

**Nursing Advisory Council (NAC)
Meeting #3
February 10, 2026**

Contents

Welcome, Housekeeping, and Meeting Objectives	1
Student Applicant Survey Findings	1
Community College Survey Findings	2
Feasibility Study Results	2
NAC Feasibility Study Results Discussion.....	2
Implementation Planning and Phasing.....	2
NAC Implementation Planning Discussion	3
Next Steps.....	3

Welcome, Housekeeping, and Meeting Objectives

Hope Morrison opened the third meeting of the Nursing Advisory Council (NAC) and welcomed members. She reminded participants that the meeting was being recorded for note-taking purposes and that thematic notes would be shared following the meeting. Hope acknowledged participation from the full Texas Health Education Service (TXHES) team and noted that this meeting marked the transition from feasibility assessment discussion to feasibility findings and implementation planning.

Hope reviewed the objectives for the meeting, which included sharing findings from the student applicant and community college surveys, presenting cross-domain feasibility results, identifying the highest-feasibility option, and introducing key elements of the draft implementation framework. She shared that written feedback would be requested from the NAC following the meeting to inform finalization of the report and implementation plan.

Student Applicant Survey Findings

Erin McGaffigan presented findings from a statewide nursing applicant survey conducted between January 15 and early February 2026. Ninety-one responses were included in the initial analysis, with additional responses received before survey closure. The majority of respondents were undergraduate applicants applying primarily to BSN and ADN programs.

Applicants identified cost and financial strain as the most frequently cited barrier to applying to nursing programs. Additional themes included prerequisite complexity, retaking courses, scheduling and work-life constraints, and paperwork or transcript-related burdens. Applicants also expressed a desire for clearer information about program logistics, including clinical schedules and start dates, as well as greater transparency around acceptance criteria and financial aid opportunities.

NAC members discussed that while applicants expressed strong interest in logistics and affordability, relatively few referenced program quality metrics such as NCLEX pass rates or graduation outcomes. Members emphasized the importance of ensuring that any centralized system provides accessible, meaningful program-level data to support informed decision-making since students “don’t know what they don’t know.”

Nursing Advisory Council (NAC)

Meeting #3

February 10, 2026

Erin also reviewed applicant experiences with centralized application systems. Responses reflected a mix of users and non-users of NursingCAS. Applicants who reported using a centralized system cited concerns about manual data entry, transcript handling, and communication clarity. Members emphasized that system usability and applicant education will be critical components of successful implementation.

Community College Survey Findings

Hope reviewed results from a targeted survey of community colleges. While the response size was modest, the findings surfaced important themes regarding operational readiness and institutional capacity. Respondents highlighted limited admissions budgets, minimal staffing elasticity, and concern about transition workload associated with adopting a new platform.

Community college representatives emphasized the importance of high configurability within any centralized system, noting that many programs rely on complex and faculty-driven scoring models. Respondents requested phased onboarding, clear governance guardrails, vendor accountability, and explicit clarification of roles between centralized platform support and program-level advising.

Feasibility Study Results

Hope and Henry Perretta presented the results of the cross-domain feasibility analysis. The study assessed four options across five domains: technical, operational, stakeholder, governance, and financial feasibility. The options included a Texas-configured version of Liaison's centralized application platform; a Texas-built centralized application system; a hybrid model allowing institutional choice; and a data warehouse approach without a centralized application platform.

Hope and Henry reviewed the feasibility rating for each option across each domain, which was presented in the slide deck. When evaluated across domains, the Texas-configured centralized application platform emerged as the highest-feasibility option overall. Members noted that while each option carries tradeoffs, this approach leverages existing infrastructure while minimizing upfront development risk and aligning most closely with legislative intent.

NAC Feasibility Study Results Discussion

NAC members shared no questions or concerns pertaining to the feasibility study results.

NAC members engaged in discussion regarding applicant discovery, search functionality, and program transparency. Participants emphasized that the system should provide robust search tools and comparison features to help applicants make informed decisions rather than simply replicating existing institutional landing pages.

NAC members also discussed the importance of statewide education and outreach to ensure applicants and families understand how to use the system effectively. Additional themes included institutional workflow integration, transcript batching considerations, IT capacity, and the need for clear data governance policies.

Implementation Planning and Phasing

Hope introduced key principles guiding the draft implementation framework, including phased and readiness-based rollout, stakeholder governance, standardization where appropriate, flexibility where necessary, and continuous quality improvement. These principles and implementation key concepts were presented with the slide deck.

Nursing Advisory Council (NAC)

Meeting #3

February 10, 2026

NAC Implementation Planning Discussion

NAC members shared no questions or concerns pertaining to implementation planning and phasing concepts presented during the NAC meeting.

Matthew Meeks described plans for a statewide town hall meeting and reiterated TXHES's commitment to ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout implementation. Members emphasized that successful implementation must be deliberate and multi-year, allowing time for planning, piloting, and refinement.

Next Steps

The Sophos team will finalize survey analysis, incorporate additional responses, and post meeting materials to the NAC SharePoint site. Written NAC feedback is requested to inform the final feasibility report and implementation plan, with the goal of completing these deliverables by the end of February. NAC members were informed that they will receive more information by email on how to access draft materials and the timeline for provided feedback.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the collaborative engagement of NAC members and acknowledgment of the substantial work completed to date by NAC members and the Sophos team.