

Agenda Item #15.



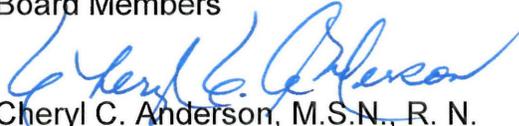
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: January 30, 2015

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: Education Division Report

A. Consideration of Extension of Moratorium on Analysis of New Programs.

On February 28, 2014, the Board authorized a moratorium on the analysis of new proposals for commencement of vocational nursing (VN) and psychiatric technician (PT) programs through February 28, 2015. At that time, 146 requests for commencement of new VN and PT programs awaited initial analysis. That backlog resulted from the marked increase in the number of proposals for commencement of new programs and the prolonged shortage of NECs the Board experienced from 2009 through January 7, 2014.

As reported at the November 21, 2014 Board meeting, 38 proposals (34 VN; 4 PT) requesting approval for commencement of new programs remained. Since the November Board meeting, assigned NECs have completed the analysis of eleven (11) additional proposals and communicated required additions and corrections to the director of the proposed program.

Effective January 22, 2015, 27 proposals (25 VN; 2 PT) remain. Analysis of the 27 remaining proposals and correspondence advising the submitting director of identified deficiencies and required corrections is projected to be completed by May 31, 2015.

After receipt, the director is required to accurately and thoroughly complete all required modifications and submit revised documents and materials to correct identified deficiencies. Upon receipt, the NEC is required to complete an additional analysis to ensure correction of identified deficiencies and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and established professional standards. That subsequent analysis typically requires approximately 24 to 48 staff hours per proposal for completion, depending on the quantity and complexity of the required corrections. The process of revision of proposal materials by the director, resubmission to the Board, and subsequent analysis by the NEC continues until all required corrections are completed.

Based on prior experience, staff estimate that an additional year is required to complete the analysis of documents submitted to correct identified deficiencies. That

process is critical to ensure the Board's approval of programs that provide the quality of theoretical and clinical instruction that result in students' acquisition of required knowledge, skills, and abilities. The quality of instruction directly correlates to the student's ability to demonstrate the minimum level of competence required for the delivery of safe and effective client care upon entry into professional VN and PT practice.

Recommendation:

Extend the moratorium on processing new proposals for commencement of vocational nursing and psychiatric technician programs through February 28, 2016.

B. Division Update.

1. Evaluation of Program Performance.

All VN and PT programs are evaluated by a NEC to determine compliance or lack thereof with requirements set forth in the Business and Professions Code and the California Code of Regulations. That analysis is completed prior to the initial approval of the program and commencement of an initial class.

Prior to completion of the initial class, the consultant completes an onsite inspection and analysis of the program's implementation of all elements of the approved proposal, identification of factors negatively impacting students' education, and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

That evaluation includes an analysis of the following critical elements.

- a. Program Admission Criteria.
- b. Program Screening and Selection Criteria.
- c. Curriculum.
 - 1) Program Philosophy.
 - 2) Conceptual Framework.
 - 3) Terminal Program Objectives.
 - 3) Curriculum Objectives.
 - 4) Course Outlines.
 - 5) Instructional Plan.
 - 6) Evaluation Methodology for Curriculum.
- d. Faculty who meet regulatory requirements and are adequate for the current and projected enrollment.
- e. Clinical facilities that meet regulatory requirements and are adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, and consistent with the approved curriculum, to provide clinical experiences for current and projected student enrollment.
- f. Evaluation Methodology for Clinical Facilities. That methodology must include an evaluation of facilities to which students are assigned to ensure consistency with the approved curriculum and adequacy for the enrollment.
- g. Student Enrollment.
 - 1) Class Size.

- 2) Frequency of Admissions.
- 3) Evaluation Methodology and Remediation.
- h. Effectiveness of Program Administration.

After correction of all identified deficiencies, the Board is authorized to approve the program for a term of four (4) years. At that time, evaluation of the performance of program graduates on the licensure examination is added as a critical element.

Six (6) months prior to the date of approval expiration, VN and PT programs may apply to the Board for continued approval. An analysis of the same program elements is completed by the NEC prior to the program's re – approval. Further, an analysis of those same critical elements is completed when programs request approval of a major change. Such changes include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) Request for Continued Approval; 2) Request for Major Curriculum Revision; 3) Request to Admit Students; 4) Request to Revise the Pattern or Frequency of Admissions.

The Board is authorized to reconsider a program's status if noncompliance with statutory and regulatory requirements is substantiated. Such programs may be placed on the Board's agenda for action and an analysis of critical program elements completed and report prepared by the NEC.

Currently, program reports scheduled for Board consideration include the following components:

1. Introduction. Purpose or reason for the program's placement on the agenda.
2. History of Prior Board Actions.
3. Enrollment. This section includes information relative to the program's length, requirement(s) for class admissions, and the following information per class:
 - a) Date, Month of Class Commencement.
 - b) Number of Students Admitted.
 - c) Date, Month of Class Completion.
 - d) Number of Students Currently Enrolled or Completing the Program.
4. Licensure Examination Statistics. This section presents statistical data on the performance of program graduates **per reporting period**.
5. Faculty.
6. Clinical Facilities.
7. Other Considerations. The content of this section is unique to each program and varies based on identified program issues and requests.
8. Recommendations.

