

Agenda Item #14.A



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945
Phone (916) 263-7800 Fax (916) 263-7859 | Web www.bvnpt.ca.gov



DATE: May 4, 2010

TO: Board Members

FROM: Cheryl C. Anderson, M.S., R. N.
Supervising Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program – Reconsideration of Provisional Accreditation (Director: Monette Lalimar, North Hollywood, Los Angeles County, Private)

Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program is presented to the Board for reconsideration of its provisional accreditation. The program's status was changed to provisional accreditation on February 1, 2008. That action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with Section 2530 (I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations, which states:

“The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.

- (1) Failure to maintain the required yearly average minimum pass rate for two years or eight consecutive quarters may be cause to place a program on provisional accreditation.”

On October 7, 2009, the Board extended the program's provisional accreditation for the period from October 7, 2009 through May 31, 2010.

The following table shows the variance of the program's pass rates from the state average annual pass rates of first time graduates of accredited vocational nursing programs for the past 16 quarters. This data substantiates the program's continued noncompliance with Section 2530 (I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates

Quarter	State Average Annual Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jul – Sep 2005	81%	69%	- 12
Oct – Dec 2005	81%	63%	- 18
Jan - Mar 2006	79%	56%	- 23
Apr - Jun 2006	79%	43%	- 36
Jul - Sep 2006	79%	33%	- 46
Oct - Dec 2006	78%	33%	- 45
Jan - Mar 2007	77%	40%	- 37
Apr – Jun 2007	77%	62%	- 12
Jul - Sep 2007	76%	77%	+1
Oct – Dec 2007	76%	70%	-6
Jan – Mar 2008	75%	69%	-6
Apr – Jun 2008	74%	70%	-4
Jul – Sep 2008	74%	42%	-32
Oct – Dec 2008	73%	57%	-16
Jan – Mar 2009	72%	60%	-12
Apr – Jun 2009	70%	60%	-10
Jul – Sep 2009	72%	56%	-16
Oct – Dec 2009	73%	54%	-19

History of Prior Board Actions

- On February 21, 2003, the Board approved B&R Nursing School's request to commence a part – time vocational nursing program in North Hollywood, CA, with an initial class of 30 students. Graduation was projected for January 8, 2005. Additionally, the Board approved the program's curriculum for 1544.5 hours, including 584.5 theory and 960 clinical hours.
- Subsequently, the program notified the Board that due to low enrollment, initial classes started on March 8, 2003.
- On August 11, 2004, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the B&R Nursing School Vocational Nursing Program for the period September 10, 2004, through September 9, 2008, and instructed Board staff to issue a certificate accordingly; and approved the program's request to admit 45 part – time students starting February 20, 2005 only, **replacing** students who graduated March 20, 2005. Additionally, the Board approved the program's request to begin a full – time vocational nursing program with a class of 45 students commencing November 1, 2004 only, with a projected graduation on October 13, 2005.
- On February 2, 2005, the director notified the Board that commencement of the November 1, 2004, class would be delayed until January 24, 2005.
- On October 25, 2005, the program submitted a plan to begin a vocational nursing program in the City of Commerce. The consultant expressed concern relative to the

pass rates at the Montrose campus. Several telephone discussions followed tracking the Montrose campus pass rate statistics from month to month. It was decided to delay the planned commencement of a vocational nursing program in the City of Commerce.

- On February 21, 2006, the Board approved the program's request to admit 45 students into the full – time class commencing February 6, 2006 only, **replacing** students graduating January 26, 2006.
- On August 3, 2006, the Board was notified that the program's name had changed to Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program, effective immediately.
- On September 18, 2006, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program's average annual pass rates on the NCLEX/PN[®] had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state's average annual pass rate for the past four (4) quarters.
- On October 13, 2006, the director submitted a plan to improve the program's pass rates.
- On December 12, 2006, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual rates for the past five (5) quarters.
- On March 21, 2007, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program's pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual rates for the past six (6) quarters.
- On April 18, 2007, the director submitted an update of its Plan of Improvement for Pass Rates.
- On May 31, 2007, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program's pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual rates for the past seven (7) quarters.
- On August 8, 2007, the Board notified Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program that the program's pass rates had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual rates for the past eight (8) quarters. Therefore, the program was notified that it had been placed on the agenda for the February 2008 Board meeting for consideration of provisional accreditation. The director was requested to submit a summary of an analysis of the program's plan of improvement, describing progress made and identifying the most effective parts of the plan. The summary was due December 1, 2007.

