

Agenda Item #11.B.4



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: October 23, 2012

TO: Board Members

FROM: Suellen Clayworth, M.N., R.N.
Nursing Education Consultant, Retired Annuitant

SUBJECT: Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students¹ (Director: Ramoncito Llanos, Vallejo, Solano County, Private)

On September 6, 2012, the Board placed the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two-year period from September 6, 2012 through September 30, 2014. The program was required to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board. That action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with Section 2530 (l) 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."

The program now requests Board approval to admit 15 students into a full-time class commencing on November 12, 2012 and graduating on July 26, 2013.

History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A, History of Board Action, October 8, 2008, through September 6, 2012.)

¹ Prior to January 1, 2012, references in article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act and article 4 of the Psychiatric Technicians Law provided that the Board accredits all vocational nursing and psychiatric technicians programs. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 2883 and 4532 (Senate Bill 539, Chapter 338, Statutes of 2011), **accredit** was changed to **approve**. There was no change to the Board's authority or jurisdiction.

Enrollment

The program offers a full – time course of instruction that is 42 weeks in length. The program is required to obtain Board approval **prior** to the admission of each class. The pattern of admissions for proposed classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **projected** student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 15 students** for the period **November 2011 through November 2012**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
11/11		11	11	11
	9/12		-11	11 – 11 = 0
11/12 Proposed		15		0 + 15 = 15

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by 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 2010 through September 2012, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical/Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN®), and the variance from state average annual pass rates

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data							
Quarterly Statistics				Annual Statistics*			
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate	Variance From State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jul - Sep 2010	7	1	14%	76%	33%	75%	-42
Oct - Dec 2010	4	0	0%	77%	26%	76%	-50
Jan - Mar 2011	6	2	33%	80%	20%	77%	-57
Apr - Jun 2011	5	2	40%	71%	23%	76%	-53
Jul - Sep 2011	8	6	75%	74%	43%	76%	-33
Oct - Dec 2011	2	1	50%	74%	52%	75%	-23
Jan - Mar 2012	3	1	33%	77%	56%	74%	-18
Apr - Jun 2012	4	1	25%	72%	53%	74%	-21
Jul - Sep 2012	3	1	33%	74%	33%	74%	-41

*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. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.

This information substantiates the program's **noncompliance** with regulatory requirements for **nine (9) consecutive quarters**.

Based on the **most recent data available** (July 2012 to September 2012), the program's average annual pass rate is **33%**. 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 74%. The average annual pass rate for the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program is **41 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 program's Board - approved faculty totals eight (8), including the program director. Of the total faculty, eight (8) are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 15 students, one (1) instructor is needed. Therefore, the number of current faculty is adequate for the current and proposed 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 patients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives, in accordance with Section 2534 (b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

Other Considerations

Examination statistics furnished by 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,” substantiates that the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program has failed to achieve an annual average pass rate on the NCLEX-PN® that is within ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate.

Program performance statistics specify that 42 program candidates completed the NCLEX-PN® during the period July 2010 through September 2012. Of the total tested, 15 program candidates passed the NCLEX-PN®. As such, 35% of the total program graduates tested from July 2010 through September 2012 passed the examination.

The program has failed to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate for the past nine (9) consecutive quarters. It is noted that the program’s quarterly pass rates have been erratic and the average annual pass rate has not progressed consistently upward. In the most recent quarter reported, July to September 2012, only 33% of the candidates who tested passed the examination. No clear pattern of improvement in the program’s pass rate has been demonstrated.

Recommendations:

1. Deny the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program’s request to admit a class of 15 students on November 12, 2012, graduating on July 26, 2013, to **replace** a class that graduated September 21, 2012.
2. Continue to require the program to obtain approval by the full Board prior to the admission of additional students.
3. Require the new program director to submit a comprehensive analysis of the program no later than December 15, 2012, that includes specific actions planned to improve program pass rates, a timeline for implementation, and expected outcomes. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.
 - a. Admission Criteria.
 - b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - c. Terminal Objectives.
 - d. Curriculum Objectives.
 - e. Instructional Plan.
 - f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.

- h. Textbooks.
- i. Attendance Policy.
- j. Remediation Policy.
- k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
- l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
- m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
- n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
- o. Current Enrollment.

