

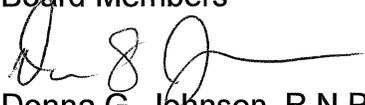
Agenda Item #7.C.3.



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

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
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DATE: April 28, 2015
TO: Board Members
FROM: 
Donna G. Johnson, R.N.P., M.S., M.A.
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Carla Carter, Fairfield, Solano County, Private)

On September 12, 2014, the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program was placed on provisional approval due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to pass rates on the licensure examination and also due to the number and type of violations identified on an unannounced program inspection that was conducted July 8 and 9, 2014.

On February 13, 2015, the Board approved the program's request to admit 15 students. At that time, it was noted that the program had made progress with adding clinical facilities, correcting violations, and implementing the curriculum and policies that had been Board-approved but were not being utilized. It was noted that, while follow-up is required for three (3) of the violations, with implementation of the proposed plans, all of the violations will be corrected.

On March 12, 2015, the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program submitted a request for approval to admit fifteen (15) students to a full-time day class beginning on May 18, 2015 and graduating on August 29, 2016.

It is noted that the program admitted a class of 25 students in December 2013. Based on submitted information, that class is scheduled to graduate May 25, 2015.

History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A for History of Prior Board Actions)

Enrollment

The program offers full-time classes of 66 weeks in length. The program is required to obtain approval by the full Board prior to the admission of each class.

The following table represents **projected** student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 130 students** for the period from **March 2013 through August 2016**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
3/13 Day Class		22	21	21
4/13 Eve Class		12	7	21 + 7 = 28
8/13 Day Class		30	19	28 + 19 = 47
9/13 Day Class		30	29	47 + 29 = 76
12/13 Day Class		25	17	76 + 17 = 93
2/14 Eve Class	8/15	30	11	93 + 11 = 104
5/14 Day Class	8/15	30	26	104 + 26 = 130
	6/14 (3/13 Day Class)		-21	130 - 21 = 109
	8/14 (4/13 Eve Class)		-7	109 - 7 = 102
	1/15 (8/13 Day Class)		-19	102 - 19 = 83
	1/15 (9/13 Day Class)		-29	83 - 29 = 54
2/15 Eve Class	6/16	15	15	54 + 15 = 69
5/15 Day Class (Proposed)	8/16	15		69 + 15 = 84
	5/15 (12/13 Day Class)		-17	84 - 17 = 67

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 January 2011 through March 2015, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the InterCoast College, Fairfield, 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 Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate [CCR §2530 (I)]	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jan-Mar 2011	12	11	92%	80%	92%	77%	+15
Apr-Jun 2011	4	1	25%	71%	75%	76%	+1
Jul-Sep 2011	1	1	100%	77%	76%	76%	0

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 [CCR §2530 (I)]	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct-Dec 2011	No Candidates Tested			80%	76%	75%	-1
Jan-Mar 2012	No Candidates Tested			77%	40%	74%	-34
Apr-Jun 2012	No Candidates Tested			72%	100%	74%	+26
July-Sep 2012	No Candidates Tested			74%	N/A	74%	N/A
Oct-Dec 2012	3	3	100%	70%	100%	74%	+26
Jan-Mar 2013	4	4	100%	75%	100%	73%	+27
Apr-Jun 2013	No Candidates Tested			78%	100%	73%	+27
July-Sep 2013	4	4	100%	75%	100%	74%	+26
Oct-Dec 2013	6	3	50%	76%	79%	76%	+3
Jan-Mar 2014	10	3	30%	74%	50%	76%	-26
Apr-Jun 2014	5	3	60%	66%	52%	73%	-21
Jul – Sep 2014	7	1	14%	72%	36%	73%	-37
Oct – Dec 2014	7	0	0%	72%	24%	72%	-48
Jan – Mar 2015	14	4	29%	73%	24%	71%	-47

*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.

California Code of Regulations section 2530(I) 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 approved vocational nursing schools for the same period.”

It noted that for the most recent **five (5)** consecutive quarters, the program's average annual pass rate has been substantially **below** the state annual average pass rate.

