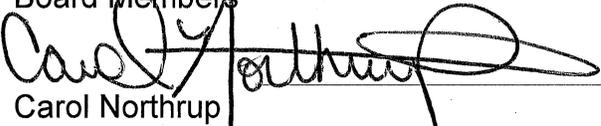




DATE: August 29, 2014

TO: Board Members

FROM: 
Carol Northrup
Licensing and Administrative Services Manager

SUBJECT: Licensing Division Report

Licensing Division Update

A. Psychiatric Technician (PT) Program

1. **Current Application Processing Time** – The current average processing time for PT applications is within 3 weeks.
2. **Examination Development** - On June 3, 2014, the 2014 PT Licensure Examination Annual Planning Meeting was held. The purpose of the meeting was evaluation of the PT Licensure Examination Project, related processes, and development of new project goals and objectives.

On June 9–13, 2014, the Board and the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) held the 2014 PT Examination Construction Conference. The purpose of that conference was selection and finalization of examination items for 2015 PT Licensure Examinations. Participants included registered nurses (RNs) and PTs employed and knowledgeable in the education and clinical practice of PTs. OPES was represented by Sanja Durman – Perez, Project Director. The Board was represented by Cheryl Anderson, S.N.E.C. Implementation of the 2015 PT Licensure Examinations is scheduled for March 1, 2015.

From September 15–18, 2014, OPES will convene a Pass Point Setting Conference. The purpose of that conference is the establishment of a passing standard for the 2015 PT Licensure Examinations. A report of that conference will be presented at the November 2014 Board Meeting.

3. Psychiatric Technician Occupational Analysis.

The Board and OPES continue work on the PT Occupational Analysis. The purpose of that analysis is an in-depth study of the professional practice of PTs.

For purposes of the study, entry-level practice is defined as licensure and practice no less than six (6) months and no more than five (5) years. Detailed information was gathered from entry-level licensees through in-depth personal interviews. Upon completion, two (2) Subject Matter Expert panels were convened to review, amend, and refine the collected information.

A survey questionnaire was then developed and mailed to a random population of licensees on January 29, 2014. A total of 4,946 PTs were asked to identify commonly performed tasks irrespective of practice or geographic locale. A second population of 4,696 licensees were asked to identify the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform tasks in a manner that is both safe and competent. Study participants included a broad base of individuals holding PT licensure. Primarily, sample participants were entry-level practitioners from all practice settings, genders, ages, and cultures representative of the licensee population. Additional participants included experienced licensees who supervise or educate entry-level PTs.

A significant percentage of initial survey questionnaires were returned as undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service. To ensure the reliability of the study, the data collection period was reopened. Questionnaires were re-mailed on June 30, 2014 for the sample participants for whom a current address was identified. The licensees were given an extended date of July 21, 2014 to respond. Information from the study ensures the validity of the PT Licensure Examination relative to job-relatedness.

Presentation of the Validation Report relative to the PT Occupational Analysis and new PT Examination Outline is scheduled for Board consideration at the November 2014 Board meeting. Those documents will serve as the blueprint for development of future licensure examinations.

4. **Statistics** – The table below shows the 2013/2014 fiscal year examination statistics. A total of 830 applicants sat for the PT Licensure Examination. The pass percentage rate for first-time applicants was 83%.

PT Applicants	PT Applicants Tested	# Pass	% Pass	# Fail	% Fail
First-time Applicants	616	511	83%	105	17%
Repeat Applicants	214	51	24%	163	76%
Overall Totals	830	562	68%	268	32%

B. Vocational Nursing Program

1. Current Application Processing Time – The current average processing time for VN applications is within 5 weeks.

2. Statistics – The table below shows the 2013/2014 fiscal year examination statistics. A total of 10,953 candidates sat for the VN Licensure Examination. The pass percentage rate for first-time applicants was 74%.

VN Applicants	VN Applicants Tested	# Pass	% Pass	# Fail	% Fail
First-time Applicants	7,887	5,801	74%	2,084	26%
Repeat Applicants	3,066	866	28%	2,199	72%
Overall Totals	10,953	6,667	61%	4,283	39%