Rationale: The program admits only one class at a time. The most recent class graduated in September 2012. A new program director was approved on September 25, 2012. Denying admission of the requested November class will allow the new director time to adequately analyze the curriculum and plan appropriate revisions to be submitted for the February 2013 Board Meeting.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions

Attachment B: Request for copies of pertinent documents for Board members, dated October 2, 2012

Agenda Item #11.B.4.Attachment A

Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program

History of Prior Board Actions

- On October 8, 2008, the Executive Officer approved Solano College of Nursing's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial full-time class of 30 students commencing October 13, 2008 only, with a projected graduation date of October 13, 2009; **and** approved the program curriculum for 1540 hours, including 584 theory, and 956 clinical hours.
- The program delayed commencement of the initial class until November 8, 2008.
- On **July 29 - 30, 2009**, the assigned consultant conducted an **onsite inspection** of the program to determine compliance with California Code of Regulations Article 5. **Two (2) violations were identified and corrected**
- On August 18, 2009, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program for the period from August 18, 2009, through August 17, 2013, and issued a certificate accordingly. Additionally, the program's request to admit a class of 30 students commencing September 8, 2009 only, to **replace** students graduating August 16, 2009, was approved. That class is projected to graduate May 11, 2010.
- On November 4, 2009, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a full - time class of 15 students commencing November 30, 2009 only, and graduating March 19, 2010.
- On February 12, 2010, the Board received correspondence from the director relative to proposed curriculum modifications.
- On June 14, 2010, the Board received correspondence from the director relative to program administration.
- On August 3, 2010, the Board issued a Notice of Violation to the program relative to noncompliance with regulatory requirements specified in California Code of Regulations Section 2530 (k). A response was requested by August 31, 2010.
- On September 1, 2010, the Board received correspondence from the director in response to the Notice of Violation.
- On February 17, 2011, the Board forwarded correspondence to the director advising that the program's average annual pass rates had been more ten (10) percentage

points below the state average for four (4) quarters. The program was requested to submit its written plan for improving program pass rates by March 4, 2011.

- On March 4, 2011, the Board received the correspondence from the director relative to its plan to improve program pass rates.
- On May 16, 2011, the Board forwarded correspondence to the director advising that the program's average annual pass rates had been more ten (10) percentage points below the state average for five (5) quarters. The program was requested to submit a report relative to the effectiveness of its plan of correction by June 3, 2011.
- On October 14, 2011, the Board forwarded correspondence to the director advising that the program's average annual pass rates had been more ten (10) percentage points below the state average for six (6) quarters. The director was requested to provide documentation verifying implementation of all elements of the program's plan of correction, and resulting modifications by November 4, 2011.
- On November 9, 2011, the Board received correspondence from the director relative to program pass rates.
- On May 7, 2012, the Board forwarded correspondence advising the director that the program's average annual pass rates had been more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average for nine (9) quarters. The director was advised that the Board would consider provisional approval for the program on September 6, 2012.
- On June 27, 2012, the Board received correspondence and supporting documents from the director relative to the admission of a new class.
- On July 18, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting information relative to prior class admissions and current faculty.
- On August 8, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence to the director requesting documents for dissemination to Board members.
- On September 6, 2012, the Board placed the program on provisional approval for the two – year period from September 6, 2012, through September 30, 2014, and issued a notice to the program to identify specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction, as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations.

Additionally, the Board:

1. Required the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rates.
2. Denied the program's request to admit a class of ten (10) students commencing September 10, 2012, and graduating June 14, 2013.
3. Required the program to obtain approval by the full Board prior to the admission of additional students.
4. Required the program to submit follow – up reports in nine (9) months, but no later than **June 1, 2013**, and 21 months, but no later than **June 1, 2014**. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and expected outcomes. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.

- a. Admission Criteria.
 - b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - c. Terminal Objectives.
 - d. Curriculum Objectives.
 - e. Instructional Plan.
 - f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
 - h. Textbooks.
 - i. Attendance Policy.
 - j. Remediation Policy.
 - k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
 - n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
 - o. Current Enrollment.
5. Required the program to 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 2526.
 6. Required the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting all violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
 7. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.
 8. Placed the program on the **September 2014** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.
- **On September 25, 2012, Ramoncito Llanos was approved as director of the program.**
 - On October 2, 2012, the assigned consultant forward correspondence to the director requesting documents for dissemination to Board Members.

Agenda Item #11.B.4.Attachment B



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October 2, 2012

Wayne Williams, PhD, RN
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
Solano College of Nursing
1330 Springs Road
Vallejo, CA 94591

Subject: Consideration of Request to Admit Students

Dear Dr. Williams:

On November 9, 2012, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) is scheduled to consider the following items relative to the ***Solano College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program***.

- Reconsideration of Provisional Approval.
- Consideration of Request to Admit Students.

To ensure dissemination to individual Board members and relevant staff for timely consideration at the November 9, 2012 Board Meeting, please submit:

- Eighteen (18) copies of any pertinent documents that you desire Board members to consider. Please remember existing statutes require that any document considered by the Board will become a public record. Accordingly, please redact all names of students.
- In addition, please provide any information that you submit for the Board members on a compact disc (CD) for Board use. Again, please remember to redact any student names prior to copying information onto the CD.