Based on the most recent data available (January through March 2015), the program's average annual pass rate is **24%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is **71%**. The pass rate for the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program is **47 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 number of Board-approved faculty totals 14, including the program director. The director has 100% administrative responsibilities. Of the 14 Board-approved faculty, 12 are approved for clinical instruction. Of the 12 approved for clinical instruction, six (6) are actively available for clinical instruction and another six (6) faculty are listed as substitute status.

Based on the Board's September 12, 2014, decision requiring the program to provide no less than one (1) instructor for every ten (10) students in all clinical experiences and the program's **maximum** enrollment of **130** students, 13 instructors are required for supervision of clinical experience at a ratio of one (1) instructor per 10 students. Therefore, using the maximum enrollment number of 130 students, the program **lacks** adequate faculty to support the proposed students. However, should a class of 15 students be admitted, the **actual** enrollment would be **67** students, in which case, **seven (7)** faculty are required and the current faculty would be **adequate**.

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 **adequate** clinical facilities to afford the number, type, and variety of patients that will provide clinical experience consistent with competency-based objectives for the number of students requested.

Other Considerations

On September 12, 2014, due to a precipitous decrease in the licensing examination pass rate and the number and type of violations identified on an unannounced program survey visit, the Board placed the InterCoast Colleges, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing program on provisional approval for a two-year period. A Notice of Change in Approval Status, including required corrective actions, was sent to the program. (See Attachment B). At that time, the program's average annual pass rate was 52%.

As noted in the February 13, 2015 report to the Board, the program has corrected, or has plans in place to correct, the 21 violations identified on the unannounced program survey visit.

The program has made progress with adding clinical facilities and implementing the curriculum and policies that had been Board-approved but were not being utilized. Also as identified in the previous report to the Board, clinical facilities now being utilized for Pediatric and Maternity nursing experience have limitations in the number of students allowed at one time and limitations in the days per week the facilities are available to students. This limits the number of students that can be served by the available facilities.

Pass rates on the licensure examination remain significantly below the state annual average. The program graduated students in June and August of 2014 (before program improvements

were implemented) and in January of 2015. The most recent graduates completed the majority of their educational program prior to implementation of program improvements. Therefore, to date, recent candidates have **not** had the benefit of programmatic changes since the program inspection in July 2014.

Recommendations:

1. Approve the program's request to admit **fifteen (15)** students to a full-time day class beginning on May 18, 2015 and graduating on August 29, 2016, only.
2. Continue to require the program to provide no less than one (1) clinical instructor for every ten (10) students in all clinical experiences.
3. Continue to require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.

Rationale:

The program's current average annual pass rate on the licensure examination remains in violation of the regulations. However, the program corrected violations identified during the July 2014 program inspection and current candidates for the licensure examination completed all or most of their education prior to correction of the violations. There are currently 37 students due to graduate in August 2015. Those students will have completed most of their education with improvements in place. Data from those students will not be available until early to mid-2016. The first cohort to begin the program with improvements in place was admitted February 26, 2015. Data from that cohort of 15 students will not be available for more than one year. An additional, small class at this time would allow the program up to 30 students, all of whom began the program with improvements in place, to demonstrate improvement in the licensure pass rate by late 2016.

Board staff will continue to closely monitor licensure pass rates, implementation of the plan for improvement, and adherence to Board-approved policies and curriculum.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions
Attachment B: Notice of Change in Approval Status

Agenda Item #7.C.3., Attachment A

INTERCOAST COLLEGE, FAIRFIELD VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

History of Prior Board Actions

- On August 1, 2007, the Executive Officer approved the request of the College of Medical Arts, El Cerrito, to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 20 students on September 10, 2007, only; and approved the program curriculum for 1590 hours, including 622 theory, and 968 clinical hours.
- **On March 20, 2008, a new director was approved.**
- On June 25, 2008, the Board approved initial full accreditation for the College of Medical Arts, El Cerrito, Vocational Nursing Program for the period from June 25, 2008, through June 24, 2012, and issued a certificate accordingly.

The Board approved the program's request to admit a full-time class of 25 students on September 8, 2008, to **replace** students graduating on August 15, 2008.

The Board approved the program's request to admit a full-time class of 25 students on January 5, 2009, thereby increasing the program's frequency of admissions.