- On December 1, 2007, the director submitted a report tracking the program's average annual pass rates on the NCLEX/PN[®]. The report included an analysis of the correctional plan, explaining those steps that had proven successful. The commencement of a new assessment skills program was reported. The new assessment skills program is a computer-adaptive test that the director states in the best simulation of the NCLEX/PN[®].
- On February 1, 2008, the Board placed Anderson Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the two-year period from February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2010 due to the program's violation of Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations, Section 2530 (I). **The program was placed on the September 2009 agenda for the Board's reconsideration of the program's accreditation status.**
- On March 12, 2008, the Board issued the program a notice identifying areas of noncompliance and requirements for corrections. (See Attachment A)
- On February 27, 2009, the Executive Officer denied the program's request to admit the following classes:
 - a. A part-time class of 45 students to **replace** students graduating March 4, 2009; and
 - b. A full-time class of 45 students beginning April 20, 2009, to **replace** students graduating April 17, 2009.

The Executive Officer approved the admission of the following classes:

- a. A part-time class of 35 students on March 7, 2009 to **replace** students graduating March 4, 2009; and
 - b. A full-time class of 35 students on April 20, 2009 to **replace** students graduating April 17, 2009.
- On June 24, 2009, the Board forwarded correspondence to the program advising that the Board would reconsider its accreditation status at the September 11, 2009 meeting. A comprehensive report was requested by July 17, 2009.
 - On July 27, 2009, the Board received the program's report.
 - On August 3, 2009, the program notified the Board that commencement of the March 7, 2009 part-time class had been delayed due to low enrollment.
 - On October 7, 2009, the Board extended the Anderson Medical College, North Hollywood Vocational Nursing Program from October 7, 2009 through May 31, 2010. The program was directed to bring its licensure examination annual average pass rate to no more than ten (10 percentage points below the State annual average pass rate for four (4) consecutive quarters by **May 31, 2010.**

Additionally, the program was required to:

1. Admit no students into its part – time or full – time classes to replace graduating students unless authorized by the Board.
 2. Show documented progress by submitting a follow – up report in four (4) months, but no later than **February 15, 2010**. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timelines for expected results, and the effectiveness of corrective actions taken to address the following elements:
 - a. Current Student Enrollment.
 - b. Admission Criteria.
 - c. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - d. Terminal Objectives.
 - e. Curriculum Objectives.
 - f. Instructional Plan.
 - g. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - h. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
 - i. Textbooks.
 - j. Attendance Policy.
 - k. Remediation Policy.
 - l. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - m. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - n. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - o. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
 3. Comply with all accreditation standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2525.
 4. The program shall not admit students into its part – time or full – time classes to replace graduating students unless authorized by the Board at the May 20, 2010 Board meeting.
- On December 17, 2009, the Board notified the program per certified and U.S. mail that its provisional accreditation had been extended from October 7, 2009 through May 31, 2010. Additionally, **the program was notified that it had been placed on the May 20, 2010 agenda for the Board's reconsideration of the program's accreditation status.**
 - On February 16, 2010, the Board received the program's progress report.

- On April 15, 2010, the Board approved a new program director.

Enrollment

The program offers a 43-week full-time and a 96-week part-time class. Each class admission requires prior Board approval. The pattern of admissions for current and projected classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current and projected** student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 36 students** for the period from **March 2007 through April 2010**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
3/07 (PT)		35	25	25
4/08 (FT)		20	11	25 + 11 = 36
	3/09 (3/07 PT Class)		-25	36 - 25 = 11
	4/09 (4/08 FT Class)		-11	11 - 11 = 0
4/09 (FT)		45	11	0 + 11 = 11
	4/10 (4/09 FT Class)		-11	11 - 11 = 0

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by the Pearson Vue and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as “Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction,” for the period July 2005 through December 2009, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical (Vocational) Nurses (NCLEX-PN®).

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data						
Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*	
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jul – Sep 2005	8	4	50%	79%	69%	81%
Oct - Dec 2005	3	1	33%	79%	63%	81%
Jan - Mar 2006	2	0	0%	80%	56%	79%
Apr - Jun 2006	8	4	50%	76%	43%	79%
Jul - Sep 2006	2	0	0%	79%	33%	79%
Oct – Dec 2006	No Candidates Tested			77%	33%	78%
Jan - Mar 2007	No Candidates Tested			77%	40%	77%
Apr – Jun 2007	19	13	88%	74%	62%	77%
Jul – Sep 2007	11	10	91%	76%	77%	76%
Oct – Dec 2007	7	3	43%	76%	70%	76%
Jan – Mar 2008	2	1	50%	75%	69%	75%
Apr – Jun 2008	No Candidates Tested			70%	70%	74%
Jul – Sep 2008	3	1	33%	74%	42%	74%
Oct – Dec 2008	2	2	100%	73%	57%	73%
Jan – Mar 2009	No Candidates Tested			70%	60%	72%
Apr – Jun 2009	No Candidates Tested			71%	60%	70%
Jul – Sep 2009	16	8	50%	74%	56%	72%
Oct – Dec 2009	10	6	60%	76%	54%	73%

*The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three quarters by the number of candidates who tested during the same period.

