

Agenda Item # 13.B.1



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: April 24, 2013

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: Community Based Education & Development College Vocational Nursing Program – Report of Program Closure (Director: Alice Sorrell – Thompson, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, Private)

Community Based Education & Development College Vocational Nursing Program was placed on Provisional Approval¹ on May 20, 2010 for one year due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements specified in California Code of Regulations, Section 2530 (I). The program was required to admit no additional students without the prior approval of the full Board. On May 20, 2011, the Board extended the program's provisional approval for the one – year period from June 1, 2011, through May 31, 2012. On May 11, 2012, the Board extended the program's provisional approval for the one-year period from June 1, 2012, through May 31, 2013.

On March 5, 2013, the Board received electronic correspondence from the director indicating that the program's "administration, advisory board, faculty and staff" decided that it would be in everyone's best interest to "voluntarily surrender" the vocational nursing program effective after the March 24, 2013, graduation of the program's one remaining cohort. (See Attachment B)

On March 26, 2013, the Executive Officer approved the recommendation to remove Community Based Education & Development College Vocational Nursing Program from the Board's list of *Accredited Vocational Nursing Schools*.

On April 1, 2013, in response to questions from the Board, Alice Sorrell-Thompson, the director of the now-closed program, sent electronic correspondence to the Board indicating that she will remain available to deal with any issues that arise regarding licensure applications from the school's final cohort that graduated on March 24, 2013.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions

Attachment B: Notification of Program Surrender, March 5, 2013

Attachment C: Email Correspondence from Alice Sorrell-Thompson, April 1, 2013

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.

Agenda Item # 13.B.1, Attachment A

Community Based Education & Development College Vocational Nursing Program

History of Prior Board Actions

- On September 10, 2004, the Executive Officer approved the Community Based Education and Development College's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial full-time class of 30 students on October 4, 2004, only; **and** approved the program curriculum for 1560 hours, including 582 theory and 978 clinical hours.
- **On February 8, 2005, a new program director was approved.**
- On March 24, 2005, the director notified the Board that commencement of the initial class had been delayed from October 4, 2004, to May 2, 2005, with a completion date of June 29, 2006.
- On February 7, 2006, the director notified the Board that the completion date for the initial class was changed to July 20, 2006.
- On May 12, 2006, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the Community Based Education and Development College Vocational Nursing Program for the period May 12, 2006, through May 11, 2010, and issued a certificate accordingly.

Additionally, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit 60 students starting July 31, 2006, to **replace** students graduating July 20, 2006, only, thereby increasing class size from 30 to 60 students per class. The projected completion date for the replacement class was September 28, 2007.

- On January 9, 2007, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit 60 students into a full-time class commencing January 15, 2007, with a projected completion date of March 21, 2008.
- On April 10, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit 10 students into a full-time class beginning on May 5, 2008, with a projected graduation date of August 18, 2009, thereby increasing frequency of admissions.
- On March 18, 2009, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rates for the past four (4) quarters. The program was requested to submit a written plan for improving their NCLEX-PN[®] pass rates by April 2, 2009.

- On May 14, 2009, the program was notified that its average annual pass rate had fallen below 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past five (5) quarters.
- On July 16, 2009, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rates for the past six (6) quarters. The program was requested to submit documentation that verified that elements of its plan of correction were being carried out and the effects of the employed interventions.
- **On August 10, 2009, a new program director was approved.**
- On September 8, 2009, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past seven (7) quarters.
- On February 24, 2010, the program was notified that its average annual pass rates had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rates for the past eight (8) quarters.
- On April 26, 2010, the assigned consultant contacted the director relative to the admission of five (5) classes **without** prior Board approval.
- On April 27, 2010, the Board received electronic correspondence from the director specifying the program's understanding that ongoing admissions had been approved.
- On May 14, 2010, the Board received electronic correspondence from the director alleging approval by a prior consultant. A copy of a Board report dated April 10, 2008 was attached. The Board's official report dated April 10, 2008 does not reflect the same information as submitted by the director.
- On May 20, 2010, the Board placed the program on provisional accreditation for the one-year period from May 20, 2010, through May 31, 2011, 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; required the program to show documented progress by submitting a follow-up report in ten (10) months to 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.

Additionally, the program is required 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 2525.

The Board **denied** the program's request to admit 30 students commencing August 2, 2010, to replace students completing program requirements July 25, 2010. The program was required to admit no further classes without prior Board approval.