At the November 21, 2014 meeting, Board Members discussed further program assessment and evaluation criteria. The discussion centered on the addition to Board reports of information on the performance of program graduates; in particular, licensure examination statistics **per class** as a variable to identify the program's progress or lack thereof in correcting identified deficiencies.

The addition of that information to the report requires the NEC to complete an analysis of critical information from the following sources:

1. Board decisions authorizing:
 - a. Date(s) of class commencement and projected graduation;
 - b. Maximum number of students per class;
 - c. Frequency of class admissions; and
 - d. Any class restrictions.
2. Program correspondence accompanying all submitted applications for licensure. That correspondence must include the names of all program graduates for whom an application is included and the date(s) of graduation.
3. Application for Licensure for each program graduate.
4. Evaluation of each program applicant by the Board's Licensing Division staff.
5. Board's transmission of each candidate's eligibility to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and Pearson Vue.
6. Applicant Tracking System Reports.
 - a. Education Program Summary Report.
 - b. California Pass Rate Report.
7. NCSBN Reports.
 - a. Education Program Summary Report.
 - b. Quarterly Report of First – Time Candidates.

Any and all inconsistencies in data must be researched and resolved.

Consequently, the number of programs on the Board's agenda, complexity of program issues, the numbers of graduates per class per program, the numbers of documents and sources to be investigated, and the process required to investigate and resolve any inconsistencies, prohibit the NEC's inclusion of an analysis of the performance of program graduates per class in each Board report. An analysis of data for the program generating the discussion was completed, requiring approximately eight (8) to ten (10) staff hours for completion. The Education Division is investigating ways to achieve resolution of inconsistencies in information and completion of the analysis in a shorter amount of time.

Effective January 1, 2015, the NEC will include within the Board report a more detailed analysis of pass rates **per cohort** for each program for which **revocation is recommended**.

Example:

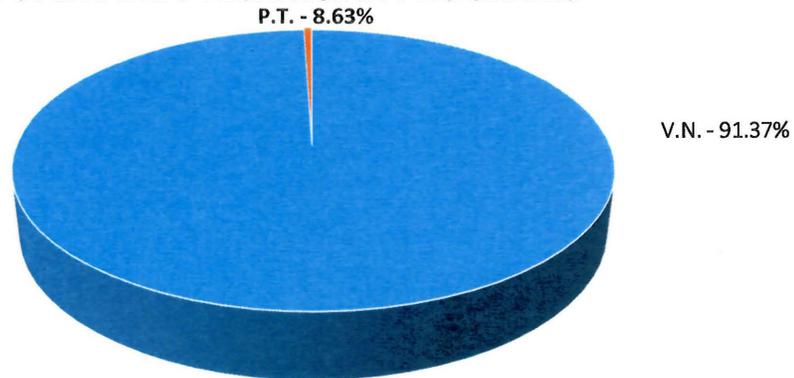
Analysis of NCLEX/PN Statistics for Program Graduates				
Class Completions		Program Graduates Tested		
Date	#	# Tested	# Passed	% Passed
3/13	12	10	1	10.00%
5/12	21	15	4	26.67%
7/12	6	3	0	0.00%
3/13	12	10	2	20.00%
5/13	10	30	7	23.33%
8/13	3	0	0	0.00%
3/14	17	9	2	22.22%
5/14	10	2	0	0.00%
8/14	13	10	3	30.00%
TOTAL	104	89	19	21.35%

2. Program Statistics.

	VN Program	PT Program	Totals
# Approved Programs	170	16	186
# Pre - Approved Programs	10	1	11
Sub Total Programs:	180	17	197
# Proposed Programs	25	2	27
TOTAL PROGRAMS (Approved, Preapproved, Proposed)	205	19	224

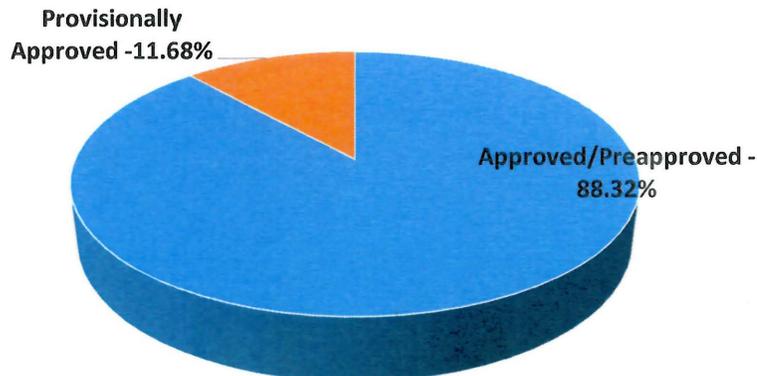
Currently, a total of 197 programs are approved to offer educational programs leading to vocational nurse (VN) and psychiatric technician (PT) licensure. Of the total programs, 91.37% are VN programs; 8.63% are PT.