- **On March 2, 2009, a new program director was approved.**
- On October 20, 2009, the Executive Officer approved the College of Medical Arts Vocational Nursing Program's request, to admit a full-time **replacement** class for students that graduated August 15, 2008, with 18 students, plus two (2) alternates, to start on October 20, 2009, only, with an anticipated graduation date of September 24, 2010.
- On December 29, 2009, the Board representative notified the program director that the average annual pass rates for the College of Medical Arts Vocational Nursing Program had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past four (4) quarters. The Board requested a written plan for improving the program's NCLEX-PN® pass rates by January 29, 2010.
- On January 25, 2010, the Board representative notified the program director that the average annual pass rates for the College of Medical Arts Vocational Nursing Program had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past five (5) quarters. Receipt and review of the program's plan of correction is pending.
- On March 1, 2010, the Executive Officer approved the College of Medical Arts Vocational Nursing Program's request, to increase the frequency of admissions, by admitting an additional full-time class of 30 students, plus three (3) alternates, to start on March 1, 2010, only, with an anticipated graduation date of February 25, 2011.

- On March 3, 2010, the director notified the Board that the full-time class that was scheduled to start March 1, 2010 was not started due to student's inability to procure financial aid.
- On December 20, 2010, the director notified the NEC that the program will submit a new request when they plan to start the full-time class.
- On February 11, 2011, the Executive Officer **denied** the College of Medical Arts Vocational Nursing Program's request, to start a part-time class of **30 students, plus three (3) alternates**, commencing on March 29, 2011, and graduating on August 19, 2012, only; and, **approved** the College of Medical Arts Vocational Nursing Program to start a part-time class of **20** students, commencing on March 29, 2011, and graduating August 19, 2012, only. Additionally, the program was required to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class
- On August 19, 2011, the Executive officer approved the College of Medical Arts Vocational Nursing Program to admit 30 students and three (3) alternates to the part – time class commencing August 23, 2011 and graduating January 12, 2013, only; **and** continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
- On December 28, 2011, the Board was notified regarding a change in ownership of the school.
- On February 12, 2012, the program notified the Board that they finally had sufficient students to begin a class of 16 students who had been previously approved to begin on August 23, 2011.
- On April 18, 2012, the Executive Officer denied the program's request to admit thirty (30) students and three (3) alternates **and** approved the program's admission of twenty (20) students and two (2) alternates into a part-time class commencing April 16, 2012, only, and graduating August 5, 2013; **and** required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
- **On July 3, 2012, a new program director was approved and subsequently completed New Director Orientation.**
- On August 14, 2012, the Executive Officer continued approval of the College of Medical Arts Vocational Nursing Program for a four-year period from June 24, 2012 through June 23, 2016, and the Board issued a certificate accordingly; approved the program's request to admit 24 students and two (2) alternates into a part-time day class commencing September 24, 2012, only, and graduating January 24, 2014; and required the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
- On August 16, 2012, the Board received notification of the programs name change to InterCoast Colleges, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program.
- **On September 12, 2012, a new program director was approved and subsequently completed New Director Orientation.**

- On October 23, 2012, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit 24 students and two (2) alternates into a part-time day class commencing November 27, 2012, only, and graduating April 22, 2014; and continued to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class
- On February 13, 2013, the Executive Officer approved the following recommendations:
 - a. Approve the InterCoast Colleges, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program's request for the following class admissions of 30 students per class:
 1. First Day Class: Admit on March 25, 2013; graduate on August 8, 2014
 2. First Evening Class: Admit on April 23, 2013; graduate on September 21, 2014
 3. Second Day Class: Admit on July 1, 2013; graduate on November 14, 2014
 4. Second Evening Class: Admit on September 9, 2013; graduate on February 8, 2015
 5. Third Day Class: Admit on November 18, 2013; graduate on April 10, 2015
 - b. Deny the program's request for ongoing admission of 30 students per class to replace graduating classes.
 - c. Continue to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
- On January 24, 2014, the Executive Officer approved the following recommendations:
 - a. Deny the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program's request for the following class admissions of 30 students per class:
 1. First Evening Class: Admit on February 13, 2014; graduate on May 23, 2015
 2. First Day Class: Admit on May 12, 2014; graduate on August 21, 2015
 3. Second Evening Class: Admit on June 16, 2014; graduate on September 22, 2015
 4. Second Day Class: Admit on September 22, 2014; graduate on January 2, 2016
 5. Third Evening Class: Admit on October 27, 2014; graduate on February 2, 2016
 - b. Approve the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit an evening class of 30 students on February 13, 2014, **only**.
 - c. Approve the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a day class of 30 students on May 12, 2014, **only**.
 - d. Continue to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
- **On April 22, 2014 a new Program Director was approved and subsequently completed New Director Orientation.**
- On May 22, 2014, the Executive Officer approved the following recommendations:

