sit for the licensing exam could be scheduled as quickly as two to three days.

MQA's fingerprint scanning program, implemented in November 2007, allows staff processing applications for professions requiring a background screen, such as nurses, to electronically submit scanned fingerprint cards to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal background screenings. This reduces the screening response time from six weeks to three days.

“Health care professional shortages impact health care access. We have a strategic objective to license health care professionals as expeditiously as we can while ensuring they meet legal requirements,” DOH MQA Division Director Lucy C. Gee, M.S. said. “These are critical steps in achieving that objective.”

Once applicants create an account in the Online Licensure Application using an email address and password, they will have up to a year to complete the application and pay the application fee. The online tool is dynamic and keeps the applicant informed of any deficiencies and the current status of their application. It can be used by the following applicants who wish to apply and pay using a credit or debit card:

- Nursing applicants applying to take the exam
- Nursing applicants applying by endorsement from another state
- Foreign nursing applicants

To access the Online Licensure Application, go to:

- www.FLHealthSource.com
- Select the 'Licensee/Provider' button – the Practitioner Services page is displayed
- Under the New Licensee Services section, click on 'Apply for Licensure Online'

DOH Investigation Leads to Arrest in Miami

The Florida Department of Health’s (DOH) South Florida Unlicensed Activity (ULA) Unit announced that their joint investigation with the Miami-Dade Police Department’s Medical Crimes Unit (MDPD-MCU) has led to the arrest of Maritza De La Nuez in connection with the unlicensed practice of dentistry, a third degree felony and punishable by up to five years in prison.

A MDPD-MCU investigation that was initiated from an anonymous tip revealed that Nuez was providing dental services from her residence located at 5417 S.W.. 131st Court. A ULA investigation determined that while Nuez is a licensed Dental Hygienist, she is not currently licensed to practice dentistry in Florida. Nuez asserts that she is a licensed dentist in California. In April of this year, Nuez applied to the Florida Department of Health seeking a license to practice dentistry in this state. That application is currently under review. On Tuesday, July 29, 2008 detectives from the MDPD-MCU made contact with Ms. Nuez at her residence. After being informed of her rights and the allegation against her, Nuez provided a full written confession and allowed the officers to search her home. In her confession Ms. Nuez admitted to treating “patients” at the location for the last five months. The search revealed that she had set up a make-shift dental office in the rear of her residence. The office contained a reclining sofa chair, various dental tools, and a quantity of Benzocaine, a topical anesthetic. After her arrest, Nuez was transported to a local Miami-Dade jail.

DOH has several resources to combat unlicensed activity:

- Consumers are encouraged to use DOH’s Web site www.FLHealthSource.com where they can conveniently view the license information of their health care practitioner.
- Complaints may be filed anonymously by completing and mailing the complaint form on the DOH Web site or calling 1-877-HALT-ULA or 1-877-425-8852.

The ULA program protects all people in Florida from the potentially serious and dangerous consequences of receiving medical and health care services from an unlicensed person.

Unlicensed activity is a felony level criminal offense. More importantly, receiving health care from unlicensed people is dangerous and could result in injury, disease or even death.

First Quarter ULA Statistics	
Complaints Received286
Referred for Investigation179
Investigations Completed.200
Cease and Desists Issued56
Referrals to Law Enforcement.97
Arrests34
<u>ULA Finances - July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008</u>	
Beginning Cash Balance	\$5,986,105
Revenues	\$ 337,604
Expenditures	\$ 283,556
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 6,040,154

