

Karen C. Lyon, PhD, MBA, APRN-CNS_{BC}, NEA_{BC}

Dr. Karen Lyon is currently Chief Executive Officer and Appointing Authority of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) where she has regulatory oversight for 71,468 RNs, 8,280 of whom are APRNs. Louisiana is also the only state in the nation that regulates pre-licensure students' admission to clinical nursing courses and Dr. Lyon has regulatory oversight over 12 associate degree programs, 14 baccalaureate programs, 1 diploma program, and 12 graduate nursing programs offering APRN degrees or post-graduate certificates. In her 9-year tenure in Louisiana, she has collaborated with the Louisiana Medical Board on joint APRN rules related to collaborative practice agreements and she has overseen policy changes in LSBN rules allowing for APRN disaster permits, CRNA provision of ancillary services within their scope of practice, medication delegation to certified medication attendants under the direct supervision of RNs and APRNs, revision of the entire chapter on nursing education program development, regulation and revision of section 3331 related to discipline, delay and denial of nurses and nursing students based on specific misdemeanors and felonies, oversaw the implementation of Act 577 establishing Louisiana as the 31st state to become a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact and worked with the Governor's Office and the Louisiana Department of Health to coordinate emergency rules and nursing regulatory changes to manage professional nursing's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Dr. Lyon serves on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) Board of Directors and represents the NCSBN Board as liaison to the NCLEX[®] Examination Committee, overseeing the launch of the Next Generation NCLEX exams in April 2023. She was a 2022 inaugural graduate of NCSBN's International Center for Regulatory Excellence Advanced Leadership Institute.