- 1) Deny the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit thirty (30) students and three alternates to an evening class on June 16, 2014.
- 2) Deny the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit thirty (30) students and three alternates to a day class on September 22, 2014.
- 3) Continue to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.
- 4) Require the program director to prepare a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions that will be taken to improve program pass rates, and timelines for expected results. 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.

- On June 3, 2014 the Board sent the program, via electronic communication, a complaint received regarding the Vocational Nursing program.
- On June 30, 2014 the Board received via electronic communication the program's response to a complaint.
- On July 8 and 9, 2014, an unannounced survey visit was conducted by representatives of the Board.
- On August 4, 2014, the Board sent the program a letter regarding complaints received.
- On August 11, 2014, the Board received via electronic communication the program's response to complaints.
- On August 12, 2014, the Board sent, via certified mail, a notice of violations.
- **On August 19, 2014, Catherine Hartwig was approved as program director.**

- **On August 27, 2014, Carla Carter was approved as program director.**
- On September 2, 2014, the Board received correspondence from the InterCoast Colleges, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing program titled "August 2014 Response Report."
- On September 12, 2014, the Board approved the following recommendations:
 1. Place the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for a two (2) year period from September 12, 2014, through September 30, 2016 and issue a notice identifying specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations (see Attachment F).
 2. Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
 3. Require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate.
 4. Require the program to provide no less than one (1) clinical instructor for every ten (10) students in all clinical experiences.
 5. Require the program to submit a **follow-up** report in three (3) months, but no later than **December 31, 2014**, nine (9) months, but no later than **June 1, 2015**, and 21 months, but no later than **June 1, 2016**. 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.
 6. Require the program to comply with all approval 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.

7. Require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
 8. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.
 9. Place the program on the **September 2016** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.
- On September 19, 2014, the program director and assistant director met with two NECs at Board headquarters. The assigned consultant provided a copy of the Board – approved instructional plan to the director and discussed program concerns.
 - On December 1, 2014, the program submitted a comprehensive analysis, response to violations, and a request to admit students beginning in January 2015.
 - On December 2 and 4, 2014, the assigned consultant held teleconferences with the program director.
 - On December 15, 2014, the program submitted a revised comprehensive analysis, strategic improvement plan, documentation relative to the outstanding violations, and a request to admit students.
 - On December 30, 2014, the assigned consultant notified the program director of deficits in the requested documentation, which was due December 15, 2014, to support the request to admit students.
 - On January 5, 2015, partial documentation was received.
 - On January 7, 2015, the assigned consultant conferred via telephone and then emailed with the program director regarding deficits in the plans for clinical placements for proposed students. The director restated the desire to admit 30 students to the program.
 - On January 26, 2015, via telephone, the program director requested a revision of the request to admit. The stated request was to admit 15 students. The requested written revision was not received as of January 27, 2015.
 - On February 13, 2015, the Board approved the following recommendations:
Deny the request to admit one class of thirty (30) students to a full – time class to begin on February 26, 2015 and graduating on June 9, 2016 **and** approve the program's admission of **fifteen (15)** students to a full – time class to begin on February 26, 2015 and graduating on June 9, 2016, **only and** continue to require the program to provide no less than one (1) clinical instructor for every ten (10) students in all clinical experiences **and** continue to require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
 - On March 12, 2015, the Board received a request to admit 15 students.

Agenda Item #7.C.3., Attachment B



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

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CERTIFIED MAIL

September 30, 2014

Carla Carter, B.S., R.N.
Director, Vocational Nursing Program
InterCoast College, Fairfield
2480 Hilborn Road
Fairfield, CA 94534

Subject: Notice of Change in Approval Status

Dear Ms. Carter:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on September 12, 2014, the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program has been placed on provisional approval status for the two – year period from September 12, 2014 through September 30, 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain the areas of non-compliance found and the corrections required of your program to avoid losing approval completely.