**To Report Unlicensed Activity call:
1-877-HALT-ULA**



Practitioner Regulation Quarterly Summary • July 1, 2008 – September 30, 2008

BOARD	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	LEGALLY SUFFICIENT	INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED	CITATIONS ISSUED	DISMISSED BY PANEL	PC FOUND	PC FOUND DISMISSED	FINAL ORDERS	CONSUMER SERVICES	INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES	LEGAL SERVICES	TOTAL SERVICES
ACUPUNCTURE	9	2	8	0	8	7	1	0	20	3	25	48
ANESTHESIOLOGY ASSISTANTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATHLETIC TRAINERS	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	6
CERTIFIED NURSING ASST	541	247	170	24	76	68	8	72	179	216	402	797
CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE	128	43	40	1	9	14	1	33	53	32	164	249
CLINICAL LAB PERSONNEL	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	6
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS	45	3	6	0	2	4	0	2	7	6	20	33
DENTAL HYGIENISTS	11	7	2	20	1	2	0	2	7	0	8	15
DENTAL LABORATORIES	4	4	9	0	15	1	1	0	1	0	6	7
DENTISTRY	369	129	109	57	100	49	7	23	119	83	293	495
DIETETICS AND NUTRITION	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	3	1	2	6
DRUGS, DEVICES & COSMETICS	134	128	130	0	34	0	0	63	4	131	239	374
ELECTROLYSIS	29	24	9	7	2	1	0	0	7	5	15	27
ELECTROLYSIS FACILITIES	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECH	45	10	15	0	6	23	0	24	4	11	42	57
HEARING AID SPECIALISTS	31	9	15	0	11	2	1	3	14	3	33	50
MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPISTS	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	5	5
MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS	58	26	19	2	17	8	1	14	11	28	57	96

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MASSAGE THERAPY	130	47	71	64	18	31	1	20	22	51	206	279
MEDICAL PHYSICISTS	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	5
MEDICINE	2,218	714	627	11	310	61	8	34	1,134	445	1,705	3,284
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS	31	12	16	0	2	5	0	1	5	7	27	39
MIDWIFERY	44	38	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	39	50
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NURSING - ARNP	57	30	30	8	17	9	1	14	20	31	68	119
NURSING - LPN	290	200	164	83	46	91	4	117	97	124	397	618
NURSING - RN	401	210	225	5	89	102	12	161	123	164	561	848
NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS	14	5	8	0	0	0	0	12	17	0	34	51
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	16	11	14	10	4	3	0	2	9	1	32	42
OPTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
OPTICIANRY	7	6	1	1	0	4	0	1	1	0	11	12
OPTOMETRY	13	6	1	1	6	1	0	2	15	8	18	41
OPTOMETRY BRANCH OFFICES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ORTHOTISTS & PROSTHETISTS	5	4	6	51	6	7	0	8	10	0	40	50
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE	183	58	61	1	44	9	2	9	79	49	115	243
PARAMEDICS	60	23	25	0	9	16	2	16	4	22	106	132
PHARMACIES	80	59	43	1	52	3	1	1	2	62	81	145

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PHARMACISTS	123	86	77	80	36	25	4	22	27	67	150	244
PHYSICAL THERAPY	38	27	12	20	5	8	0	0	17	14	31	62
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS	93	65	17	1	12	5	2	2	26	13	57	96
PODIATRIC MEDICINE	64	8	10	7	18	1	2	1	18	14	69	101
PSYCHOLOGY	61	41	11	13	10	3	0	1	10	14	40	64
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY	36	27	25	0	7	2	0	9	14	3	35	52
RESPIRATORY CARE	19	11	13	0	2	7	0	13	3	6	43	52
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATH/AUDIO	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	3	201	3	10	214
TOTAL FOR ALL BOARDS	5,405	2,329	2,000	469	979	574	59	690	2,292	1,625	5,213	9,130

Board and Council Appointments • July 1, 2008 – September 30, 2008

Name	Board or Council
Helen Douglas	Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, & Mental Health Counseling
Franklin Roberts	Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, & Mental Health Counseling
Mary Macomber	Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, & Mental Health Counseling
Barney Goodman	Opticianry
Peggy Slattery	Opticianry
Clarence "Rod" Presnell	Optometry
Harry Reiff	Psychology
Luis Orta	Psychology
Patrice Moore	Psychology