TOTAL VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAMS



Of the total VN and PT programs, 88.32% are approved or preapproved programs; 11.68% are provisionally approved programs.

APPROVED/PREAPPROVED PROGRAMS vs PROVISIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAMS



To date, 100% of the total provisionally approved programs are VN programs.

a. Approved/Preapproved VN Programs.

Of the total VN programs, 170 (94.44%) are approved/provisionally - approved programs. The remaining 10 (5.56%) are preapproved.

Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 4 - 2014, the **quarter** pass rate for first – time candidates from approved VN programs is **74.02%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **74.73%**.

Since January 1, 2014, seven (7) new VN programs have been approved for commencement of an initial class. The following programs have been approved subsequent to the November 2014 Board Meeting.

1) **Centerpointe Learning Institute VN Program**

Location: Daly City, CA

Date of Approval: December 10, 2014

2) **Technology Training Institute VN Program.**

Location: Panorama City, CA

Date of Approval: January 13, 2015

b. Provisionally Approved VN Programs.

Effective January 16, 2015, the number of VN programs on provisional approval totals 23. Of the total provisionally approved programs, **16 (69.57%)** have had on – site inspections. Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 4 - 2014, the **quarter** pass rate for provisionally approved VN programs is **61.15%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **52.84%**.

c. Approved/Preapproved PT Programs.

Of the total PT programs, 16 (94.1%) are approved programs. The remaining program (5.9%) is preapproved. Based on published examination statistics for Quarter 4 - 2014, the **quarter** pass rate for approved PT programs is **77.46%**; the **average annual** pass rate is **80.58%**.

d. Approved/Preapproved Program Pass Rate Statistical Comparison.

▪ **VN Programs.**

Overall, the pass rate for all first – time candidates from **California VN** programs who completed the NCLEX/PN® during Quarter 4 - 2014 is **72.13%**.

By comparison, the **National** pass rate for first – time VN program candidates who completed the NCLEX/PN® during Quarter 4 - 2014 is **77.71%**.

▪ **PT Programs.**

Overall, the pass rate for all first – time candidates from **California PT** programs who completed the California Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination during Quarter 4 - 2014 is **77.14%**.

The Education Division continues to provide assistance to all programs for whom deficiencies have been identified. Prior to placement on provisional approval, the goal is identification of problems negatively impacting student achievement and the development and implementation of effective strategies for resolution of identified problems.

After placement on provisional approval, the Education Division prepares and mails the official notice advising the program director of specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction, as specified by the Board. Additionally, consultants continue to provide assistance in identifying program elements that negatively impact student comprehension. Strategies are recommended to maximize student achievement.

e. **Program Complaints.**

Since November 4, 2014, the Education Division has received complaints from faculty and students alleging misconduct by **ten (10)** programs. Each complaint is thoroughly analyzed and investigated by a NEC relative to regulatory authority and compliance, adequacy for the enrolled and projected student populations, and other factors based on the allegation. Upon completion, the NEC forwards a response to the complainant and informs the program of the complaint and requests a response.

f. **Program Requests.**

From November 4, 2014, to date, the Education Division processed **22** major requests from VN and PT programs. Those requests include, but are not limited to, program approvals, major curriculum revisions, approval to admit students, approval to alter class size, and other critical program elements. Each request was analyzed to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and established professional standards.

From November 4, 2014, to date, the Education Division processed **294** requests for approval of new faculty and **106** requests for approval of new clinical facilities for existing and proposed VN and PT programs. Each request was evaluated relative to regulatory compliance, consistency with the Board – approved curriculum, and adequacy for the enrolled and projected student populations.

g. Program Inspections.

From January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, the Education Division completed inspections of **57** programs (On – Site Inspections – 26; Program Record Surveys – 31). Of the total on – site inspections, 16 programs on provisional approval were inspected; seven (7) programs were inspected as a result of deficiencies and submitted complaints; and three (3) programs were inspected prior to completion of the initial class. Thirty – one programs were inspected per Program Record Survey. The purpose of these inspections is to determine the program’s compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and required corrections specified by the Board. Such inspections serve to identify existing and potential program deficiencies, elements negatively impacting student achievement, and strategies for correction.

h. Stakeholder Surveys.

On December 24 2014, the Education Division disseminated the 2014 Program Survey to 198 approved and provisionally (VN – 181; PT – 17) programs. Additionally, the 2014 Clinical Facility Survey was disseminated to 1,647 clinical facilities. To date, completed surveys have been received from **81 (44.75%) VN** programs and **2 (11.76%) PT** programs, and **161 (9.78%)** clinical facilities.

i. Meetings.

Since November 4, 2014, the Education Division has conducted meetings and teleconferences with representatives of **24** existing programs to facilitate resolution of programmatic issues.

Additionally, the Education Division continues to meet and consult with representatives of DCA’s Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) relative to VN and PT programs that are also under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

j. Correspondence.

Since November 4, 2014, the Education Division has responded to **235** written inquiries regarding the scopes of practice of VNs and PTs; **2,402** email and fax inquiries were received from programs and **2,030** responses were sent; and **1,014** telephone inquiries from programs, consumers, and other agencies.