Once you have reviewed this letter, please sign and return the enclosed "Acknowledgement of Change in Approval Status" form by **Friday, October 10, 2014**.

AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE (VIOLATION(S))

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations,

"The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526..."

Section 2526(a) (7) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"The institution shall apply to the Board for approval. Written documentation shall be prepared by the director and shall include:
... (7) Instructional Plan. . .

Section 2526(a)(8) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"The institution shall apply to the Board for approval. Written documentation shall be prepared by the director and shall include:
... (8) Evaluation methodology for curriculum. . .

Section 2526(a)(16) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states

"The institution shall apply to the Board for approval. Written documentation shall be prepared by the director and shall include:

. . . (16) List of resources for provision of counseling and tutoring services for students. .

Section 2527(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"A school shall report to the Board within ten days of the termination of a faculty member."

Section 2530(a) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"The program shall have sufficient resources, faculty, clinical facilities, library, staff and support services, physical space, skills laboratory and equipment to achieve the program's objectives."

Section 2530(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Regular faculty meetings shall be held. Minutes shall be available to the Board's representative."

Section 2530(e) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Each instructor shall have a daily lesson plan which correlates the theory and practice offered to the student. A copy of this plan shall be available to the director."

Section 2530(f) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"The program's instructional plan shall be available to all faculty."

Section 2530(g) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Each school shall have on file proof that each enrolled student has completed a general education course of study through the 12th grade or evidence of completion of the equivalent thereof. Equivalency is determined by the Department of Education in any of the United States or by a nationally-recognized regional accrediting body."

Section 2530(h) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Each school shall have an attendance policy approved by the Board. The policy shall include but not be limited to, criteria for attendance and the specific course objectives for which make-up time is required . . .

Section 2530(i) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"The school shall evaluate student performance to determine the need for remediation or removal from the program."

Section 2530(j) (1) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Each school shall advise students, in writing, of the following:
(1) Right to contact the Board of program concerns...

Section 2530(j) (4) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Each school shall advise students, in writing, of the following:
... (4) List of Board approved clinical facilities."

Section 2532(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"The minimum hours required shall be as follows: Theory Hours - 576, which shall include a minimum of 54 hours in pharmacology; Clinical Hours - 954."

Section 2533(a) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Vocational nursing programs shall include theory and correlated clinical experience."

Section 2533(c) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Curriculum content shall be taught in a sequence that results in students' progressive mastery of knowledge, skills and abilities."

Section 2533(f) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"All curricular changes that significantly alter the program philosophy, conceptual framework, content, objectives, or other written documentation as required in Section 2526, shall be approved by the Board prior to implementation . . .

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 . . .

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

“Schools are responsible for the continuous review of clinical facilities to determine if the student's clinical objectives for each facility are being met.”

Section 2535 of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

“Each school shall have a policy, approved by the Board for giving credit toward the curriculum requirements.”

Section 2882 of the Business and Professions Code states:

“The course of instruction of an accredited school of vocational nursing shall consist of not less than the required number of hours of instruction in such subjects as the board may from time to time by regulation determine, together with the required number of hours in the care of medical, surgical, obstetrical patients, sick children, and such other clinical experience as from time to time may be determined by the board.”

The program pass rates of the InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program for the past fourteen (14) quarters are set forth in the following table.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	92%	+15
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	75%	-1
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	76%	0
Oct – Dec 2011	75%	76%	+1
Jan – Mar 2012	74%	40%	-34
Apr – Jun 2012	74%	100%	+26
Jul – Sep 2012	74%	N/A	N/A
Oct – Dec 2012	74%	100%	+26
Jan – Mar 2013	73%	100%	+27
Apr – Jun 2013	73%	100%	+27
Jul – Sep 2013	74%	100%	+26

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2013	76%	79%	+3
Jan – Mar 2014	76%	50%	-26
Apr – Jun 2014	73%	52%	-21

Based on this data, the program failed to comply with regulatory requirements relative to annual average pass rates for three (3) of the last fourteen (14) quarters and the past two (2) consecutive quarters.

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. The InterCoast College, Fairfield, Vocational Nursing Program shall bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate.
2. The program shall admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
3. The program shall provide no less than one (1) clinical instructor for every ten (10) students in all clinical experiences.
4. The program shall submit a follow-up report in three (3) months but no later than **December 31, 2014**, nine (9) months, but no later than **June 1, 2015**, and 21 months but no later than **June 1, 2016**. 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.
5. The program shall comply with all approval 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.
 6. The program shall demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the 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.