- On June 11, 2010, the program submitted electronic correspondence requesting approval to admit students to **replace** the class graduating July 25, 2010.
- On June 22, 2010, the Board forwarded correspondence notifying the program of specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.
- On July 12, 2010, the Board received correspondence from the program with a copy of program correspondence dated June 10, 2010, current and projected enrollment data, information relative to faculty: student assignments, clinical rotations, and a FedEx shipment travel history.
- On July 28, 2010, the Board received notification per telephone that the program had mailed documents to the residence of President Vertido, stating the school had been unable to find another mailing address for the Board.
- On July 30, 2010, the Board received program correspondence dated July 26, 2010, sent to the residence of President Vertido, relative to a request to admit students July 26, 2010.
- On August 3, 2010, the director notified the Board that the number of students requested had been reduced to 30.
- On August 6, 2010, the Executive Officer deferred action on the program's request to admit students to the Board for consideration at the September 16, 2010 meeting. This decision was based on the program's pass rate statistics and previous Board action to deny students with a 33% pass rate. The consultant notified the director of the decision per telephone.

- On August 6, 2010, the Executive Officer was notified that the program administration had contacted President Vertido at his residence regarding the program's placement on the September 2010 agenda.
- On August 13, 2010, the Board forwarded correspondence to the director relative to contact with Board members.
- On August 19, 2010, the Board's legal counsel and the Supervising Nursing Education Consultant (SNEC) conducted a conference call with the program director, school DOE, and the school's legal counsel. The purpose of the call was to clarify the program's request for documents and achieve resolution.
- On September 16, 2010, the Board denied the Community Based Education & Development College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 30 students commencing August 9, 2010, to **replace** students completing program requirements July 25, 2010. The Board approved the program's admission of 15 students on November 2, 2010, with a projected graduation of March 26, 2012.
- On September 28, 2010, the Board forwarded correspondence to the director relative to decisions rendered at the September 16, 2010 Board meeting.
- On January 18, 2011, the Board received the program's electronic correspondence and supporting documents requesting approval to admit a new class on March 7, 2011.
- On February 14, 2011, the SNEC spoke with the director relative to clarification as to the absence of the program's request on the agenda for the February 25, 2011, Board meeting. The director was informed that the Board had scheduled reconsideration of the program's provisional accreditation status at the May 20, 2011 meeting.
- On February 28, 2011, the Board received the program's follow-up report.
- On April 4, 2011, the SNEC discussed with the director the program's request for approval to admit a new class. The director was informed that the request was scheduled for consideration by the Board at the May 20, 2011 meeting.
- On April 6, 2011, the Board received electronic correspondence from the director relative to the status of the program and the admission of future classes.
- On April 8, 2011, the Board received electronic correspondence from the director relative to the program's correction of identified violations.
- On April 18, 2011, the Supervising Nursing Education Consultant sent correspondence to the director requesting the submission of documents for Board presentation.
- On May 20, 2011, the Board extended the program's provisional accreditation for the one-year period June 1, 2011, through May 31, 2012, 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. The program was required to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate for four (4) consecutive quarters by **May 31, 2012**. The Board **approved** the program's request to admit **30** students into the non-degree class commencing **May 23, 2011**, graduating August 24, 2012, only, to **replace** students who graduated March 27, 2011; **and approved** the program's request to admit **15** students into the degree-class on **June 6, 2011**, with a projected graduation of September 12, 2012; **and denied approval** of the program's request to admit a class of **30** students into the non-degree class commencing **August 8, 2011**, with a projected graduation of November 14, 2012; and continued to require the program to obtain approval by the Board prior to admission of each class.

The program was required to continue demonstration of progress in improvement of its pass rates on the NCLEX/PN[®], and was required to submit a follow-up report in 9 months, but no later than **February 1, 2012**. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis:

- 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.

Additionally, the program was required 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.

The Board placed the program on the May 2012 Board Meeting agenda for reconsideration of provisional accreditation.

- On June 23, 2011, the Board received correspondence with supporting documents from the director requesting approval to admit replacement classes commencing September 19, 2011, November 28, 2011, and April 2012.

- On June 29, 2011, the Board forwarded to the director the Notice of Change in Accreditation Status.
- On July 25, 2011, the Board received additional information in support of the program's request to admit additional students.
- On August 10, 2011, the Supervising Nursing Education Consultant forwarded correspondence to the director requesting the submission of documents for Board presentation.
- On August 19, 2011, the Board received electronic correspondence from the director voluntarily withdrawing the request to admit students on September 19, 2011 and requesting approval to admit students November 28, 2011.
- On September 16, 2011, the Board received electronic correspondence and supporting documents from the director requesting approval to admit students in November 2011 and April 2012.
- On October 7, 2011, the Supervising Nursing Education Consultant forwarded correspondence to the director requesting the submission of documents for Board presentation.
- On November 10, 2011, the Board denied the Community Based Education & Development College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 30 students into the non-degree class commencing November 28, 2011 only, graduating March 27, 2013, to **replace** students who graduated July 24, 2011. Additionally, the Board approved the program's admission of 15 students into the non-degree class commencing November 28, 2011 only, graduating March 27, 2013, to **replace** students who graduated July 24, 2011. The Board denied the program's request to admit 30 students into the non-degree class commencing April 3, 2012 only, graduating July 10, 2013, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate March 26, 2012; and continued to require the program to obtain approval by the full Board prior to admission of each class.
- On May 11, 2012, the Board extended the program's provisional approval for the one-year period June 1, 2012, through May 31, 2013. Additionally, the Board required the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate for four (4) consecutive quarters by **May 31, 2013**; **denied** the program's request to admit 15 students into their non-degree class commencing May 21, 2012 and graduating September 7, 2013 to **replace** students who graduated March 26, 2012; required the program to demonstrate incremental progress in improvement of its pass rates on the NCLEX/PN®.