Based on the most recent data available (October – December 2009), the program's average annual pass rate is 54%. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is 73%. The average annual pass rate for the Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program is 19 percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate.

Faculty and Facilities

Section 2534(d) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor."

The total number of Board approved faculty is five (5), including the program director. The director has 5% administrative and 95% teaching duties. Of the total faculty, five (5) are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 36 students, three (3) instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of current faculty is adequate for the current and projected enrollment.

Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

“Schools shall have clinical facilities adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, to provide clinical experience for all students in the areas specified by Section 2533. There must be available for student assignment, an adequate daily census of patients to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught.”

The program has clinical facilities that are adequate as to type and variety of clients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives, in accordance with Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations. This has been verified by the consultant.

Other Considerations

Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program’s examination statistics substantiate that the program has failed to achieve an annual average pass rate on the NCLEX-PN[®] that is within 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for 14 of the past 18 quarters. As such, the program has been in violation of section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

As noted previously, the Board placed the program on provisional accreditation on February 1, 2008. That action was taken due to the program’s non - compliance with Section 2530 (l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

On October 7, 2009, the Board reconsidered the program’s accreditation status. At that time, the program’s average annual pass rate was 60%, ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate of first time graduates.

The Board extended the program’s provisional accreditation from October 7, 2009 through May 31, 2010. The program was required to show documented progress by submitting a progress report in February 2010. The program was required to comply with all accreditation standards. Additionally, the Board directed that the program admit no students into its part – time or full – time classes to replace graduating students unless authorized at the May 20, 2010 Board meeting.

On February 16, 2010, the director submitted the required progress report. As specified therein, the program has revised its admission criteria to include the following:

1. Prior employment as a certified nurse assistant is preferred;
2. Grade point average of 2.5 or higher is required; and

3. Applicants are required to pass the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) entrance test with an overall score of 70%. A candidate, who fails the entrance examination, may retake the test in one (1) year.

On April 15, 2010, a new program director was approved. The assigned consultant forwarded the self – directed New Director Orientation and requested the director's completion by April 29, 2010. Additionally, the consultant attempted unsuccessfully to contact the director per telephone relative to the orientation, the program's progress report, and the Board's scheduled reconsideration of the program's provisional accreditation status. On April 29, 2010, the consultant forwarded electronic correspondence requesting communication with the director.

In summary, from July 2007 through June 2008, the program's average annual pass rates improved significantly and were within 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rates. Based on **April – June 2009** statistics, the program's average annual pass rate was **60%**.

However, since that time the program's average annual pass rates have declined. Based on **July – September 2009** statistics, the program's average annual pass rate was **56%**. Based on the most recent data, **October – December 2009** statistics, the program's average annual pass rate was **54%**. As such, the average annual pass rate for the Anderson Medical Career College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program is currently 19 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.

Recommendations:

1. In accordance with the Board's October 7, 2009 action, if Anderson Medical College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program fails to bring the average annual pass rate, as reported by the Pearson Vue and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First – Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction," of its first – time graduates on the NCLEX-PN[®] to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State annual average pass rate by May 31, 2010, then:
 - a. Revoke the program's accreditation, effective June 1, 2010.
 - b. Remove the program from the List of Accredited Vocational Nursing Schools.
2. If Anderson Medical College, North Hollywood, Vocational Nursing Program brings the average annual pass rate, as reported by the Pearson Vue and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction," of its first – time graduates on the NCLEX-PN[®] to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State annual average pass rate by May 31, 2010, then:

- a. Extend provisional accreditation from June 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.
- b. Approve the admission of a full – time class of 30 students commencing June 1, 2010, with a projected graduation of June 1, 2011.

Rationale: The December 17, 2009 notice set forth required corrective actions for the program. The Board gave the program until May 31, 2010 to improve its pass rate. Since that time, the program's pass rates have declined six (6) percentage points.

If the program fails to comply, it will have failed to demonstrate compliance with California Business and Professions Code, Division 2, Chapter 6.5, Article 4 and California Code of Regulations, Division 25, Chapter 1, Article 5 for 14 of the past 18 quarters.

If the program's accreditation is revoked, no students will be impacted as the last class graduated April 23, 2010.

If the program meets standards, the second option will allow the program to continue to offer instruction, focus on those students, and further improve their passing score.

Attachment A: Notice of Change in Accreditation Status Dated December 17, 2009
Attachment B: Program Correspondence Dated February 2, 2010