FUTURE BOARD ACTION

Your program will be placed on the **September 2016** Board Meeting agenda, at which point the Board may revoke or extend the program's accreditation. If you have additional information that you wish considered beyond the required corrections listed on pages 5 through 6, you must submit this documentation by the fifteenth day of the second month prior to the Board meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be advised that, pursuant to the Board's regulations, the program will not be authorized to admit new classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The established pattern of admissions approved by the Board is as follows: **Prior approval by the full Board is required to admit classes.**

In the event your program is required to submit any report(s) as a corrective action pursuant to this notice, such reports are required in addition to any other reports required pursuant to 2527 of the Board's regulations.

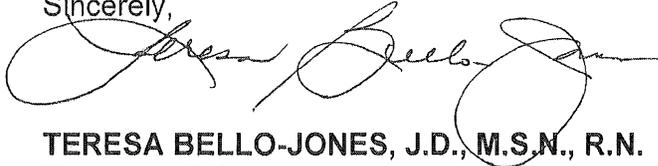
The program may no longer advertise that it has full approval, and should take steps to correct any ongoing advertisements or publications in that regard.

InterCoast Colleges, Fairfield
Notice of Change in Approval Status
September 30, 2014
Page 7 of 7

A copy of title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 2526.1, regarding provisional accreditation is attached for your reference. A complete copy of the Board's laws and regulations can be found on the Board's web site at www.bvnpt.ca.gov.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa Bello-Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: Board Members

TBJ:cca



TITLE 16

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

2526.1. Provisional Approval.

- (a) Provisional approval means a program has not met all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Chapter 6.5, Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (b) Provisional approval shall be granted for a period determined by the Board.
- (c) The Board may place any program on provisional approval when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526. If the program has not met all requirements at the end of the initial provisional approval period, provisional approval may be extended if the program demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board a good faith effort to correct all deficiencies.
- (d) Any program holding provisional approval may not admit "new" classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The admission pattern is defined by the number of students per class and the frequency of admissions for the six class admissions that immediately precede the Board action to consider provisional approval.
- (e) A program placed on provisional approval shall receive written notification from the Board. The notification to the program shall include specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction. A program's failure to correct delineated areas of noncompliance is cause for revocation of provisional approval.
- (f) A material misrepresentation of fact by a vocational nursing program in any information submitted to the Board is cause for revocation of provisional approval.
- (g) A program whose provisional approval has been revoked shall be removed from the Board's list of approved programs. The status of students as potential applicants for licensure will be determined by the Board.
- (h) A program that is removed from the Board's list of approved programs subsequent to Board action based on the program's non-compliance with applicable regulations shall not reapply to establish a vocational nursing program for a minimum period of one calendar year.



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

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945
Phone 916-263-7800 Fax 916-263-7855 Web www.bvnpt.ca.gov



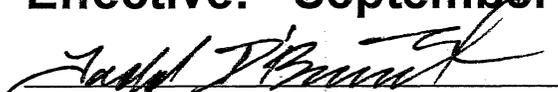
CERTIFICATE OF PROVISIONAL APPROVAL

for

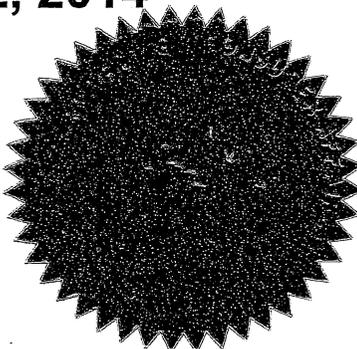
InterCoast Colleges, Fairfield Vocational Nursing Program

This document reflects that the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) has provisionally approved the above-named program pursuant to Article 5 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act and the Board's Rules and Regulations. A copy of documents related to the provisional approval may be obtained by contacting the Board at the address above. A candidate's completion of an approved vocational nursing program is partial fulfillment of requirements for the vocational nurse licensure examination.

Effective: September 12, 2014



Todd D'Braunstein, P.T.
President



Expires: September 30, 2016



Teresa Bello-Jones
Executive Officer