The program was required to submit a follow-up report in 9 months, but no later than **February 1, 2013**. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for

implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis:

- 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.

Failure to show progress shall constitute cause for revocation of provisional accreditation.

The Board continued to require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.

Further, the program was required 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. The Board placed the program on the **May 2013** Board Meeting agenda for reconsideration of provisional accreditation.

- On October 2, 2012, the assigned consultant forward correspondence to the director requesting documents for dissemination to Board Members.
- On November 6, 2012, the Board:
 1. Denied the Community Based Education & Development College Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit 20 students into the non-degree class commencing November 26, 2012 only, graduating March 18, 2014, to replace students graduating November 18, 2012.
 2. Denied the program's request to admit 20 students into the degree granting class commencing December 10, 2012 only, graduating May 12, 2014.
 3. Continued to require the program to obtain approval by the full Board prior to admission of each class.

- On March 5, 2013, the program notified the Board that it was voluntarily surrendering the vocational nursing program for closure effective after March 24, 2013, the graduation date for the program's last cohort.
- On March 26, 2013, the Executive Officer approved the recommendation to remove Community Based Education & Development College Vocational Nursing Program from the Board's list of *Accredited Vocational Nursing Schools*.
- On April 1, 2013, in response to questions from the Board, Alice Sorrell-Thompson, the director of the now-closed program, sent electronic correspondence to the Board indicating that she will remain available to deal with any issues that arise regarding licensure applications from the school's final cohort that graduated on March 24, 2013.

Agenda Item # 13.B.1, Attachment B



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March 5, 2013

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
Ms. Suellen Clayworth, M.S. R.N.
Nursing Education Consultant-Retired Annuitant
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Clayworth,

In our 2013 program review report, Community Based Education and Development (CBD College) discussed program revisions/additions that have been implemented to strengthen the framework of the VN program. The most pressing concern for CBD College has been stabilizing and improving our NCLEX-PN passing rates. We have demonstrated slow, steady growth with regard to our annual passing rates. From our initial placement on Provisional approval status, CBD College has shown an improvement of nineteen (19) percentage points. However, our quarterly rates reflect liability and have proven to be a challenge to stabilize.

Deliberate efforts to identify, implement and evaluate corrective interventions have not provided our VN program with the increase in NCLEX-PN passing rates required by the BVNPT within the time constraint of our provisional approval status. The success of our students/graduates in meeting their desired career goals is the hallmark of our VN program. It is to this end that the administration, advisory board, faculty and staff have decided that it is in the best interest of our current students and CBD College that we voluntarily surrender the VN program. The current class that is scheduled to graduate 3/24/2013 will be our last VN co-hort.

Our first priority is to ensure that the members of this co-hort receive every support possible to succeed on the NCLEX-PN. Opportunities for review are based on the availability of our graduates and are flexible. CBD College is committed to provide broad access to resources and support to ensure the success of our graduates. Our commitment to quality healthcare delivery for all Californians continues to be steadfast. CBD College will implement an overall forensic evaluation of the VN program in an attempt to more definitively identify the causative barriers that impeded our successful achievement of the required NCLEX-PN passing rate. It is our most sincere hope to re-design a program that will be effective in providing didactic and clinical experiences worthy of your reconsideration.

Sincerely,

Alice Sorrell-Thompson, MBA, RN
Director, Vocational Nursing
Program CBD College

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Agenda Item # 13.B.1, Attachment C

Email Correspondence from Alice Sorrell-Thompson

April 1, 2013

Greetings Suellen,

CBD College has just returned from Spring Break today. Yes I will be available to answer any questions that may arise.

Thank you

Alice

From: "Clayworth, Suellen@DCA" <Suellen.Clayworth@dca.ca.gov>

To: "'healingheartsla@yahoo.com'" <healingheartsla@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 2:12 PM

Subject: Closure of Program

As you can see by the attached letter, per your request the Executive Officer approved the closure of your vocational nursing program effective today, but wanted me to check with you to assure that you will be available to deal with any potential problems that might come up with the licensure applications for the most recent graduates. Currently it is taking approximately two months for the Board's licensing staff to process applications. Will you be available during the next two months to answer any questions that may arise?

Suellen

Suellen Clayworth, M.N., R.N.

Nursing Education Consultant, Retired Annuitant

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

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Please note: I work only 20 hours per week and my hours per day and days per week vary. I will not always be readily available to you. If you leave me a message I will get back to you as soon as possible.