To ensure dissemination and review by Board Members prior to the meeting, the deadline for submission of the requested documents and the CD is **Friday, October 12, 2012.**

Although the primary purpose of this letter is to convey the Board's need for the copies, please be assured that, if timely submitted, any correspondence and attachments will be reviewed and, if appropriate, information submitted may be included in the report of the assigned consultant.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Board at (916) 263-7843 should you have questions.

Sincerely,

Suellen Clayworth

SUELLEN CLAYWORTH, M.S., R.N.
Nursing Education Consultant – Retired Annuitant

Solano College of Nursing

BVNPT Received *edu*
on *10/11/12* with *mc* Program Review: (October 2012)

#1. Examination Results Review:

We have reviewed all of the examinations that are given to the students so that we could identify any areas of general weakness for all of the students. If an area of overall student weakness is determined we will make adjustments the in class hours, skills lab hours to allow the student more time to grasp the concepts. We have also reviewed the teaching plans for any subject matter in which the students had not scored well and made some adjustments in those areas.

#2. Entrance Exam Review (C-NET)

We have reviewed our entrance requirements especially the requirement to attain a passing grade of 75% on the English portion of the C-NET examination and we revised our policy related to the admission of students who do not attain that grade.

#3. Remediation Process:

We have reviewed our remediation process to ensure that we were utilizing the best methods of teaching to assist our students through the process.

#4. Faculty Review:

We have reviewed the teaching plans of each instructor who participates in both the theory and clinical setting to ensure that they are in compliance with the instructional plan of the school. In addition we have conducted a workshop for the instructors related to instructional/teaching methodology. In addition our instructors will be attending the fall conference of the California Vocational Nurse Educators where they will participate in a Question Writing session.

#5. Former Students:

We have identified all former students who did not pass the NCLEX-PN on their first try and have invited them back for additional instruction and remediation. In addition each of these students will be given a NCLEX-PN review course at the expense of the school.

#6. Program Director:

We have engaged the services of a new Program Director who will ensure that these new measures are implemented and will report to the administrator of the program on a monthly basis or sooner if there are any identified concerns or problems.

#7. Clinical Settings:

We have reviewed all of our clinical settings and have met with the Director of Nursing at each facility to ensure that our students are able to meet their clinical objectives in these settings.

#8. School Resources:

We have reviewed the current teaching resources that we have as well as our lab supplies to ensure that we have adequate resources to teach our students and for them to practice in the skills lab.

Program Changes/New Student Requirements: Eff: September 15 2012.

#1. C-NET:

All students must achieve a passing grade of 75% on the English portion of the examination or they will not be admitted to the Vocational Nursing Program. ALL students must demonstrate a proficiency level in English. NO student will be admitted without passing this C-NET examination.

#2. Kaplan Reviews:

All students will be required to be enrolled in the Kaplan online review program. This program is similar to ATI however it is much more student friendly. This program assists the student throughout the entire program and can be used as a continuing remediation tool. All students were supplied with a textbook to accompany their computer access. Other schools who have used this program have demonstrated pass rates of 85-100%.

#3. NCLEX-PN Review:

All students are now required to attend a 3 day NCLEX-PN workshop on campus that is provided by an outside educational institution that specializes in NCLEX-PN preparation. This workshop is arranged for the first week after the completion of the VN program. The students attend a 3

day workshop and have 3 weeks of online practice examinations with the company who provided the workshops.

#4. Solano College of Nursing: NCLEX-PN REVIEW (Computer Lab)

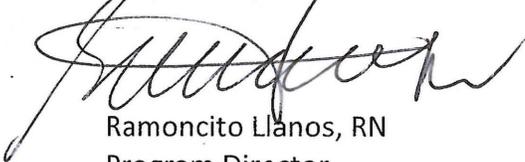
All students must attend the Solano computer lab after completing the course work. Each student must demonstrate competency in each of the subjects that will be tested on the NCLEX-PN and this competency is measured by a grade of not less than 85% on each practice test and each line item on the individual test.

All current graduates are currently participating in this program and doing well with the reviews. The activity will be closely supervised by an instructor to ensure that each student is held to a standard which includes the principles of honesty, integrity and professionalism.

We feel that this review was necessary and that we are now in a much better position to ensure that our graduates are better prepared to take and pass the NCLEX-PN on their first attempt.

We will continue to closely monitor those areas that we feel may have been overlooked in the past to also ensure that our students have the best possible learning environment.

Respectfully Submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ramoncito Llanos', written in a cursive style.

Ramoncito Llanos, RN
Program Director